



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**National Sea Grant College Program**  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

M. Richard DeVoe, Director  
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium  
287 Meeting Street,  
Charleston, SC 29401

July 31, 2020

Dear Rick:

First and foremost, I want to congratulate you and your staff for reaching and sustaining the Standards of Excellence expected of all Sea Grant College Programs. As part of our National Sea Grant Office evaluation process, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium underwent a site review visit for activities undertaken during the 2014-2017 funding period. The site review team evaluated the program's management and organization, stakeholder engagement, collaborative network activities and the program's performance priorities set forth in your program's strategic plan and your program's overall impact based on the Federal investment. The review provided a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of your entire program.

The site review team noted that the program did an excellent job bringing in diverse partners and stakeholders highlighting South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium's role as an intellectual leader within the State. The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium was viewed as nimble, flexible, adaptable, and relevant. The Program works seamlessly across jurisdictional boundaries to address issues of regional importance and is recognized as an honest broker of information and assistance for coastal and ocean issues.

As you know, a major goal of the quadrennial reviews is to promote continual improvement in all of our programs. I encourage South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, as I do all of our programs, to continue to work with the National Sea Grant Office through your Program Officer to thoughtfully consider and implement (as appropriate) any suggestions or recommendations that were provided through the review process.

The results from the site review team are clear: South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium is a well-managed, cost-effective and impactful program that provides valuable services to your stakeholders and your successes contribute to the strength of the National Sea Grant College Program.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Pennock,  
Director, National Sea Grant College Program

Cc:  
Lacy Alison, Federal Program Officer  
Rebecca Briggs, Federal Program Officer  
Summer Morlock, Assistant Director for Programs  
National Sea Grant College Program

