M. Richard DeVoe
287 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Director DeVoe:

On behalf of the Site Review Team (SRT) for the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, I am pleased to transmit to you the enclosed SRT report. The report documents the SRT’s findings and recommendations on program management and organization, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative network activities from the site visit on September 1-2, 2015.

In addition to findings, the report contains recommendations, and suggestions for improvement. A recommendation is a formally prescribed course of action for which the Sea Grant Program is accountable. The Sea Grant Program is expected to respond to each recommendation, explaining how it has implemented, how it plans to implement, or why it chooses not to implement each course of action. A suggestion is an idea that is presented for consideration. The Sea Grant Program is not accountable for responding to suggestions, but is encouraged to consider implementing those deemed useful and appropriate by program leadership. In accordance with our site review policy, this report does not assign a grade or score to your program.

Our policy states that as the program director, you have the opportunity to prepare a response to the SRT report. Both the SRT report and your response will become part of the Program File in the National Sea Grant Office. I encourage you to keep our office informed of any activities that are undertaken to strengthen your program.

I wanted also to offer my thanks and to express the articulation of the Site Review Team for the effort you and your staff put forth to make this review productive and most informative. In addition, we also want to express our thanks to the university officials, administrators, staff, researchers and the program’s stakeholders who ensured that our review was comprehensive and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Sami J. Grimes
National Sea Grant Office
Site Review Report of the
South Carolina Sea Grant College Program
September 1-2, 2015
INTRODUCTION

The Site Review Team’s (SRT) visit to the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium (SCSGC) took place from September 1-2, 2015. This SCSGC Site Visit Report follows the guidelines established in Sea Grant’s “Site Review Team Procedures Manual” issued in August 2014. The guidelines in the manual state that in order for a Sea Grant program to meet the Standards of Excellence (Appendix A), it must rate highly in three categories: (1) organization and management, (2) stakeholder engagement, and (3) collaborative network activities. Within each of these areas, each site visit member provided expert insights and opinions to the FPO. The SRT members for the SCSGC Site Visit included (Bios of team membership can be found in Appendix B):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Institution/Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sami Grimes (Chair, Federal Program Officer)</td>
<td>National Sea Grant Office</td>
<td>Silver Spring, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulinus Chigbu (Co-Chair, Advisory Board Member)</td>
<td>National Sea Grant Advisory Board</td>
<td>University of MD Eastern Shore</td>
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<td>Director of NOAA's Living Marine Resources</td>
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<td>Cooperative Science Center</td>
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<td>Mary Watzin</td>
<td>Dean of the College of Natural Resources</td>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>James (Jim) Murray</td>
<td>Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program (retired)</td>
<td>Naples, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>James (Jim) Eckman</td>
<td>California Sea Grant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica (Jess) Foley (Observer)</td>
<td>Sea Grant Knauss Fellow 2015</td>
<td>Silver Spring, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig McLean (Observer)</td>
<td>Assistant Administrator of NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)</td>
<td>Silver Spring, MD</td>
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Prior to the site visit, and in conformance with National Sea Grant College Program guidelines, the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium issued a public notice of the upcoming SRT visit by inviting interested parties to send written comments to the Federal Program Officer (FPO). The public notice was distributed by means of posting it on their website, Twitter and sent out to their stakeholder and partner listserves. The FPO did not receive any letters in response to the public notice.

The SRT reviewed a highly-informative 20-page briefing book (Appendix C) that provided an overview of SCSGC’s management structure, advisory boards, recruiting university talent, examples of stakeholder engagement, partnerships, and other collaborative Sea Grant Network and NOAA activities.

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The SRT visit took place at the Science Center in the College of Charleston. During the review, the SRT met with Sea Grant staff, Program Advisory Board (PAB) members, stakeholders, partners, and university officials. In total, the SRT met with 44 stakeholders and partners. The SRT also benefited from a “Networking with Stakeholders” event. The review began with a description of South Carolina and the state’s ocean and coastal needs. A one-pager of this information that was shared with the team can be found in Appendix D. A full agenda can be found in Appendix E.

This report presents the findings of the site visit as well as suggestions and recommendations to the Program to facilitate program improvement. As mentioned in the Site Review Team Procedures Manual, a finding is a conclusion based on the site visit review; a recommendation is a formally prescribed course of action for which the Sea Grant program is accountable; and a suggestion is an idea that is presented for consideration.

The Chair has ensured that the review process conformed to the Federal Advisory Committee Act by reflecting the individual perspectives and opinions of the participants in the report. The report is not intended to represent the consensus viewpoint of the SRT.

Overall, the FPO finds that the Program meets the Standards of Excellence expected of all Sea Grant programs.

Programs Response to the 2010 Site Visit Report Recommendation
SCSGC’s 2010 Site Visit report did not have any recommendations.

The Program’s responses to the 2010 Site Visit suggestions can be found in their briefing book (Appendix C of this report).

I. ORGANIZING AND MANAGING THE PROGRAM
South Carolina Sea Grant is a consortium, and is one of only four stand-alone legislative South Carolina state agencies. Activities of the Consortium are governed by the South Carolina (SC) General Assembly and a Board of Directors. Rick DeVoe, Executive Director of the SCSGC Program reports to these two bodies. The Board of Directors includes the chief executive officers of the Consortium’s eight member institutions: SC Department of Natural Resources, Medical University of SC, Clemson University, College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, Coastal Carolina University, University of South Carolina and The Citadel. The SCSGC is headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina.

The SCSGC’s legislative mandate sets out three main tenets upon which the agency operates:

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1. “To provide a mechanism for the development and management of the Sea Grant Program for the State of South Carolina and adjacent regions which share a common environment and resource heritage.”

2. “To support, improve and share research, education, training and advisory services in fields related to ocean and coastal resources.”

3. “To encourage and follow a regional approach to solving problems or meeting needs relating to ocean and coastal resources in cooperation with appropriate institutions, programs, and persons in the region.”

**Finding** – Although not a traditional structure for a Sea Grant Program, the Consortium model works well for the state of South Carolina. The *culture* within the state and within the SCSGC, SC Universities, and partners has created a system that functions effectively and is addressing the needs of ocean and coastal managers, residents, and visitors within SC and regionally.

During FY2010-13, there were a series of gubernatorial vetoes of the SCSGC Consortium. Despite attempts, through DeVoe’s leadership, member institutional leadership, and through the SCSGC partnerships and stakeholders, the SCSGC was able to survive and maintain state funding. In fact, the next three fiscal years have seen state support for the SCSGC increase from $332,223 in FY11-12 to $444,486 in FY12-13, $448,973 in FY13-14, and $559,288 in FY14-15. As stated in their briefing book, “This represents an increase of 68% despite a series of gubernatorial vetoes and continued state-imposed fiscal tightening during that span.”

**Finding** – As the result of extremely strong support expressed by the Consortium’s constituencies, and unselfish assistance provided by its member institutions, the S.C. General Assembly overrode the veto (1st one within 18 hours; followed by 3 more years of vetoes). This shows the value of the Program’s consortial arrangement, its networking efforts, and its leadership’s ability to get things done.

**Finding** - SCSGC has had a lot of staff turnover, due to both retirements and the funding uncertainty. In fact, SCSGC has lost 9 full-time staff and 135 years of experience since 2011. However all the current SCSGC staff, both veterans and new members, seem to be engaged, energetic and driven.

**Finding** – The SCSGC is well integrated and uses a team approach (integrating research, outreach, and education) to nearly every issue it is trying to tackle.

**Finding** - Through meeting with a number of partners and stakeholders, it is clear that SCSGC is the “go to” agency for coastal and ocean information and assistance.
**Finding** – Rick DeVoe’s performance as Executive Director of the Consortium is exemplary. His passion clearly is SCSGC and the number of partnerships and stakeholders he has throughout the state speaks to his leadership and influence in the coastal community.

**Suggestion** - The Executive Director, Rick DeVoe, is a major asset due to his longstanding, central presence, and ability to lead. The SCSGC Board of Directors should consider how the Consortium can maintain the high level of performance in the event that Rick DeVoe were to leave or be unable to serve in this capacity for any reason. The Board of Directors are encouraged to think about a transition plan.

The Board of Directors meets annually, and provides a direct line of communication between the Consortium Executive Director (DeVoe) and the highest administrative levels of its eight member institutions. Each Consortium Board Member has designated a Board Alternate whom can act on his or her behalf. Board Members and Board Alternates are invited and participate in Board activities. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

- Col. Alvin A. Taylor (Chair) Director, S.C. Department of Natural Resources
- David J. Cole, M.D. President, Medical University of South Carolina
- James P. Clements, Ph.D. President, Clemson University
- Glenn F. McConnell, J.D. President, College of Charleston
- W. Franklin Evans, Ph.D. Interim President, South Carolina State University
- David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D. President, Coastal Carolina University
- Harris Pastides, Ph.D. President, University of South Carolina
- Lt. General John W. Rosa President, The Citadel

**Recommendation** – The membership of the Board of Directors and their alternates, should not be eligible for Sea Grant funding.

During the Site Visit, Director DeVoe mentioned that it is the Consortium's operational policy to give some priority to funding new researchers.

**Suggestion** – The Director and/or Research Coordinator should travel to key research-oriented institutions throughout the state at least biennially to educate new researchers and let them know about SCSGC and potential funding opportunities.

**Best Management Practice** - Currently SCSGC is conducting a long-term visioning exercise, looking at where the Consortium should be (and the issues to address to get there) 20-30 years from now. This exercise has already begun and will continue, involving the millennium generation and the recently growing Hispanic population in the initiative. This effort will help ensure that SCSGC remains relevant and serves the most important needs of all of the stakeholder groups.

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The program also mentioned the need to diversify a bit more, reaching out to these populations. A suggested way of reaching out may be to look at the Consortium Extension Advisory Committees and including representatives from diverse groups on these committees.

**Best Management Practice** – Using carry over funding, SCSGC held a small competition to fund an integrated approach to emerging issues. They called these initiatives “Study groups.” Each study group consisted of a Sea Grant Extension specialist, a graduate student, and a researcher (usually the student’s faculty advisor) who worked with a community member on an important practical project. Funding per project was modest (up to $25,000), yet the return on these investments has been tremendous.

An example of this is SCSGC’s support for Blueways and Greenways: In support of important Blueways and Greenways in the coastal region, the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium funded a team that included faculty and a graduate student from the College of Charleston, a planner from the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, and the Consortium’s Coastal Community Specialist to assist communities interested in developing new Blueways or Greenways projects in the region. After researching community needs and green/blue infrastructure, the development of mobile apps and interactive maps will provide instant access to information, while templates will allow communities to easily locate their own resources. As a result of this effort, the resources and tools developed will serve as the foundation for future projects as well as an example of how to conduct impactful work on Blueways and Greenways - not only in the tri-county area, but throughout the state of South Carolina.

Throughout the site visit, the team heard the importance of their flagship publication, *Coastal Heritage*, a quarterly magazine that covers environmental policy, science, history, and culture. The science writer who has been instrumental in providing the stories for this publication recently retired. The Program is currently looking to fill this position.

**Finding** - *Coastal Heritage* remains as a treasured resource for SCSGC’s stakeholders.

**Suggestion** – Given the timing of losing their science writer, and given the Consortium’s interest in broadening their communications to include social media and other media. SCSGC should consider developing a comprehensive communication strategy, which should continue to include *Coastal Heritage*. As this portfolio is developed, SCSGC can better define and fulfill its writing and information technology needs.

Within the Consortium, SCSGC could tap into its university resources of communication professors and students (communications, technology, app developer, etc.) to find out what works in the community and develop a strategy that works for the SCSGC.

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II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the site visit the team heard over and over again, “We [SCSGC] work for the taxpayers, not the universities and not NOAA.” This philosophy is demonstrated through the number of stakeholders the program has and its ability to mobilize them quickly in times of need. By connecting so closely to its stakeholders, the program is conducting research, outreach, and education that is clearly relevant to the State and region.

