

**SG Extension Assembly Conference Call**  
**(Excomm Officers and Regional Reps.)**  
**August 14, 2014**  
**3:00 – 4:00 P.M. (EDT)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

1. Roll Call (D. Okimoto):
  - Present: Jim Falk, Tom Murray, Jesse Schomberg, Jim Fawcett, Marty Main, Beth Bisson, Stephanie Showalter, Mike Liffmann, and Darren Okimoto
  - Not available: Jen McCann, Kathy Bunting-Howarth, Rex Caffey
  
2. NSGO Update (M. Liffmann)
  - Sea Grant Academy: NSGO is almost done processing the paperwork for the grant and hope to make an announcement at Sea Grant Week about the awardee
  - Call attention to:
    - Memo (8/14/14) to the Sea Grant network from Leon about Nikola Garber being appointed as the new NSGO Deputy Director and Chelsea Berg leaving NSGO and will be working in NOAA's Office of Labs and Cooperative Institutes. Chris Hayes will take over the education portfolio and Knauss fellowship with assistance from Kola. Josh Brown will take over as program officer for CA and USC Sea Grant programs.
    - Memo (7/25/14) from Leon to the Sea Grant network for input on next set of national strategic initiatives
    - Josh Brown's call for proposals for climate extension related work
    - Memo (7/30/14) from Leon to the Sea Grant network for a call of fisheries exchanges with NMFS labs and science centers
  - Mike put out a request to the Assembly for input on topics to discuss for the Assembly business meeting at Sea Grant Week
    - Beth: brought up the list of NSI topics—has there been any discussion among the Assembly about topics that we want to see
    - Jim Falk: there will be a discussion by the directors at the SGA meeting about the NSI topics but not among Assembly members so it will be a good idea to generate a discussion on this
  - January 2016—Mike announced that is retiring from NSGO. He will put out a feeler to Assembly to help identify someone who might be interested in doing a year-long IPA (or longer) as the NSGO extension leader. He will bring this topic up at Assembly business meeting in Clearwater.
  
3. SG Week 2014 – Assembly Business Meeting Final Review (J. Falk)
  - Jim Falk: asked for comments on the meeting agenda
    - feedback from the group: agenda looks fine, and he will distribute to the Assembly next week.
  - Marty Main:
    - Everything is in place for Sea Grant Week. He asked Jim Falk to communicate with him a week in advance if there's anything else that is needed for the Assembly business meeting

-Marty asked if it would be helpful to provide a couple of paragraphs on the four gulf coast oil spill extension specialists who were recently hired. Jim Falk thought it would be a good idea (see attachment).

-Marty also asked about the attendance for the upcoming Academy training. Jim Falk/Mike: the current number is approximately 25-27 folks from 18 programs.

4. Assembly Website Ownership/Maintenance (T. Murray)

- Tom: First step: continuing discussion about how our website can serve Assembly and what kinds of things should be on the website. The website is currently being hosted by Oregon Sea Grant. We should engage in a discussion about who could host the website for a couple of years and what pertinent information should be on it. He proposed to resend the outline on proposed ideas and questions for the website. Bottom line: We need to identify someone to take ownership and maintain the website and explore ideas on this with the Assembly.

5. Superior Outreach Program Award (J. Schomberg)

- The winner has been selected and notifications were sent out to all programs involved. All were excellent nominations. The awards were ordered and Jesse will bring them down to the meeting. Jesse will pay for awards and get reimbursed from the Assembly treasury. This will be the sixth award of this type that will be given out by the Assembly.

6. Research to Application Award (J. Falk)

- The SGA gives out this award to a project that best exemplifies research to application. Four nominations were submitted and all were very worthy. Jim served on the selection committee as the Assembly representative. The award will be presented at Sea Grant Week.

7. Regional Updates (Regional Reps.)

- Jim Falk: Anything of note to share?
  - Beth Bisson: A collaboration of Maine research, outreach, and industry institutions was selected to receive a \$20 million EPSCoR grant for its Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET) program. Paul Anderson is the SEANET director for the University of Maine, and several other Sea Grant staff will be involved.
  - Jim Fawcett: USC Sea Grant is doing work on climate change adaptation with City of Los Angeles

8. Sea Grant Law Center Update (S. Showalter Otts)

- The Law Center will be conducting aquatic nuisance species work with relevant stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay. Stephanie is also working with Jim Fawcett on the advocacy workshop for Sea Grant Week.

