

Florida Sea Grant Notes and News

Karl Havens, March 2009

1. In response to our biennial call for research proposals, we received a record 96 statements of interest – including statements from all of the FL academic institutions! The statements now are out for review and the panel of out-of-state experts will meet in Gainesville on April 7-8 to help us identify the top proposals (cutting edge research that is highly relevant). In late April we plan on inviting 20 investigators to submit full proposals for an anticipated funding of 9 to 10 projects at up to \$200K for two years.
2. In response to the Gulf of Mexico Regional Hazard Resiliency RFP, 30 pre-proposals were received. These also are out for review and in late March the Directors of the four GOM Sea Grant programs, along with representatives from NOAA, EPA GOM Program and USGS will meet to identify approximately six projects to request full proposals in late April, for an anticipated funding of 2 to 3 projects at up to \$400K for two years.
3. This year we received outstanding applications for the NOAA population dynamics fellowship, the marine resource economics fellowship and the coastal management fellowship. The packages have been endorsed and forwarded to Washington, and are under review by the respective NOAA panels. We expect to know the names of finalists by May.
4. We also received nine applications for the Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. I will review those applications in the upcoming weeks and forward up to six (the maximum allowed per program) to NOAA for national competition. Only those applicants that are deemed to be nationally competitive will be forwarded. The review panel meets in May in DC and names of finalists typically are announced in late spring or early summer.
5. Tomorrow we will hold the first meeting of the Florida Sea Grant Advisory Council, which is comprised of leaders from the private sector and state and federal resource management agencies -- basically the 'customers' for the science, graduates, tools, technologies, etc. that we collectively produce. This is the first Council meeting so we largely are providing them an overview of how the program fits into the NOAA / SUS framework, how it operates and then some recent success stories. The aim is to have this group help increase the visibility of the program, be advocates for the program at state and federal levels, assist us in developing and implementing an effective fund-raising campaign, and helping us identify opportunities for new partnerships.