**Finding** – Sea Grant has a huge reach when it comes to its stakeholders, and this is in part due to the philosophy of the Director. As previously mentioned, the site visit team met and heard from 44 different stakeholders on the positive impact Sea Grant has in SC on its ocean and coasts.

The testimony to its strong stakeholder network is the response of SCSGC’s stakeholders and member institutions to its state budget crisis. To have the state legislature override the first veto in 18 hours is incredible, and something most Sea Grant Programs would not have the ability to do. This was followed by three more years of vetoes, all of which were overridden due to stakeholder and member institutional support of the Consortium. In fact, as previously mentioned, recent budgets for the Consortium have increased.

**Finding** - The SCSGC also incorporates cultural heritage into the Program by reaching out to, working with and understanding the Gullah Geechee Culture. Throughout the years, SCSGC has been learning and teaching about the Gullah Geechee history and incorporating it into Sea Grant activities, such as stories within *Coastal Heritage*, educational programs, etc.

**Finding** – SCSGC has a substantial social science component. The SCSGC quickly recognized the need for social change, not just ecological change. They have developed programs that train developers in triple bottom line leadership (i.e., caring about economic development, environmental protection, and social justice).

Since its inception, the program has always had an Memorandum of Agreement with Cooperative Extension, based at Clemson University, but in 2011, this MOA was not renewed due to changes/lack of funding within Clemson University Cooperative Extension.

**Suggestion** – SCSGC should work towards reinstituting the MOA with Cooperative Extension and explore similar opportunities with other institutions for extension activities.

**Best Management Practice** – Due to the number of players in the coastal realm, SCSGC developed a state-wide hub where coastal outreach professionals come together to collaborate called the “South Carolina Coastal Information Network (CIN)”.

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SC-CIN has an active web presence with powerful resources, and is maintained by SCSGC (http://www.sccoastalinfo.org/). The network currently engages in quarterly face-to-face meetings and hosts about 3-4 workshops per year. CIN facilitates: information sharing; internal professional development; and creates an atmosphere that escapes the notion of competition, focuses on collaboration, and avoids duplication of effort. There are 18 organizations currently involved.

From CIN, an important and much needed guidebook emerged titled: *Low Impact Development in Coastal South Carolina: A Planning and Design Guide* (http://www.scseagrant.org/Content/?cid=156), which was published in October 2014 with more than 300 copies distributed to South Carolina coastal municipal staff and consulting professionals.

**Suggestion** – Given the usefulness of the website and the importance of the SC-CIN network, SCSGC may want to work with its partners, particularly NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, to update the SC-CIN website.

During the site visit, the team learned about the importance of the Port of Charleston. It is one of the busiest and fastest growing ports on East and Gulf coasts, serving more than 1800 vessels with $164M operating revenues in 2014, housing 300,000 jobs. In the near future, the port will be deepened to 52 feet, which will make it the deepest port in the southeast, and contribute to it becoming a dominant commercial locus in the southeastern U.S.

**Suggestion** – SCSGC should engage with the Charleston Port Authority, as there are so many potential impacts of its commercial activities that present perfect opportunities for involvement by SCSGC.

Some options to start this dialogue would be to: contact Jim Fawcett from USC Sea Grant and gain from his expertise; and consider adding this dimension to the responsibilities of a new extension agent (or, alternatively, Ms. Hunt, as the environmental quality person for SC Sea Grant, is an appropriate person to reach out to the Port Authority.)

For the past 10+ years, SCSGC’s education portfolio has been regional in scope as it has served as the administrative hub of the Southeast COSEE (Centers of Ocean Science Education Excellence). Funding for COSEE has recently stopped and SCSGC has made the decision to support stand-up its sea grant education program through its education person on staff, Elizabeth (EV) Vernon Bell.

**Finding** – Transitioning from COSEE to a SC SG educational program has been outstanding.
EV's work has included efforts within STEM and workforce development. Some examples of outstanding education programs include: seeds to shoreline program (page 17 of briefing book); Amazing Coasts – a curriculum that is aligned with SC standards for third through fifth grades; and partnering with the Girl Scout Program on a number of educational opportunities.

III. COLLABORATIVE NETWORK/NOAA ACTIVITIES

From material presented for and during the Site Review, it is apparent that SCSGC is active and effective in local, regional, and national activities. SCSGC has developed strong partnerships across many levels, including state and federal agencies and organizations, universities, the Sea Grant network, and federal agencies.

**Finding** - SCSGC fills an important niche in collaborative planning efforts with federal and state agencies. They are seen as a neutral party that can broker solutions to challenging problems.

**Finding** - From material presented for and during the Site Review, it is apparent that SCSGC is active and effective in local, regional, and national activities.

A principle in SCSGC’s strategic plan states: *The value of working with partners from all sectors is critical to our success.*

To quote Rick DeVoe, “SCSGC has partners – that’s how we work; we are them and they are us.”

During the review, there was a strong NOAA presence on the panels, including folks from NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management (including two National Estuarine Research Reserves and the Coastal Zone Program, NOAA’s National Centers of Coastal and Ocean Science (Hollings Marine Lab & Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research), and NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service Management Councils.

A testimonial to the partnerships and the collaborative nature of the Consortium was made evident through a news story covering the collaborative work it took to remove abandoned boats in Charleston Harbor. (See Appendix F for the news story).

**Finding** – Sea Grant serves as an incubator for new projects and then transitions them to a long-term home. Some examples include the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association and the South Atlantic Governors’ Alliance.

**Finding** - SCSGC fills an important niche in collaborative planning efforts with federal and state agencies.

SCSG Site Visit Report
**Finding** – SCSGC partners with Space Grant by jointly working on a graduate fellowship program that reaches both NASA and NOAA, showing that Sea Grant effectively engages with NASA.

The fellowship is named after Kathryn D. Sullivan, current NOAA Administrator, and is designed to “increase the number of highly trained earth and marine scientists and enable graduate students to conduct earth and marine science research relevant to NASA and NOAA (Sea Grant).” Funding for this program is secured jointly through the S.C. Space Grant Consortium and S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, and administered by the S.C. Space Grant Consortium.

**Finding** – SCSGC does an outstanding job working with local units of government, such as the City of Charleston and the Town of Bluffton. Due to SCSGC’s efforts, local units of government are now talking to one another, sharing their experience with Sea Grant, and now other communities are reaching out to Sea Grant. For example, the Site Review Team met with Kim Jones, Director of the Department of Engineering, Stormwater Management, and Public Works from the Town of Bluffton, SC. She expressed the importance of CIN and how it led to the development of the Low Impact Development Guidebook. This guidebook fulfilled a very important municipality need. Now other towns are using it.

Additional great stories and wonderful examples of SCSGC’s collaboration efforts can be found in their briefing book (particularly pages 16-20).

Finally, over the last several years, Rick DeVoe has contributed to the entire Sea Grant Program at the national level. In his recent past, he chaired the Sea Grant Association’s External Relations Committee (on which he remains an active member), and is currently part of the national aquaculture working group.
IV. FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS and SUGGESTIONS

Findings

- **The FPO finds that the Program meets the Standards of Excellence expected of all Sea Grant programs.**
- Although not a traditional structure for a Sea Grant Program, the Consortium model works well for the state of South Carolina. The *culture* within the state and within the SCSGC, SC Universities, and partners has created a system that functions effectively and is addressing the needs of ocean and coastal managers, residents, and visitors within SC and regionally.
- As the result of extremely strong support expressed by the Consortium’s constituencies, and unselfish assistance provided by its member institutions, the S.C. General Assembly overrode the veto (1st one within 18 hours; followed by 3 more years of vetoes). This shows the value of the Program’s consortial arrangement, its networking efforts, and its leadership’s ability to get things done.
- SCSGC has had a lot of staff turnover, due to both retirements and the funding uncertainty. In fact, SCSGC has lost 9 full-time staff and 135 years of experience since 2011. However all the current SCSGC staff, both veterans and new members, seem to be engaged, energetic and driven.
- The SCSGC is well integrated and uses a team approach (integrating research, outreach, and education) to nearly every issue it is trying to tackle.
- Through meeting with a number of partners and stakeholders, it is clear that SCSGC is the “go to” agency for coastal and ocean information and assistance.
- Rick DeVoe’s performance as Executive Director of the Consortium is exemplary. His passion clearly is SCSGC and the number of partnerships and stakeholders he has throughout the state speaks to his leadership and influence in the coastal community.
- **Coastal Heritage** remains as a treasured resource for SCSGC’s stakeholders.
- Sea Grant has a huge reach when it comes to its stakeholders, and this is in part due to the philosophy of the Director. As previously mentioned, the site visit team met and heard from 44 different stakeholders on the positive impact Sea Grant has in SC on its ocean and coasts.
- The SCSGC also incorporates cultural heritage into the Program by reaching out to, working with and understanding the Gullah Geechee Culture. Throughout the years, SCSGC has been learning and teaching about the Gullah Geechee history and incorporating it into Sea Grant activities, such as stories within Coastal Heritage, educational programs, etc.
- SCSGC has a substantial social science component. The SCSGC quickly recognized the need for social change, not just ecological change. They have developed programs that train developers in triple bottom line leadership (i.e., caring about economic development, environmental protection, and social justice).
- Transitioning from COSEE to a SC SG educational program has been outstanding.
- SCSGC fills an important niche in collaborative planning efforts with federal and state agencies. They are seen as a neutral party that can broker solutions to challenging problems.
- From material presented for and during the Site Review, it is apparent that SCSGC is active and effective in local, regional, and national activities.
o Sea Grant serves as an incubator for new projects and then transitions them to a long-term home. Some examples include the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association and the South Atlantic Governors’ Alliance.

o SCSGC fills an important niche in collaborative planning efforts with federal and state agencies.

o SCSGC partners with Space Grant by jointly working on a graduate fellowship program that reaches both NASA and NOAA, showing that Sea Grant effectively engages with NASA.

o SCSGC does an outstanding job working with local units of government, such as the City of Charleston and the Town of Bluffton. Due to SCSGC’s efforts, local units of government are now talking to one another, sharing their experience with Sea Grant, and now other communities are reaching out to Sea Grant

Recommendations (items the Program must consider)

o The membership of the Board of Directors and their alternates, should not be eligible for Sea Grant funding.

Suggestions (ideas the Program may want to consider)

o The Executive Director, Rick DeVoe, is a major asset due to his longstanding, central presence, and ability to lead. The SCSGC Board of Directors should consider how the Consortium can maintain the high level of performance in the event that Rick DeVoe were to leave or be unable to serve in this capacity for any reason. The Board of Directors are encouraged to think about a transition plan.

o The Director and/or Research Coordinator should travel to key research-oriented institutions throughout the state at least biennially to educate new researchers and let them know about SCSGC and potential funding opportunities.

o Given the timing of losing their science writer, and given the Consortium’s interest in broadening their communications to include social media and other media. SCSGC should consider developing a comprehensive communication strategy, which should continue to include Coastal Heritage. As this portfolio is developed, SCSGC can better define and fulfill its writing and information technology needs.

o SCSGC should work towards reinstating the MOA with Cooperative Extension and explore similar opportunities with other institutions for extension activities.

o Given the usefulness of the website and the importance of the SC-CIN network, SCSGC may want to work with its partners, particularly NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, to update the SC-CIN website.

o SCSGC should engage with the Charleston Port Authority, as there are so many potential impacts of its commercial activities that present perfect opportunities for involvement by SCSGC.

V. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

o Currently SCSGC is conducting a long-term visioning exercise, looking at where the Consortium should be (and the issues to address to get there) 20-30 years from now. This exercise has already begun and will continue, involving the millennium generation and the recently growing Hispanic population in the initiative. This effort will help ensure that SCSGC remains relevant and serves the most important needs of all of the stakeholder groups.
Using carry over funding, SCSGC held a small competition to fund an integrated approach to emerging issues. They called these initiatives “Study groups.” Each study group consisted of a Sea Grant Extension specialist, a graduate student, and a researcher (usually the student’s faculty advisor) who worked with a community member on an important practical project. Funding per project was modest (up to $25,000), yet the return on these investments has been tremendous.

Due to the number of players in the coastal realm, SCSGC developed a state-wide hub where coastal outreach professionals come together to collaborate called the “South Carolina Coastal Information Network (CIN)”.