9. Other

-none

## Sea Grant's Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Research Outreach Program

### Introduction

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) was established through a \$500 million financial commitment from the BP oil company in response to the aftermath of the 2010 Gulf oil spill. The 10-year research program aims to improve society's ability to understand and mitigate the impacts of hydrocarbon pollution and stressors on the marine environment and public health. GoMRI provides support to the Sea Grant College Programs that border the Gulf of Mexico (Florida, Mississippi-Alabama, Louisiana and Texas) to implement an extension and outreach program to increase the use of oil spill science discovery by people whose livelihoods depend on a healthy Gulf.

### Program Goals

1. Share emerging oil spill science results with target audiences.
2. Collect input from target audience to inform the Sea Grant outreach program and to deliver the input to the GoMRI Research Board to assist in assessing the direction of GoMRI investments.

### Target Audiences

The program has four oil spill research outreach specialists who work with the constituent groups listed below.

- Elected officials
- Emergency responders or managers
- Environmental non-profit staff members
- Fishers, commercial
- Fishers, for-hire
- Fishers, recreational
- Natural resource managers
- GoMRI outreach specialists
- Port and harbor employees
- Public health officials
- Tourism specialists
- University and college researchers

The outreach specialists work as a team to implement outreach programs at a state and regional level. In addition, the program engages with the 29 other Sea Grant college programs throughout the nation to provide the latest oil spill science information.

### Contacts

The Sea Grant oil spill research specialists work together on multiple oil spill related research topics. Although each is based in one state, they work regionally throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

**Chris Hale** — Based in Corpus Christi, Texas, with the Texas Sea Grant College Program, Chris has an interdisciplinary background in marine science, fisheries, restoration and human dimensions. She previously served as a Sea Grant extension agent in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She works primarily on the environmental effects of the oil spill on ecosystems. Email: [chris.hale@tamu.edu](mailto:chris.hale@tamu.edu)

**Emily Maung-Douglass** — Based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, Emily has expertise at the interface of ecology, chemistry and toxicology. She also has studied the impacts of environmental stressors on aquatic animals. She works on the chemical evolution of petroleum and dispersants and the interactions with ecosystems. Email: [edouglass@lsu.edu](mailto:edouglass@lsu.edu)

**Larissa Graham** — Based in Mobile, Alabama, with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Larissa has outreach experience through her previous work with Sea Grant, the National Estuary Programs and the National Estuarine Research Reserves. Her degrees and interest are in fisheries and environmental science and human health. She works primarily on the environmental effects of the oil spill on humans and ecosystems. Email: [Larissa.Graham@auburn.edu](mailto:Larissa.Graham@auburn.edu)

**Monica Wilson** — Based in St. Petersburg, Florida, with Florida Sea Grant College Program, Monica has used her physical oceanography background to model circulation and flushing of coastal systems in the region and the impacts of tropical storms on these systems. She focuses on the distribution, dispersion and dilution of petroleum under the action of physical ocean processes and storms. Email: [monicawilson447@ufl.edu](mailto:monicawilson447@ufl.edu)

**Steve Sempier** — Based in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, with the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Steve has worked on Gulf-wide issues in several ways, including developing and updating the Gulf of Mexico Research Plan and implementing a Gulf of Mexico hydrological restoration program through a partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center. He coordinates the overall outreach effort and synthesizes the results from the outreach program for GoMRI. Email: [stephen.sempier@usm.edu](mailto:stephen.sempier@usm.edu)

#### **More about Sea Grant**

The mission of Sea Grant is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment. There are 33 university-based Sea Grant programs throughout the coastal U.S. states and territories. These programs are primarily supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the states in which the programs are located. For more information about the four Sea Grant programs that border the Gulf of Mexico, visit <http://gulfseagrant.wordpress.com/>.

#### **More about GoMRI**

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative is led by an independent and academic 20-member Research Board, which guides the research focus and the funding decisions to ensure the intellectual quality, effectiveness and academic independence of the GoMRI research. For more information, visit <http://gulfresearchinitiative.org/> or search for current and past GoMRI research projects at: <http://research.gulfresearchinitiative.org/research-search/research-searchtool.php>.

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