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Appendix A

Sea Grant Program

Standards of Excellence for Management, Engagement and Collaboration

This section lists the Standards of Excellence that are expected of every Sea Grant Program and serve as the Site Visit Review criteria. This information can also be found in Sea Grant’s Federal Regulations (15 CFR 918.3, Sections b.2-7 and b.9), with the exception of “Collaboration” (Collaboration was added based on the 2006 National Research Council Report, Evaluation of the Sea Grant Review Process). The Federal Regulations state that Sea Grant programs “must rate highly in all of the following qualifying areas”. Two qualifying areas, (1) Leadership and (8) Productivity, are evaluated through Sea Grant’s PRP process.

Program Management and Organization

- **Organization.** The Sea Grant College under review must have created the management organization to carry on a viable and productive Sea Grant program and must have the backing of its administration at a sufficiently high level to fulfill its multidisciplinary and multifaceted mandate.

- **Programmed team approach.** The Sea Grant program under review must have a programmed team approach to the solution of ocean/coast/watershed/Great Lakes problems which includes relevant, high quality, multidisciplinary research with associated educational and advisory services capable of producing identifiable results.

- **Support.** The Sea Grant program under review must have the ability to obtain matching funds from non-Federal sources, such as state legislatures, university management, state agencies, business, and industry. A diversity of matching fund sources is encouraged as a sign of program vitality and the ability to meet the Sea Grant requirement that funds for the general programs be matched with at least one non-Federal dollar for every two Federal dollars.

Stakeholder Engagement

- **Relevance.** The Sea Grant program under review must be relevant to local, state, regional, or national opportunities and problems in the ocean/coast/watershed/Great Lakes environment. Important factors in evaluating relevance are the need for ocean/coast/watershed/Great Lakes resource emphasis and the extent to which capabilities have been developed to be responsive to that need.

- **Extension/Advisory services.** The Sea Grant program under review must have a strong program through which information, techniques, and research results from any reliable source, domestic or international, may be communicated to and utilized by user communities. In addition to the educational and information dissemination role, the advisory service program must aid in the identification and communication of user communities’ research and educational needs.

- **Education and training.** Education and training must be clearly relevant to national, regional, state and local needs in fields related to ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal resources. As appropriate, education may include pre-college, college, post-graduate, public and adult levels.
Collaborative Network Activities

- **Relationships.** The Sea Grant program under review must have close ties with Federal agencies, state agencies and administrations, local authorities, business and industry, and other educational institutions. These ties are: (i) To ensure the relevance of its programs, (ii) to give assistance to the broadest possible audience, (iii) to involve a broad pool of talent in providing this assistance (including universities and other administrative entities outside the Sea Grant College), and (iv) to assist others in developing research and management competence. The extent and quality of an institution's relationships are critical factors in evaluating the institutional program.

- **Collaboration.** The Sea Grant program under review must provide leadership in ocean/coast/watershed/Great Lakes activities including coordinated planning and cooperative work with local, state, regional, and Federal agencies, other Sea Grant programs, and non-Sea Grant universities.
Appendix B
Site Visit Panel Bios

Dr. Paulinus Chigbu is the Director of the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center, Director of the National Science Foundation Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology: Center for the Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the Mid-Atlantic Region and a professor of marine environmental science at the University of Maryland. Chigbu has been involved in many programs to bring diversity to marine science including projects and partnerships with NOAA, Jackson State, University of Mississippi, Office of Naval Research and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. Dr. Chigbu has been the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, an Excellence Fellowship from the University of Washington and served as Chair of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences.

Jim Eckman has served as the Director of the California Sea Grant program since January 2011. Jim received his Ph.D. in biological oceanography from the University of Washington, and had a faculty appointment at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, in Savannah, Georgia from 1984-1997. In 1997 Jim moved into science program management at the federal level, taking a position at the Office of Naval Research (ONR). During his time at ONR Jim ran the marine mammals, biological oceanography and chemical oceanography programs, and for some years served as ONR’s point person for the federal interagency National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP).

Jessica Foley (observer) is a 2015 Sea Grant Knauss Fellow working as Special Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). She is also a master’s student at the University of Maryland focusing her thesis, supported by Maryland Sea Grant, on the development of a seagrass model to apply in the Delmarva coastal lagoons. Jessica received a B.S. in Environmental Science & Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Rhode Island.

Sami Grimes is the Acting Deputy Director of NOAA’s National Sea Grant College Program, the Director of Planning and Evaluation, and the Program Officer for the Connecticut and Rhode Island Sea Grant programs. Sami received her Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from John Carroll University, and her Master of Arts degree in philosophy from Texas A&M University. In 2008, she received planning and evaluation certification from the Performance Institute. Prior to joining the NOAA’s National Sea Grant Office in 2003, she served as an educator for the Ohio school systems.

Craig McLean is the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. He is in charge of laboratories and research programs that provide oceanic, weather, and climate solutions for NOAA’s mission. Craig served for nearly 25 years in the seagoing uniformed service of NOAA, retiring at the grade of Captain and has been a civilian leader in NOAA since. He serves as the U.S. Representative to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and as the Co-chair of the U.S. European Union Marine Working Group.
Dr. James D. Murray retired in 2011 as Deputy Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. He spent his entire 37 year career in various Sea Grant positions including Sea Grant Scholar at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Regional Extension Specialist at Minnesota Sea Grant, Extension Leader for both the New Jersey and North Carolina Sea Grant Programs, National Sea Grant Extension Leader and finally Deputy Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. His professional interests are in marine resource and fisheries management where he was the Principal Investigator on over 40 grants which led to 58 professional publications. Murray was the recipient of the President’s Award. Sea Grant Association in 2010 and the William Q. Wick Award for Visionary Career Leadership in Administration by the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Leaders in 2011. Currently he serves as a member of the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program’s Advisory Committee (Collier County) and volunteers as an Interpretive Ranger at Everglades National Park and as a research assistant at NOAA’s Rookery Bay Estuarine Research Reserve.

Mary C. Watzin is Dean of the College of Natural Resources. She came to North Carolina State University after spending 22 years in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, as Professor, and from 2009-2012, as Dean. She holds a Ph.D. in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a B.S. in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina. She has received numerous awards and other recognitions for her teaching, research, and service, including the Kroepsch-Maurice award for teaching excellence at the University of Vermont, the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation award, and the Ibakari- Kasumigaura Prize recognizing her work with colleagues in Macedonia and Albania on transboundary water management. Watzin specializes in aquatic ecology and watershed management, with a wide-ranging program of research focused on understanding how human activities influence ecosystem health and how adaptive management can be used to improve environmental outcomes.
Appendix C: SCSGC Briefing Book
COASTAL SCIENCE SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA

Sea Grant
S.C. Sea Grant Consortium

2015 SITE REVIEW TEAM BRIEFING BOOK

September 1-2, 2015
Charleston, South Carolina

SCSGC-Q-15-03
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SCSGC-Q-15-03
**South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium**

**ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Mission and Mandate**
The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is an independent, university-based state agency, unique among the nation’s 33 Sea Grant programs, that undertakes a diverse range of initiatives to improve understanding of the region’s coastal resources and our ability to manage them for long-term environmental and economic benefit.

Sea Grant started in South Carolina in 1972 under the auspices of what was then the S.C. Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources, but recognizing the needs and opportunities embodied by the state’s vast array of ocean and coastal resources, the S.C. General Assembly formally united the state’s university-based marine programs through the creation of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium in 1978 (Code of South Carolina, Section 48-45-10:100).

The Consortium’s legislative mandate sets out three main tenets upon which the agency operates:
1. “To provide a mechanism for the development and management of the Sea Grant Program for the State of South Carolina and adjacent regions which share a common environment and resource heritage.”
2. “To support, improve and share research, education, training and advisory services in fields related to ocean and coastal resources.”
3. “To encourage and follow a regional approach to solving problems or meeting needs relating to ocean and coastal resources in cooperation with appropriate institutions, programs, and persons in the region.”

**Organization and Management**
Currently, the Consortium is one of only four stand-alone legislative South Carolina state agencies (of 75 total), which allows the agency to be flexible, strategic and responsive, and independent in its activities. Its office is headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Consortium, which received its Sea Grant College designation by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige in 1986, develops and supports a balanced and integrated research, education, and extension program for South Carolina that seeks to provide for future economic opportunities, improve the social well-being of its citizens, and ensure the wise use and development of marine and coastal natural resources. Charter member institutions of the Consortium are The Citadel, Clemson University (CU), College of Charleston (CofC), Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), South Carolina State University (SCSU), S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), and the University of South Carolina (USC). Coastal Carolina University (CCU) joined the Consortium as a member in 1996; state legislation and Board policy allow for the Consortium to add additional institutions based on prescribed criteria and institutional expressions of interest.

The Consortium’s organizational structure (as of February 1, 2015) is as follows:
Activities of the Consortium are governed by authorizing committees of the S.C. General Assembly and a Board of Directors to which the Executive Director reports. The Board includes the chief executive officers of the Consortium’s eight member institutions. The Board meets annually to review Consortium program policies and procedures. The Board also provides a direct line of communication between the Consortium Executive Director and the higher administrative levels of its eight member institutions. Each Consortium Board Member has designated a Board Alternate whom can act on his or her behalf. Board Members and Board Alternates are invited and participate in Board activities. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

Col. Alvin A. Taylor (Chair) Director, S.C. Department of Natural Resources
David J. Cole, M.D. President, Medical University of South Carolina
James P. Clements, Ph.D. President, Clemson University
Glenn F. McConnell, J.D. President, College of Charleston
W. Franklin Evans, Ph.D. Interim President, South Carolina State University
David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D. President, Coastal Carolina University
Harris Pastides, Ph.D. President, University of South Carolina
Lt. General John W. Rosa President, The Citadel

Institutional liaisons provide a direct administrative link between the Consortium and each of its member institutions. There are two designated liaisons for each Consortium member institution: one from the sponsored
program office to address program development and proposal preparation matters, and one from the budget office that fosters communication about post-award grants and contracts. The Consortium’s *External Procedures Handbook: A Faculty and Institutional Guide for Consortium Proposals and Projects*, provides documentation on the administrative processes the Consortium employs in managing its extramural programs, and is made available to faculty and staff at the Consortium’s member institutions. The Consortium staff are now in the process of updating the *External Procedures Handbook* to incorporate changes and updates to the agency’s policies and procedures based on changes at the state and federal levels.

**Executive Director**
The legislation creating the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium also established the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for managing the Sea Grant program for South Carolina, including development and implementation of Sea Grant proposals, oversight of the proposal solicitation and review process, communication with the National Sea Grant College Program office, management and oversight of all Sea Grant projects and programs, and management of fiscal resources. The Consortium is also expected to seek funding from a variety of non-state sources, which represents a significant percentage (~80 percent) of total Consortium support.

**Consortium Staff**
Consortium staff positions consist of 14 full-time FTEs and several temporary grant employees. The following table lists the Consortium’s current staffing as of July 1, 2015 (except for our Knauss fellows, who are technically Consortium employees) and identifies our “Core Group” senior management team (in italics).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Management</th>
<th>Communications and Information Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Richard (Rick) DeVoe</td>
<td>Susan Ferris Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Director of Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lovelace, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Patty Snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director for Development and Extension</td>
<td>Art Director/Web Developer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Sheldon</td>
<td>(Vacant, TBH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager</td>
<td>Science Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody Hunt, Ph.D.</td>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator, Coastal Environmental Quality</td>
<td>Graphic Designer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Administration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sea Grant Extension Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Bradley</td>
<td>April Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant to the Director for Administration</td>
<td>Coastal Communities Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette Dummeier</td>
<td>Julie Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant/Office Manager</td>
<td>Living Marine Resources Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Neff</td>
<td>Elizabeth Fly, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountant/Fiscal Analyst</td>
<td>Coastal Climate Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
<td>(Vacant, TBH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
<td>Coastal Processes Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Vacant, TBH)</td>
<td><strong>Sea Grant Education Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Specialist</td>
<td>Elizabeth Vernon Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marine Education Specialist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Advisory Mechanisms

Program Advisory Board

The Consortium receives guidance and input from a 28-member Program Advisory Board (PAB). PAB members are invited by the Chair of the Consortium Board of Directors, and consist of representatives from a mix of academic, agency, business, and public interest organizations from South Carolina and adjacent coastal states. The PAB was established in 2005 based on recommendations from our 2004 National Sea Grant Program Assessment. The purposes of the Consortium PAB are to:

1. Provide the Consortium with a broad perspective on South Carolina’s critical coastal and marine resource issues, needs, and opportunities.
2. Review and evaluate input received from Consortium stakeholders for use in revising and focusing the agency’s strategic and implementation plans.
3. Offer strategic guidance and advice to the Consortium as it develops and implements research, education, and outreach programs and projects.
4. Advise the Consortium Executive Director regarding emerging trends in coastal and marine resource policy and management.
5. Identify potential opportunities for funding support, new partnerships, and innovative ways of “doing business.”

The PAB meets at least annually to provide support and guidance to the Consortium on a wide range of topics including strategic planning, programmatic focus, and innovative funding strategies. Current PAB members are:

Federal Agencies

Mr. Michael Allen   Community Partnership Specialist, U.S. National Park Service
Dr. Paul Comar   Acting Director, NOAA NCCOS Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research
Dr. Jeffrey King   Acting Director, NOAA NCCOS Hollings Marine Laboratory
Mr. Jeffrey Payne   Acting Director, NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Dr. Robert Mahood   Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Dr. Paul A. Sandifer   Senior Scientist (retired), NOAA NOS; Interim Science Advisor to the NOAA Administrator

State and Local Government

Mr. Robert Boyles   Deputy Director, SCDNR-Marine Resources Division
Ms. Sara Bazemore   Deputy Director, SCDHEC Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM)
Mr. Rutledge B. Leland   Mayor, McClellanville, S.C.
Dr. Robert Van Dolah   Director (retired), SCDNR-MRD-Marine Resources Research Institute

Academic and Research Institutions

Dr. Jeffrey Allen   Director, S.C. Water Resources Institute, Clemson University
Dr. James Arrington   University Official (retired), South Carolina State University
Dr. B.J. Copeland   Professor (retired), North Carolina State University
Dr. Paul T. Gayes   Director, School of Coastal and Marine Systems Science, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. A. Frederick Holland   Director (retired), NOAA NCCOS Hollings Marine Laboratory
Dr. James Morris   Director, Belle W. Baruch Institute, University of South Carolina
Dr. Michael Orbach   Professor (retired), Marine Affairs, and Policy Director (retired), Coastal Environmental Management Program, Duke University (NC)
Dr. James Sanders   Director, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (GA)

Business, Private Sector, and Public Interest

Mr. Bill Cox   Owner, Island Fresh Seafood, Inc.
Ms. Mary Graham   Senior Vice President of Public Policy/Regional Advancement, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
In addition, each S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program specialist convenes an Extension Advisory Committee to help direct their activities. A list of Extension Program Advisory Committee members will be available onsite.

**Significant Institutional Policies**
The State of South Carolina and the Consortium Board of Directors have developed the following key policies which strengthen the nature and efficiency of the Sea Grant College Program in South Carolina and contribute to its ability to field an innovative and cost-effective program:

1. The State of South Carolina continues to demonstrate its commitment to Sea Grant in the state through an annual appropriation of state funds.
2. Since its inception in 1980, the Consortium Board of Directors maintains a policy that waives overhead costs on Sea Grant projects; instead, overhead costs can be used by PIs to offset the matching requirements of the program.
3. Any institution which has “active comprehensive research, education and extension programs in the area of coastal and marine resources use and conservation” may seek membership in the Consortium by submitting its credentials to the Board for review in accordance with criteria and procedures laid out by the Board.
4. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium itself charges no overhead on Sea Grant projects; therefore, 100 percent of each Sea Grant dollar for Sea Grant projects goes to support programmatic efforts.
5. In June 2015, the Consortium Board of Directors conceptually endorsed a proposal by the Consortium Executive Director to apply a de minimus indirect cost rate of 10% MTDC as a direct charge to proposals submitted to all funding organizations, except for any and all proposals submitted to the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, and as a matching fund charge to all proposals submitted to the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. The Board will formally act on this policy at its September 1, 2015 meeting.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**
The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium maintains direct contact with coastal and marine user groups and the general public, and serves as a conduit between institutional knowledge-seekers and coastal and marine knowledge-users, through its strategic planning, program management, Communications and Information Services (CIS), S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program (SCSGEP), and Sea Grant marine education activities. All Consortium planning, management, and outreach programs are structured to ensure that (1) problems and needs of those who live and work along the coast are accurately identified, (2) research and outreach projects and programs are effectively providing necessary information, and (3) this information is delivered to target audiences in a timely fashion and user-friendly format.

The Consortium’s mission is to generate and apply science-based information on issues and opportunities that enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to foster a sustainable economy and environment. The agency achieves its mission by partnering with scientists from the state’s leading research institutions and a diversity of coastal stakeholders, serving as a broker of funding, facilitating dialogue among coastal interests, and providing science-based information to resource managers, policymakers, business and industry, and the public. The Consortium focuses its programmatic efforts on addressing critical issues and opportunities in five areas: coastal and ocean landscape, sustainable coastal development and economy, hazard

Strategic Planning Process
The goal of the Consortium’s 2014-2017 Strategic Plan is to “optimize the ability of S.C. Sea Grant Consortium’s research, education, and outreach programs to address the coastal resource needs of South Carolina.” The Consortium’s plan serves as a guide and filter for the activities that the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium will undertake during this time, but its goals and objectives are expected to be relevant for a number of years to come. Nevertheless, the strategies the Consortium utilizes to achieve these goals and objectives are re-evaluated during every subsequent revision of the Plan. New strategies are included as current strategies are addressed and new issues arise. We assess the outcomes and performance measures on two-year cycles.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium consistently seeks involvement and input from its constituencies to help shape Consortium priorities and programs. This ensures that our activities are responsive to the needs of the Consortium’s stakeholders and allows us to determine:

1. Priority needs in South Carolina pertaining to coastal and ocean resources use and conservation;
2. Current activities in South Carolina that are underway to address these needs;
3. Priority needs that are not being adequately addressed by current activities; and
4. Most importantly, specific potential actions that the Consortium can take to address these unmet needs.

The goal of the Consortium’s strategic planning process is to provide a framework upon which to maximize the effectiveness of our research, education, and extension programs to address the coastal and marine resource needs of South Carolina. In addition to its ongoing strategic planning process, the Consortium utilizes other means to enhance its ability to identify constituent groups and their needs. It does this through interaction with members of the Consortium’s Board of Directors, Program Advisory Board, Consortium member institutional liaisons, Blue Ribbon Committees, Sea Grant Extension Program specialists, and Communications and Information Services staff.

The Consortium’s Strategic Plan section is divided into Programmatic and Management components. The Programmatic component includes the Consortium’s goals, objectives, and strategies for research, education, and outreach activities for five areas: the Coastal and Ocean Landscape; Sustainable Coastal Development and Economy; Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities; and Scientific Literacy and Workforce Development. The Consortium’s Management component includes process-based activities which dictate how the Consortium supports its mission in three areas: Planning, Program Management, and Overall Performance; Connecting with Users; and Human Resources. The Implementation Plan section includes the outcomes, performance measures, and targets for the next four years for each Strategic Area of emphasis based on our Strategic Plan. The outcomes, performance measures, and targets are used to report on the success of our actions. Although our programs are in continual formative assessment, we gather data to formally assess our program during annual reporting cycles. The Consortium’s management metrics will be provided onsite.

Proposal Solicitation and Review Process
The Consortium’s 2014-17 Strategic Plan serves as the foundation for the development of detailed priorities included in our Request for Proposals (RFP) (see www.scseagrant.org/Funding/ to view our FY2016-18 RFP). For each two-year Omnibus cycle, the Consortium requests proposals which address the strategic goals identified by the Consortium and priorities of the National Sea Grant College Program Office as they relate to issues that face South Carolina, the region, and the nation. In preparation for the announcement, the Consortium staff develop an initial list of priorities for comment by resource managers and extension advisory committees. We strive to insure that the priorities are specific, relevant, and timely. The RFP includes a list of the priorities, as well as instructions for submitting a concept letter (preproposal) and full proposal. A concept letter submission and review process is employed by the Consortium to identify investigators whose conceptual ideas appear to
address national and state needs and Consortium strategic goals. The following table provides a summary of concept letters and full proposals received, and full proposals funded, by each cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY10-12</th>
<th>FY12-14</th>
<th>FY14-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept Letters Received</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Proposals Solicited</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposals Funded</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concept Letter review panels, consisting of eight-to-ten state and federal resource agency scientists and managers and Sea Grant management and outreach staff, are convened to review all concept letters and select those that merit further development into full proposals. The review process generally results in about 20-25 concept letters being deemed meritorious, and full proposals are solicited. All full proposals are distributed to qualified professionals from academia, government, and industry throughout the United States for technical and conceptual review; we seek to secure at least three written peer reviews per proposal. It is Consortium policy to select technical peer reviewers from outside the state of South Carolina; however, at times comments on proposals are solicited from agency and user representatives within the state. All prospective reviewers are made aware of and subject to the Consortium’s Conflict of Interest Policy for peer and panel reviews, which reflects national policy. We average four-to-five written external peer reviews per proposal, typically receiving more than 100 for the 20-25 proposals being considered. All comments received from the Proposal Review Panel and peer reviewers are organized and filed at the Consortium office, blind copies of which are provided to the PIs.

Additionally, Full Proposal Technical Review Panels are convened at the Consortium office in late August to review and evaluate all full proposals. Panelists are selected based on the programmatic make-up of the proposals; thus, representation on the panel changes from biennium to biennium. In general, our panelists include natural and social scientists and outreach professionals with federal and academic backgrounds. As an example, our 2014-2016 Technical Review Panel included Merryl Alber, Ph.D., University of Georgia – Dept. of Marine Sciences; Fred Holland, Ph.D., retired, NOAA-Hollings Marine Laboratory; Carys Mitchelmore, Ph.D., University of Maryland Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; Kimberly Reese, Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences; James Sanders, Ph.D., Skidaway Institute of Oceanography; George Sedberry, Ph.D., Gray’s Reef National Sanctuary; and Jack Thigpen, Ph.D., North Carolina Sea Grant Extension Program. In addition, the Consortium’s NSGO program monitor at the time, Ms. Elizabeth Rohring, attended and observed the process.

Based on these reviews and the priority needs identified in the Consortium Request for Proposals, research and outreach proposals are selected for inclusion in each biennial cycle for the Consortium’s Sea Grant Program Plan. The table below provides metrics on the Consortium’s proposal solicitation, review, and selection process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Selection – Core Funds</th>
<th>2010-12</th>
<th>2012-14</th>
<th>2014-16</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept Letters</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Proposals Solicited</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Proposals Funded</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Success – Full Props.</strong></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing Projects</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Projects</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recruitment of Principal Investigators and Institutions**

The Consortium undertakes a wide range of activities to recruit new PIs. The Consortium maintains continuous contact, including notifications of RFP announcements, with its Institutional Liaison officers, who work in the sponsored programs office of each of its member institutions. Consortium staff maintain and update a faculty and staff database to whom all announcements are directly distributed via e-mail, and make presentations at a range of venues about upcoming omnibus RFP and other funding opportunities. The table below illustrates the number of PIs who have responded to the Consortium’s Sea Grant RFP and the number of institutions they represent.
Recruitment of PIs* and Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-12</th>
<th>2012-14</th>
<th>2014-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cont./New PIs (Concept)</td>
<td>34:91</td>
<td>31:73</td>
<td>66:60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cont./New PIs (Proposal)</td>
<td>28:57</td>
<td>20:33</td>
<td>28:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cont./New PIs (Funded)</td>
<td>16:22</td>
<td>8:18</td>
<td>12:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions (Concepts)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions (Full Props)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions (Funded)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New/Cont. PIs and Institutions reflect lead PIs, co-PIs, and associate PIs.

Success in National Competitions
The Consortium always looks forward to the release of funding opportunities for National Strategic Investments as we have performed well in these competitions; our success rate for the last five years is 50 percent. The table below details our participation and success rate in these competitions since 2010.

National Competition Funding – Proposals Submitted vs. Funded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSI Title</th>
<th>10-11</th>
<th>11-12</th>
<th>12-13</th>
<th>13-14</th>
<th>14-15</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Aquaculture</td>
<td>2:0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2:0</td>
<td>4:0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Nuisance Species</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Extension Enhancement</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyster Disease - Gulf Oyster Industry</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1:0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Coastal Climate Extension</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>2:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture Extension</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>1:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consortium Funding – Sources and Trends
The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium budget consists of funding from three primary sources: the state of South Carolina, through its annual state appropriations process; the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program core; and from competitive state, Sea Grant, and other federal funding opportunities. The Consortium receives approximately 80 percent of its funding from non-state-appropriated grants and awards for which it competes. Budget trends covering the four-year period 2010-14 are found below.

During FY2010-11 and FY2011-12, state recurring appropriations for the Consortium, as well as for all state government programs across the board, continued to experience reductions. However, the next three fiscal years have seen state support for the Consortium increase from $332,223 in FY11-12 to $444,486 in FY2012-13, $448,973 in FY13-14, and $559,288 in FY14-15. This represents an increase of 68% despite a series of gubernatorial vetoes and continued state-imposed fiscal tightening during that span.

During the past five years the Consortium continued to be effective in securing non-state funding in support of its strategic program areas within which it organizes its research, education, and outreach activities. Because of the pressures brought on the agency from gubernatorial vetoes and significant staff turnover, the agency was unable to devote significant time to grant-writing, and thus experienced a gradual reduction of extramural funding to support Consortium programs over the past four years; however, the Consortium has begun to reverse those trends through new partnerships with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Indeed, the Consortium has very recently signed a five-year extension, through September 2020, of its Memorandum of Agreement with the NOAA NOA Hollings Marine Laboratory to continue to foster graduate student scholarship and workforce development, and re-established a formal working relationship with the USGS’s Coastal and Marine Geology Program through September 2019 to support university-based research and resource studies on nearshore and offshore coastal processes. We expect this trend to continue as the Consortium actively pursues extramural funding for new projects relating to offshore energy development, community resiliency efforts, stormwater management, and other state, regional, and national strategic initiatives.
S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>$5,230,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>$3,811,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>$2,987,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>$2,008,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>$2,959,471</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
*Figures do not include institutional cost shares.
**Other funds include support by non-core Sea Grant, federal, state, and private sources.
***Sea Grant Core funds include the Coastal Community Development project.
****FY13-14 includes budget reductions to Sea Grant Core funds.

Distribution of Consortium Sea Grant Dollars
The Consortium’s federal Sea Grant support has been relatively flat since FY2001. The distribution of Consortium funding (both Sea Grant and matching funds) among program elements is illustrated in the table below. Collectively over the past three biennia (since FY10), the Consortium has allocated funds (core plus match) according to the following percentages: Research – 43.6%; Extension – 24.7%; Communications – 11.6%; Program Development – 7.0%; and Administration – 13.1%.

### Distribution of Core Federal and Matching Funds ($) among Program Elements (by biennium)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Core Sea Grant*</th>
<th>Total Match</th>
<th>Research (core + match)**</th>
<th>Extension (core + match)***</th>
<th>Education (core + match)</th>
<th>Communications and Information (core + match)</th>
<th>Program Develop. (core + match)</th>
<th>Program Admin. (core + match)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>$2,563,340</td>
<td>$1,395,361</td>
<td>$1,739,885</td>
<td>$1,083,496</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$408,090</td>
<td>$250,846</td>
<td>$476,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>$2,532,020</td>
<td>$1,102,991</td>
<td>$1,572,221</td>
<td>$791,778</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$474,123</td>
<td>$282,209</td>
<td>$514,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16</td>
<td>$2,659,340</td>
<td>$1,351,955</td>
<td>$1,514,021</td>
<td>$841,821</td>
<td>$93,692</td>
<td>$559,085</td>
<td>$347,326</td>
<td>$655,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes Coastal Community Development (all) and Climate Supplement project.
**Includes support for undergraduate and graduate students.
***Sea Grant education efforts are complemented by COSEE-SE activities.

Distribution of Sea Grant Funding
The Consortium received Sea Grant funding over the four-year period FY10 to FY14 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Sea Grant</td>
<td>$1,231,670</td>
<td>$1,231,670</td>
<td>$1,231,670</td>
<td>$1,200,350</td>
<td>$1,279,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant - Knauss Fellows</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
<td>$98,000</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
<td>$56,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant NSI - Coastal Communities</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant NSI - Climate Outreach/Adaptation</td>
<td>$96,035</td>
<td>$196,445</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant NSI - Aquaculture Extension/Tourism</td>
<td>$80,715</td>
<td>$80,715</td>
<td>$141,663</td>
<td>$79,576</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant Climate/Education Minibus</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$84,405</td>
<td>$84,080</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$26,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant Initiatives (other) – Fisheries</td>
<td>$88,955</td>
<td>$3,540</td>
<td>$3,540</td>
<td>$3,540</td>
<td>$117,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant Initiatives (other) – Climate</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td>$11,800</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Grant Initiatives (other) – Education</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consortium Leveraged Funds
The Consortium competed for and secured the following coastal and marine research, education, and extension grants from non-state sources for FY2010-11 through FY2013-14. The projects are organized by the Consortium’s strategic priority areas as outlined in its FY2010-13 Strategic and Implementation Plan. Projects in italics are Sea Grant national initiatives or funded projects; budget numbers provided are as awarded.

Program Management
- “S.C. Sea Grant College Program - Merit Funding” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program – $380,000 – February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2014.

Coastal and Ocean Landscape
- “Southeast Coastal Ocean Observations Regional Association (SECOORA): Developing the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS)” – NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center – $1,819,332 – August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2012 (Year 3 of 3 plus extension).
- “Providing Ocean and Human Health Research, Education, and Training to Appropriate Audiences: A HML-SCSGC MOA Initiative” – NOAA/NOS Hollings Marine Laboratory – $226,337 – October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2015 (Years 1, 2, 3, and 4 of 5).
- “Enhancing Communications and Coordinating Outreach Activities throughout the IOOS Community: The NFRA Contribution” – NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center – $250,000 – June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013 (Years 1 and 2 of 2).
- “Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance: Building a Regional Ocean Partnership Framework for the Coastal Ocean of the Southeastern United States, Phase I” – NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center – $278,000 – January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013 (Year 1 of 1 plus extension).
- “Designing a Multi-State and Regional Framework for CMSP and Decision-making: A Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance Initiative, Phase II” – NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center – $276,000 – October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014 (Year 1 of 1 plus extension).

Sustainable Coastal Development and Economy
- “Marine Debris and Abandoned Vessels: Identification, Reduction and Prevention through Community-based Education and Action” – NOAA/NMFS Fisheries Habitat Conservation Program Office – $64,500 – July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 (Year 1 of 1 plus extension).

“Determining the Role of Estuarine Swashes on Water Quality Impairment along the Grand Strand of South Carolina: Impacts of Land Use and Stormwater Runoff” – NOAA/NOS/National Estuarine Research Reserve Program (through UNH and the NI/WB NERR) – $19,978 – September 15, 2010 to September 14, 2012 (Years 1 and 2 of 2).

“Gray Triggerfish, Balistes capriscus, Life History in the South Atlantic Bight” – NOAA/OAR (through the University of South Carolina) – $45,100 – January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 (Years 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension).

“Clean Marine: Debris Free Waterways in Beaufort County, SC” – NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center (through University of Georgia) – $8,675 – March 1, 2012 to March 1, 2013 (Year 1 of 1).

“Support for the 2010 International Conference on Shellfish Restoration” – NOAA/NMFS Restoration Center – $5,000 – July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 (Year 1 of 1).

“2010 Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers and Fishermen” – U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES (through University of Minnesota) – $50,147 – September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2013 (Years 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension).

“Assessing Flooding Adaptation Needs in the City of Charleston, S.C.” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program – $30,000 – June 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010 (Year 1 of 1).


“Coastal Community Climate Resilience” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program (through Oregon State University) – $14,000 – September 1, 2010 to July 31, 2013 (Year 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension).

“Integrating Climate Vulnerability and Working Waterfront Preservation” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program – Sea Grant CACBI – $58,665 – May 1, 2012 to August 31, 2015 (Years 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension).
“Promoting Climate Change Awareness and Adaptive Planning in Atlantic Fisheries Communities Using Dialogue-based Participatory Vulnerability Analysis, Mapping, and Collaborative Systems Dynamic Modeling” – Social and Environmental Research Institute (SERI)/NOAA Climate Program Office – $33,534 – August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2015 (Years 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension)


“Southeast and Caribbean Region Team (SECART): Supporting the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Outreach Community of Practice (CoP)” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program (through University of Georgia) – $3,585 – May 20, 2013 to July 27, 2013 (Years 1 of 1).

Scientific Literacy and Workforce Development

“Sea Grant Knauss Fellowships (8)” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program – $381,000 – March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2014 (continuing).


“Southeastern Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE-SE): Addressing New Challenges” – National Science Foundation – $1,049,989 – September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2015 (Years 1, 2, and 3 of 3 plus extension).

“Sea Grant/NERRs Graduate Student Fellowship Program – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program (through University of North Carolina) – $7,500 – January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 (Year 1 of 1).


“Enhancing Capabilities and Programs within the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium’s Marine Education Program” – NOAA/OAR National Sea Grant College Program – $109,820 – May 1, 2012 to August 31, 2015 (Years 1 and 2 of 2 plus extension).

“Sowing the Seeds of Estuary Health: Exploring Tidal Creek-Salt Marsh Ecosystems while Raising Awareness” – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – $33,282 – June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015 (Year 1 of 2).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Engaging Stakeholders

The Consortium’s stakeholders can be divided into two categories: institutional and external. The Consortium’s institutional constituencies consist of the faculty, staff, and students of the agency’s eight member institutions. Externally, the Consortium is charged with serving the needs of an extremely diverse group of organizations, institutions, and individuals representing universities; federal, state, and local natural resource and economic development agencies; business and industry; state and local governments; community groups; non-governmental organizations; K-12 educational institutions; and others. The Consortium utilizes formal and informal methods to assess the needs of its institutional and external customers, including its strategic planning process; active participation in meetings, conferences, and workshops; direct stakeholder contacts; and service on a large number of planning, professional, and organizational committees. In the section “Recruiting Talent,” we describe how we engage stakeholders in the development of our strategic planning, priority-setting, and request for proposals, and in our proposal review process.

The Consortium’s Program Advisory Board, as described earlier, provides input on the priorities of the agency. The role of the PAB is to provide the Consortium with input into the development of program priorities and in the review and evaluation of Consortium proposals and programs. PAB members believe it is very important for the Consortium to use this strategic planning process to set priorities that will ensure that it maximizes its roles as catalyst, educator, and champion for wise decision-making and management of South Carolina’s coastal resources and communities. In addition, the PAB highlighted the importance for the Consortium to develop a
plan for the whole of the Consortium and all its programs, while being consistent with the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program.

The Consortium’s Sea Grant Extension Program involves users in its program planning and evaluation process in the areas of Living Marine Resources, Coastal Processes, Coastal Community Development, and Coastal Climate. Our Sea Grant Extension specialists live and work in coastal communities and interact daily with their program clientele. This informal daily interaction creates a relationship of trust between the specialists and the communities they serve, and provides the specialist with a deep knowledge of the issues and concerns among members of the user community in addition to an awareness of their vision of the future. Another informal mechanism by which the extension specialists gain a knowledge and understanding of stakeholder interests and concerns is through participation on a variety of program-related, community-based committees and task forces. These focused, topical interactions bring the specialists into regular contact with state agency representatives, local government staff, community interest groups, the business community, and individual citizens. In addition, each specialist is guided by a formal advisory committee consisting of local and state government agency representatives, business owners, representatives of community organizations, and others. The information, advice, and guidance received through these means is then fed into the Consortium strategic planning process.

The Consortium’s Communications and Information Services (CIS) program supports the agency’s mission by identifying users of coastal and marine resource information, assessing their needs, and providing them with information to address problems, enhance opportunities, and increase their understanding of coastal issues and human impacts upon the marine environment. CIS sets its objectives in accordance with the agency’s strategic plan, and builds visibility and support for Consortium programs and activities. In support of Consortium goals, CIS employs various tactics to communicate with the public and targeted audiences. These include regular publications (e.g., the quarterly magazine *Coastal Heritage* and the agency’s “impacts” e-newsletter *CoastalScience@Work*), topical publications (e.g., technical reports and brochures), media relations (e.g., press releases and feature stories), and the agency’s main website (www.scseagrant.org), as well as topic-specific sites such as the International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (www.scseagrant.org/icsr), Beach Sweep/River Sweep (www.scseagrant.org/content/?cid=49), S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae (www.scseagrant.org/hab), and the S.C. Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (www.scseagrant.org/scnemo). CIS developed and maintains, with assistance from the Extension and Education programs, the Consortium’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/scseagrant) and Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/scseagrant). CIS also organizes and spearheads special events, including the annual, statewide Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup in partnership with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the biennial International Conference on Shellfish Restoration. In addition, CIS manages the Consortium’s booth at various festivals and conferences.

**Leadership by Staff on Boards and Committees**
The Consortium encourages staff to serve on planning, professional, and organizational committees in order to develop relationships and conduct cooperative projects with targeted stakeholder groups on the international, national, regional, state, and local levels. A list of selected national and regional leadership positions held by Consortium staff is provided below; a complete listing of all leadership positions, including state and local, will be provided onsite. Sea Grant-related leadership activities are highlighted in italics.

*Program Management*

**Rick DeVoe, Executive Director**

Member, Aquaculture Planning Group, Sea Grant Association 2015

Co-Chair, Board on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Climate, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) 2013 - present

Member, Advisory Committee, Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) – Regional Climate RISA 2011 - present

Member, Executive Planning Team, Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance 2008 - present

Associate Member, Consortium for Ocean Leadership; and Member, Public Policy Committee 2007 - present

Member, Board of Directors, SouthEast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) (Vice Chairman 2013-2015; Finance and Audit Committee 2012-present) 2007 - 2015
Elaine Knight, Assistant Director (retired 2012)
Fiscal Officer, Sea Grant Association 1995 - 2012

Denise Sanger, Assistant Director for Research and Planning (separated in 2012)
President, Southeastern Estuarine Research Society 2010 - 2012
Member, Board of Directors, Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 2009 - 2011
Member, Coastal and Estuarine Science News Editorial Board 2009 - 2012

Susan Lovelace, Assistant Director for Development and Extension (2014 - present)
Chair, Planning Committee and Host, South Atlantic Region Sea Grant Extension and Communicators Meeting 2015
External Member of the Steering Committee, 2016 Social Coast Forum, NOAA Office for Coastal Management 2015 - present
Member, Scientific Committee & Site Consultant, International Symposium on Society and Resources Management 2014 - 2015
Collaborating Investigator, Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) – NOAA Regional Climate RISA 2014 - present
Invited Participant, Gulf Research Program, National Academies of Science – Health Opportunities Analysis Workshop 2014
Member, Planning Committee Social Coast Forum, NOAA Office for Coastal Management 2011 - 2012

Susannah Sheldon, Program Manager
Member, Education Working Group, Citizen Science Association 2015
Member, Sea Grant National Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCP) Working Group 2015
Member, Steering Committee, Biennial TCS/RAE Summit 2013 - present
Officer, Board of Directors, The Coastal Society 2013 - present
Member, Steering Committee, 2014 Social Coast Forum, NOAA Office for Coastal Management 2013 - 2014
Member, Steering Committee, 16th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration 2013 - 2014

Extension

Robert Bacon, Extension Program Leader (retired 2013)
Member, Planning Committee, Sea Grant Week 2012
Chair, Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders 2011 - 2013
Member, National Sea Grant Hazards Resilience in Coastal Communities Focus Team 2007 - 2010

April Turner, Coastal Communities Specialist
Chair, Executive Committee, National Sea Grant Sustainable Coastal Community Development Network 2014 - present
Member, Outreach and Education Committee, National Working Waterfronts Network 2013 - present
Team Lead, Working Waterfronts Technical Team, Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance 2012 - 2014
South Atlantic Regional Coordinator, National Sea Grant Sustainable Coastal Community Development Network 2011 - 2014
Jack Whetstone, Marine Aquaculture Specialist (retired 2014)
Member, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation - Publications Committee 2008 - 2014
Member, National Science and Technology Council Committee on Science, Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force – Crustacean Disease Committee 2006 - 2014
Member, Beach Vitex Taskforce 2006 - 2014

Amber Von Harten, Fisheries Specialist (separated in 2012)
Member, Southern Risk Management Education Center Advisory Council 2009 - 2012
Member, Project Team, Sea Grant eXtension Sustainable Marine Fisheries Community of Practice Development Team 2009 - 2012
Co-Chair, Fish and Seafood Subcommittee, National MarketMaker Program 2008 - 2012
Member, National Sea Grant Fisheries Extension and Enhancement Team 2008 - 2012

Julie Davis, Living Marine Resources Specialist (2013 - present)
Southeast aquaculture representative, Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Network 2015 - present
Member, Advisory Panel, East Coast Molluscan Health Management 2015 - present
Member, East Coast Molluscan Health Hatchery Certification Committee 2015 - present
Officer, Committee Member and Member at Large, National Shellfisheries Association 2015 – present
South Carolina representative, Board of Directors, and Member, Strategic Planning Team, Vibrio Working Group, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association 2014 - present
Member, Student Award Review Panel, Oyster South coalition for southern oyster mariculture 2014 - present

Jessica Whitehead, Regional Climate Extension Specialist (separated 2013)
Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Sea Grant Climate Network 2011 - 2013

Elizabeth Fly, Climate Extension Specialist (2014-present)
Chair, Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice Steering Committee 2014 - present
Member, Planning Committee, Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference 2014

Clay McCoy, Coastal Processes Specialist (separated 2011)
Member, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ocean Dredge Materials Disposal Site Task Team 2010 - 2011

Education
Lundie Spence, Director, COSEE-SE (retired 2013)
Member, Education Committee, National Federation of Regional Associations 2009 - 2012
Chair, COSEE Council, National Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence 2009 - 2010
Member, Board of Directors, Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association 2007 - 2013
Member, National Marine Debris Advisory Panel 2007 - 2012

Elizabeth Vernon Bell, Marine Education Specialist
S.C. Chapter Representative, National Marine Educators Association 2008 - 2010
Chair, COSEE Professional Development Ad Hoc Committee 2009 - 2011
Member-At-Large, Executive Committee, Sea Grant Educators Network 2010 - 2012

Communications
Susan Ferris Hill, Director of Communications
Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair, National Sea Grant Communicators Network 2010 - 2012
Member, Planning Committee, National Sea Grant Communications and Extension Assembly Meeting 2011
Member, National Marine Debris Advisory Panel 2007 - 2011
Member, National Association of Government Communicators 2006 - present
COASTAL SCIENCE SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA

Member, Association of Communications Excellence 2006 - present
Member, Steering Committee, and Chair of Communications Committee, International Conference on Shellfish Restoration 2006 - present

John Tibbetts, Writer and Editor (separated in 2015)
Member, Council for the Advancement and Support of Education 1995 - 2010
Member, Society of Environmental Journalists 1994 - 2015
Member, National Association of Science Writers 1992 - 2015

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Joint Initiatives
Partnerships are an integral component of how the Consortium conducts its work; indeed, another of the Consortium’s Operational Principles is that the “value of working with partners from all sectors is critical to our success.” A major element of the Consortium’s mandate from the S.C. General Assembly is to interact with other state natural resource agencies as an information provider, broker, facilitator, and catalyst on coastal and marine resource conservation, management, and utilization issues. Just by virtue of its structure as a consortium, the agency operates in partnership with its eight member institutions in planning, implementing, and administering its research, education, and outreach programs.

It is increasingly a fact of life that neither Sea Grant nor its partners individually have the resources to implement effective programs for the ever-increasing complex needs of stakeholders. So having their support and involving them in program development and implementation is a necessity. Thus, the Consortium actively engages in collaborative programming with state and federal government agencies, universities, community-based non-governmental organizations, local and regional governments, businesses, and a variety of industry user groups. The Consortium has worked diligently to enhance its statewide and regional research and outreach program efforts through large-scale grant funding and small-scale partnership efforts; the following reflect a sampling of these collaborative activities.

State Efforts

S.C. Coastal Information Network

Coordinating coastal community outreach activities in S.C.
The South Carolina Coastal Information Network (SC-CIN; www.sccoastalinfo.org) was established by the Consortium in 2008 to encourage partnerships and collaborative efforts to enhance coordination of coastal community outreach efforts in South Carolina. The Network includes organizations seeking to coordinate and/or jointly deliver outreach programs while promoting the sustainability of natural resources along the coast, and includes representatives from S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, the NOAA Center for Coastal Management, NOAA Hollings Marine Laboratory, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve, University of South Carolina Belle W. Baruch Institute, North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, S.C. Department of Archives and History, S.C. Forestry Commission, Clemson University Extension, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, the S.C. Urban Land Institute, the Charleston Waterkeeper, and the Ashley-Cooper and Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortia. The Network enhances collaborative efforts in delivering outreach programs to coastal communities, avoids duplication of effort, minimizes the number of meetings/workshops that community leaders and staff are asked to attend, leverages scarce resources, and therefore maximizes program benefits and expected outcomes.
Promoting Climate Change Awareness and Adaptive Planning in Atlantic Fisheries Communities
Using Dialogue-Based Participatory Vulnerability Analysis, Mapping, and Collaborative Systems
Dynamic Modeling

Understanding drought impacts on the blue crab fishery

The Consortium is working in partnership with the Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments program and the Social and Environmental Research Institute to determine how the blue crab fishery can adapt to the effects of climate change. The project team is talking with local resource managers, scientists, and crabbers to better understand how they see the challenges a changing climate poses to the community and the local blue crab fishery and what steps might be taken to address those challenges. Drought is the focal climate impact being discussed, specifically decreased rainfall which may result in increased salinity, decreased freshwater flow, and harm to estuarine habitats. The team used the VCAPS (Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios) process to generate crab fishery impacts, including: decreased landings; changing location of crab populations; decreased access to crabs; increased parasitism; and economic harm to the fishery. The results of this work could be used to collaboratively develop a model that explores specific life history aspects of the blue crab and how drought may impact each of those stages of the crab’s life. This modeling might allow resource managers, scientists, and crabbers to collaborate on aspects of the fishery needing further monitoring. A group of volunteer crabbers have formed the Crabbers Who Care Research Network, and have been provided with tools to monitor salinity in their catch locations for additional data input on the reach of drought.

Understanding Climate Impacts to Critical Infrastructure: Charleston Resiliency Network Formed

A federal, state, and local partnership in Charleston, South Carolina

The Consortium was invited to join the planning and implementation team for a Climate Change Adaptation Table Top Exercise in Charleston, South Carolina, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Infrastructure Protection. Other principal partners included NOAA, FEMA, USACE, S.C. Department of Environmental Control-Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, College of Charleston, South Carolina Emergency Management Division, and Wells Fargo. The Consortium was invited to provide an opening contextual presentation at the table-top workshop, which examined the potential impacts of climate change on the port, intermodal transportation, and other critical infrastructure within the Charleston region. This meeting complemented existing hazard analysis and planning efforts, and led to the development of a working group to discuss the formation of a Charleston Resilience Network, a localized grassroots alliance working to assess specific hazard vulnerabilities and build community-level resilience to flooding and other water-related hazard issues. Principal organizations of the Charleston Resilience Network include the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, City of Charleston, Charleston County Emergency Management, S.C. Department of Environmental Control-Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, and SCANA Corporation.

From Seeds to Shoreline

Consortium launches first state-wide salt marsh restoration program for K-12 educators and students

The Consortium developed, in partnership with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and Clemson University Cooperative Extension, the first student-driven salt marsh restoration program in South Carolina. The program, From Seeds to Shoreline, engages students in the collection and germination of Spartina alterniflora seeds and the cultivation and transplantation of seedlings to salt marsh locations along the coast. The three-pronged partnership has increased the capacity to meet the growing demands of the program and leverage resources. Currently, the program is represented by schools from 10 coastal and inland counties and is expanding into the states of Georgia and North Carolina. At its core, the From Seeds to Shoreline program strives to teach K-12 students about the salt marsh ecosystem through a hands-on, stewardship restoration program.

South Carolina Shrimp Fishery Assistance Program

Commercial shrimpers earn credit for trade assistance

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture offered technical training and cash benefits to farmers and shrimpers who have been adversely affected by
competition from imports. Shrimpers who qualified for TAA completed 12 hours of coursework and created a long-term business plan in order to receive up to $12,000 in cash benefits. The S.C. Sea Grant Extension fisheries specialist led the workshops in Georgetown, Charleston, and Beaufort, South Carolina, giving technical training to over 200 shrimpers on U.S. Coast Guard licensing, federal laws, shrimp processing options, and shrimp marketing opportunities. Additionally, a three-hour training session on developing a business plan was held during the annual S.C. Shrimpers Association meeting in Beaufort.

**Offshore Mapping and Analysis for Offshore Wind Energy Development**

*BOEM Support Leads to Initial Resource Assessment in South Carolina*

Offshore wind resource found off the coasts of southern North Carolina and northern South Carolina show high potential. In 2014, BOEM’s Office of Renewable Energy program contacted the S.C. Energy Office to begin discussions about providing funding to initiate a mapping and analysis program in the northern portion of the state’s coastal ocean, and the S.C. Energy Office in turn asked the Consortium to coordinate the preparation and submission of a formal proposal to BOEM to begin this work. The Consortium prepared and submitted a formal proposal – titled “Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Geophysical Mapping and Identification of Paleolandscape and Historic Shipwrecks Offshore South Carolina” – to BOEM, which was funded for $750,000, with more than $780,000 was provided in match. Partners include: S.C. Energy Office; Coastal Carolina University; University of South Carolina; College of Charleston; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)-Office of Renewable Energy Program; S.C. Regulatory Task Force on Clean Coastal Energy; and the BOEM-S.C. Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force.

**Regional Efforts**

- **Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association – a NOAA IOOS Office Partnership**
  
  The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), one of 11 ocean observing regional associations established through the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) network, coordinates coastal ocean observing activities and facilitates dialogue among stakeholders in the southeastern U.S. In 2002, the Consortium was asked by university and ocean observing leaders in the region to lead the development and management of the region’s ocean observations program. Over its first eight years, the Consortium assisted SECOORA in securing $6 million in NOAA funding to support the organization’s maturation, ocean observing assets, data generation and integration, stakeholder engagement, and administration. On March 17, 2010, SECOORA ([www.secoora.org](http://www.secoora.org)) was spun off from the Consortium, becoming an independent, non-profit corporation.

- **Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance – a Federal-State Government Partnership**
  
  The Consortium was actively involved with the formation and nurturing of the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA; [www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)) formally established on October 19, 2009 at an official ceremony in Charleston, South Carolina involving the Governor’s appointees from the four southeastern states, as well as representatives of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and three federal co-lead agencies. The Consortium executive director serves as a member of the GSAA Executive Planning Team, and its coastal community specialist serves as lead for the GSAA working waterfronts technical team.

- **Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CoP) – a Region-wide Partnership**
  
  The CoP brings together individuals from local, state, and federal governments, academia, non-profit organizations, and the private sector in the Southeast U.S. (NC, SC, GA, FL, Puerto Rico) to apply climate science towards assessments of how coastal communities and ecosystems can adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium coastal climate extension specialist chairs the CoP steering committee, ensuring the CoP maintains momentum and reach into communities in the region. The steering committee, including leadership from all represented states, federal and local leadership, and non-profit organizations, hosted a workgroup meeting at the Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference to re-engage members of the CoP and identify priorities moving forward. They hosted a joint webinar with the Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice on the newly released report, *Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States*, attended by 60 people. The climate extension specialist began providing monthly event emails to the community, and engaged a subcommittee
to plan a webinar on how to leverage the Community Rating System for climate adaptation. The CoP has expanded its membership to 159 members, an 18% increase in 2014.

**Fostering Southeast Sea Grant Regional Efforts – a Joint Sea Grant Regional Partnership**
The N.C., S.C., GA, and FL Sea Grant College Programs held an Extension and Communications meeting March 30-April 1, 2015 in South Carolina at the historic Penn Center. This was the first regional meeting after a hiatus of seven years. The meeting, hosted by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and planned by a steering committee of representative from each of the programs, developed simple objectives to provide extension agents and specialists, communicators, and research coordinators the time and space to identify commonalities in interests and needs, assess the regional capacity in skills and experience, and develop ideas for programs that will meet those needs while benefiting from a regional perspective. This was accomplished through a series of presentations, facilitated discussions, and informal networking and idea-generating time.

**Collaborative Network/NOAA Activities**
The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium interacts routinely with NOAA and Sea Grant partners in its planning processes, program activities, research efforts, and outreach initiatives; the following are examples:

**Program Advisory/Strategic Planning**
- The Directors of the NOAA CSC, NOAA HML, and NOAA Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) are members of the Consortium’s Program Advisory Board.
- The Deputy Commissioner of SCDHEC-OCRM is a member of the Consortium’s Program Advisory Board, as is the Director of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.
- The NOAA Center for Coastal Management is represented on S.C. Sea Grant Extension’s Coastal Climate, Coastal Processes, and Coastal Communities Advisory Committees.

**Regional Initiatives**
- The Consortium Director is a member of the Executive Planning Team for the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA; [www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)); NOAA is one of three lead federal agencies for the GSAA.
- The Consortium Director is Past-Chair and Executive Committee member of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA; [www.secoora.gov](http://www.secoora.gov)); the Consortium is a SECOORA institutional member.
- The Consortium is collaborating with the GA, N.C., and FL Sea Grant College Programs on a Regional Resiliency Research Competition, in partnership with the NOAA/NOS Office for Coastal Management.
- The Consortium is a partner with the GA, N.C., and FL Sea Grant College Programs on a regional project funded by the National Sea Grant College Program to study the ecological effects of and possible responses to the invasive Lionfish in South Atlantic and Caribbean waters.
- The Consortium was represented on the Steering Committee for the “NOAA in the Carolinas” regional partnership ([www.carolinas.noaa.gov](http://www.carolinas.noaa.gov)).
- The Carolinas RISA program, funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office, is located at the University of South Carolina and is a key partner in the Consortium’s Coastal Climate Extension Program.
- The Climate Focal Point at the Charleston National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecasting Office is a member of the Consortium’s Coastal Climate Extension Advisory Committee.
- The Consortium chairs the S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae ([www.scseagrant.org/hab](http://www.scseagrant.org/hab)) and assists in supporting the Phytoplankton Volunteer Monitoring Network, which is coordinated by NOAA NOS NCCOS ([www.products.coastalscience.noaa.gov/pmn](http://www.products.coastalscience.noaa.gov/pmn)).
- The Consortium has managed several major multi-institutional research initiatives, supported by the NOAA/NOS National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, that have involved scientists and resource managers from NOAA CCEHBR and HML, as well as universities in the Southeast U.S. region (e.g., the Land Use-Coastal Ecosystem Study).
The Consortium’s former Assistant Director for Research and Planning was the lead Principal Investigator for the Monitoring and Assessment Program of NOAA HML Center of Excellence in Oceans and Human Health; 25 percent of her time was supported by NOAA HML.

The S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program recently held the Sea Grant seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Education and Information Advisory Committee.

The Consortium Executive Director recently served for several years as the South Atlantic Sea Grant representative on the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) Panel of the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.

**State Level Extension/Outreach Student Training/Workforce Development Programs**

- The Consortium created and coordinates the South Carolina Coastal Information Network ([www.sccoastalinfo.org](http://www.sccoastalinfo.org)) to enhance the coordination and collaboration among coastal outreach programs in South Carolina. Participating organizations include the S.C. Sea Grant Extension program, the NERRS Coastal Training Programs (NI/WB; ACE Basin), NOAA Center for Coastal Management, NOAA Hollings Marine Laboratory, SCDHEC Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC-OCRM), Clemson Extension, and three Councils of Governments, among others.

- The Consortium is a partner in the Ft. Johnson Seminar Series, which includes NOAA CCEHBR, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), CofC’s Grice Marine Laboratory, MUSC’s Marine Biological and Environmental Sciences Program, and SCDNR-Marine Resources Division ([www.cofc.edu/~grice/fjseminar.htm](http://www.cofc.edu/~grice/fjseminar.htm)).

**Sea Grant Association Initiatives**

- The Consortium Executive Director is serving as a member of the Sea Grant Association’s Aquaculture Working Group, which is assembling a ten-year research and outreach investment strategy for Sea Grant programming.

**PROGRAM CHANGES RESULTING FROM PREVIOUS REVIEW**

**Suggestions and Consortium Response**

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium’s previous Site Visit review occurred on September 21-22, 2010 in Charleston, South Carolina. The final Site Visit report contained two suggestions:

**Suggestion:** The Program's inherent multi-institutional structure has created many opportunities and, given the effective leadership of the Program, significant efficiency and productivity. Thus, there is potential for continued and even improved performance. But in a multi-faceted, highly interrelated set of operations, changes in infrastructure or leadership can be disruptive. This implies that the Program should consider approaches or scenarios that can accommodate leadership or structural changes.

**Response:** Indeed, over the past five years the Consortium has had to respond to challenging situations regarding its standing and status in state government and a particularly high staff turnover, which is referred to in this report and will be discussed at the Site Visit. We can certainly agree that the saying “That which does not kill us makes us stronger” (by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche) applies to the Consortium.

**Suggestion:** Coastal Heritage magazine is an excellent publication, and the Consortium should attempt to increase readership, in print and online, which may imply delivery to non-resident property owners.

**Response:** Indeed, Coastal Heritage is a highly respected award-winning magazine. The Consortium’s communications team consistently seeks out new audiences for its magazine. In actuality, the Consortium consistently receives requests for additional copies of every issue of the magazine once it hits the streets, which certainly goes a long way in broadening its distribution.
Appendix D: South Carolina Informational One-Pager
South Carolina’s coastal region is a major contributor to the state’s economy, its environment, and its diverse communities; evidence of the significance and value of South Carolina’s coast to the entire state is presented below. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, in turn, supports this economic, environmental, and social well-being of the entire state through its research, education, extension, and communication programs. By generating and providing science-based information to key stakeholders and decision-makers, the Consortium contributes to:

- Development of new resource-based business opportunities, cost savings, and other economic benefits;
- Balanced use and conservation of the state’s extensive coastal and ocean resources; and
- Workforce development through its K-12, undergraduate, and graduate student training.

South Carolina’s Coastal Region

- 2,876 miles of tidal shoreline
- 500,000 acres of tidal bottoms
- 504,400 acres of tidal wetlands (20% of total salt marsh area on the U.S. East Coast)
- 65% of state’s 4.5 million acres of freshwater wetlands
- 165 linear miles of beaches
- 40 barrier and sea islands
- Five major estuarine systems
- 68.2 square miles of estuaries
- 10,000 square miles of continental shelf

Population and Growth

- 8 coastal counties
- 28% of SC population (1.3 million residents) resides in the coastal counties
- 21% population increase in coastal counties over last 10 years (state’s overall growth = 13%)
- By 2025, S.C.’s coastal population will increase by 700,000 to 2 million
- 46% of S.C. wetlands lost from 1999-2006
- 20 million tourists annually
- Property value in coastal counties = ~$229.6B
- S.C. ranks #4 in U.S. number of flood insurance policies

Economic Value

- $63B GDP in 2012 from coastal counties (35% of state)
- S.C. GDP grew 57% in coastal counties from 1997-2007; 24% statewide
- S.C. ocean-based economy (2004) = $3.2 billion of GDP; 70,000 jobs; $1.4B in salaries and wages
- Port facilities statewide = 187,000 jobs; yearly economic impact $53B
- Port facilities coastwide = $6.3B; 22,000 jobs; $1.2B in compensation
- Coastal tourism = ~$7.5 billion; 61,000 jobs
- Commercial fishing = ~$34 million
- Recreational fishing = ~$590 million
- Historical, cultural, and economic value of traditional waterfront uses (small businesses; trades and crafts; wharves; subsistence)

Appendix E: SCSGC Site Visit Agenda
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0715 – 0730</td>
<td>Walk to Science Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>0730 – 0800</td>
<td>Coffee and Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>0800 – 0815</td>
<td>Introductions and Purpose of the Site Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sami Grimes, Acting Deputy Director, National Sea Grant College Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Craig McLean, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>0815 – 0945</td>
<td>Program Management and Organization – S.C. Sea Grant Consortium; Strategic Planning; Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement; Budget and Funding; Extension, Education, and Communications; Administration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Panel #1 – Consortium “Core Group” Discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>M. Richard DeVoe, Executive Director</td>
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<td>Ryan Bradley, Assistant to the Director for Administration</td>
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<td>Susannah Sheldon, Program Manager/Fellowship Coordinator</td>
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<td>Annette Dunmeyer, Executive Assistant/Office Manager</td>
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<td>Susan Lovelace, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Development and Extension</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Vernon Bell, Marine Educator</td>
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<td>Susan Ferris Hill, Director of Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>0945 – 1000</td>
<td>Break and Discussion with Staff</td>
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<td>1000 – 1200</td>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement/Collaboration – Planning/Engagement Panels (DeVoe)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel #2 – NOAA Partners in Planning and Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Payne, Acting Director, NOAA Office for Coastal Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paul Comar, Ph.D., Acting Director, NOAA Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research</td>
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<td>Jeffrey King, Ph.D., Acting Director, NOAA Hollings Marine Laboratory</td>
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<td>Panel #3 – University/Institute Partners in Planning and Engagement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey S. Allen, Ph.D., Director, S.C. Water Resources Center, Clemson University, Clemson, SC</td>
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<td>Dennis Allen, Ph.D., Resident Director, Baruch Marine Field Lab, Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Georgetown, SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paul T. Gayes, Ph.D., Director, School of Coastal and Marine Systems Science, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC</td>
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<td>James Sanders, Ph.D., Director, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, University of Georgia, Savannah, GA</td>
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<td>Panel #4 – State Agency Partners in Planning and Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Boyles, Deputy Director, SCDNR Marine Resources Division</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sara Bazemore, Deputy Director, SCDHEC Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (invited)</td>
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<td>Panel #5 – Business/Industry Partners in Planning and Engagement</td>
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<td>John Knott, Founder &amp; President, CityCraft Ventures, LLC, Charleston, SC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tim Reinhold, Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Engineering, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), Tampa, FL</td>
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# S.C. Sea Grant Consortium
## National Sea Grant Site Visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200 – 1300</td>
<td>Lunch and Discussion with Panelists</td>
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<tr>
<td>1220 – 1230</td>
<td>“Welcome to College of Charleston Campus”&lt;br&gt;Michael Auerbach, Ph.D., Dean,&lt;br&gt;School of Sciences and Mathematics, College of Charleston</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300 – 1445</td>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement – Education, Culture, and Workforce Panels (Bell)</td>
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<td>Panel #6 – Enhancing Science Education (Bell)&lt;br&gt;Kim Counts Morganello, Water Resource Agent, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service – (From Seeds to Shorelines)&lt;br&gt;Meika Samuel, STEM Coordinator, Girl Scouts Midlands to Mountains – (STEM and STEAM)&lt;br&gt;Lori Essenberg, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sullivan’s Island Elementary – (South Carolina’s Amazing Coast program)</td>
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<td>Panel #7 – Community Resiliency – Coastal Heritage (Ferris Hill)&lt;br&gt;Queen Quet, Chiefess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition (via video) – (The role of Coastal Heritage magazine in educating various audiences about the Gullah/Geechee culture, and the Gullah/Geechee Sustainability Think Tank)&lt;br&gt;Victoria Smalls, History, Arts, and Culture Director, Penn Center, Saint Helena Island, SC – (Gullah/Geechee culture, identity, and sense of place)&lt;br&gt;Marlene O’Bryant-Seabrook, Ph.D., Educator, Lecturer, and Fiber Artist – (Using Coastal Heritage magazine as an accompaniment to lectures and art exhibits)</td>
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<td>Panel #8 – Nurturing Undergraduate and Graduate Research Training (Sheldon)&lt;br&gt;Teresa Cantu, Ph.D. candidate, Medical University of South Carolina, and&lt;br&gt;John Gehris, 2014 SURP student - (SURP mentor and student experiences)&lt;br&gt;John Weinstein, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, The Citadel – (Enhancing the Citadel Undergraduate Research Experience)&lt;br&gt;Jennifer Calabria (with William Norman, Ph.D., Clemson University) – (Fishery-related working waterfronts)&lt;br&gt;Chelsea Wegner (with Jean Ellis, Ph.D., University of South Carolina) – (Experience as Knauss Fellow and NOAA staff member)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1445 – 1500</td>
<td>Break and Discussion with Panelists</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 – 1530</td>
<td>Walk to President’s Board Room&lt;br&gt;College of Charleston</td>
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<td>President’s Board Room, Randolph Hall (2nd Floor)&lt;br&gt;College of Charleston&lt;br&gt;George Street (between Coming and St. Philips streets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530 – 1700</td>
<td>Program Management and Organization – Governance and Oversight</td>
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<td>S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Board of Directors Meeting&lt;br&gt;Col. Alvin A. Taylor, Director, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, and Chair, Consortium Board of Directors, presiding</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700 – 1800</td>
<td>Break and Walk Back to Science Center;&lt;br&gt;Site Visit Team Executive Session (1715 to 1815)</td>
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<td>Atrium, Science Center, College of Charleston&lt;br&gt;202 Calhoun Street (corner of Calhoun and Coming streets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800 – 2030</td>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement – Meet our Colleagues&lt;br&gt;“Networking with Stakeholders” Event</td>
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### Final Draft Agenda – Day Two

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0715 – 0730</td>
<td>Walk to Science Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>0730 – 0800</td>
<td>Coffee and Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>0800 – 1030</td>
<td><strong>Stakeholder Engagement</strong> – Community Resiliency Panels <em>(Lovelace)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Panel #9 – Community Resiliency – Living Marine Resources <em>(Davis)</em></strong></td>
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<td><em>John Dubczak</em>, Director of Operations, Charles River Laboratories, Charleston, SC – <em>(Horseshoe crab research and extension)</em></td>
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<td><em>Frank Roberts</em>, President, Lady’s Island Oysters, Seabrook, SC – <em>(Shellfish mariculture in South Carolina: challenges and opportunities)</em></td>
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<td><em>Amber Von Harten</em>, Fishery Outreach Specialist, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council – <em>(Fisheries outreach in the southeastern US)</em></td>
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<td><em>Brian Barber</em>, Sous Chef, Fleet Landing Restaurant, Charleston, SC – <em>(Sourcing sustainable seafood in South Carolina: A chef’s perspective)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1030 – 1045</td>
<td>Break and Discussion with Panelists</td>
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<tr>
<td>1045 – 1200</td>
<td><strong>Stakeholder Engagement/Collaboration</strong> – Regional Resiliency Panels <em>(DeVoe)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Panel #12 – Community Resiliency – Stormwater Ponds <em>(Hunt)</em></strong></td>
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<td><em>Shannon Hicks</em>, Stormwater Manager, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control-Bureau of Water – <em>(Coastal management and ponds)</em></td>
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<td><em>Erik Smith</em>, Ph.D., Research Coordinator, North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR, University of South Carolina – <em>(Scoping stormwater pond landscapes)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>David Fuss</em>, Watershed Planner, Horry County – <em>(Community stormwater planning)</em></td>
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# S.C. Sea Grant Consortium

## National Sea Grant Site Visit

**Katie Buckley,** Director, Clemson University Center for Watershed Excellence – (Stormwater pond outreach and engagement)

Panel #13 – Regional Resiliency Program Initiatives *(DeVoe)*

- **Lundie Spence,** Ph.D., Director (retired), Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence-Southeast (COSEE-SE), Charleston, SC – (Regional approaches to marine education)
- **Debra Hernandez,** Executive Director, Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), Charleston, SC – (Regional coastal ocean observing efforts)
- **Kristine Cherry,** Regional Coordinator, Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA), Charleston, SC – (Regional ocean partnership efforts)
- **Eugene (Geno) Olmi,** Ph.D., Regional Coordinator, NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART), Charleston, SC – (Regional NOAA integration and engagement)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200 – 1230</td>
<td>Lunch and Discussion with Panelists</td>
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<tr>
<td>1230 – 1245</td>
<td>Walk to Consortium’s Conference Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Conference Room, S.C. Sea Grant Consortium</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>287 Meeting Street (corner of Meeting and George streets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1245 - 1515</td>
<td><strong>Working Session</strong> – Site Visit Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>1515 - 1600</td>
<td><strong>Read-Out</strong> – Site Visit Team with Consortium Core Group and Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td><strong>Adjourn</strong></td>
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Appendix F

Salvage crews clear waterways of sunken, abandoned boats

Posted: Sep 08, 2015 5:28 PM EDT
Updated: Sep 15, 2015 11:53 AM EDT

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) -- A collaborative effort to rid the Ashley River and Charleston Harbor of dangerous and partially sunken old boats has resumed.

In just a week, salvage crews have removed another eight vessels.

By state law, boat owners are actually the people responsible for paying for removal costs. Because not everyone chooses to take care of the problem themselves, it has caused a headache for those also trying to enjoy the water.

"When you're coming up on something at 20-30 knots, clearly it's not going to be able to tell you in time before you hit something," DIG Charter boat captain Brian Mahoney said.

Even with the latest radar or sonar technology, the owners of DIG Charter says abandoned and sunken ships can cause problems with navigation when they take clients out boating.

"You're navigating around crab traps and shell banks and islands to add an extra element in there certainly doesn't make things any easier. No doubt about it," Mahoney said.

State law requires a boat owner to remove their watercraft from the water. DHEC says the boat ownership was thoroughly investigated and enforcement options were exhausted prior to the removal.

"You may have to get cranes, divers, and floatation devices and such. Some people try to salvage a small boat by themselves, that's one operation, but when you're looking at a vessel that's 30, 40, 50 feet long obviously that's a more expensive and labor intensive proposition," attorney Stephan Futeral said.

Futeral says because it's costly some people choose not to pay for removal, a punishable offense that can lead to them losing out on their property altogether. He says salvage insurance can be purchased to protect a property owner of the removal costs.

"The longer it remains there the more likely it is to be deemed abandoned which presents a hazard to other boaters. At some point the department can claim that vessel and try and sell it through the magistrate's office," Futeral said.

For those who work local waterways, they want boat owners to step up and take responsibility, rather than put others and the environment at risk.

"There's possible damage to your vessel. There are possible pollutants on these boats. Chemicals leftover fuel oil water, harm our wildlife. I don't want that in our waterways," Justin Carter of DIG Charter said. "Your boat is your responsibility to maintain to keep and if it's sinks it's your responsibility to get it up."

The Department of Natural Resources investigates abandoned boats. Fines for leaving your boat behind can reach up to $5,000 and 30 days in jail if convicted.

DHEC says because of environmental and safety risks, the boats submerged in the Charleston Harbor were removed thanks to grant money. Boat owners will not be investigated or contacted about their abandoned vessels.

DHEC spearheaded the efforts to salvage sunken and abandoned ships, thanks to grant money from NOAA, the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, the City of Charleston, and Charleston City Marina. The grants totaled nearly $130,000.