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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Florida Sea Grant College Program is committed to enhancing the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources for a sustainable economy and environment in a state whose coastline stretches for over 1,300 miles. 2006 represents the 36th year for Sea Grant in Florida. The program operates through a statewide, research, education and extension partnership of state and federal agencies, businesses and citizens. All eleven public universities, three private universities, and two private non-profit research laboratories constitute this virtual college without walls. The University of Florida serves as the host campus. Florida Sea Grant is one of 32 Sea Grant programs nationwide that together form the National Sea Grant College Program as authorized by federal legislation. It is the only university-based, statewide coastal research, education, extension/outreach and communications program in Florida.

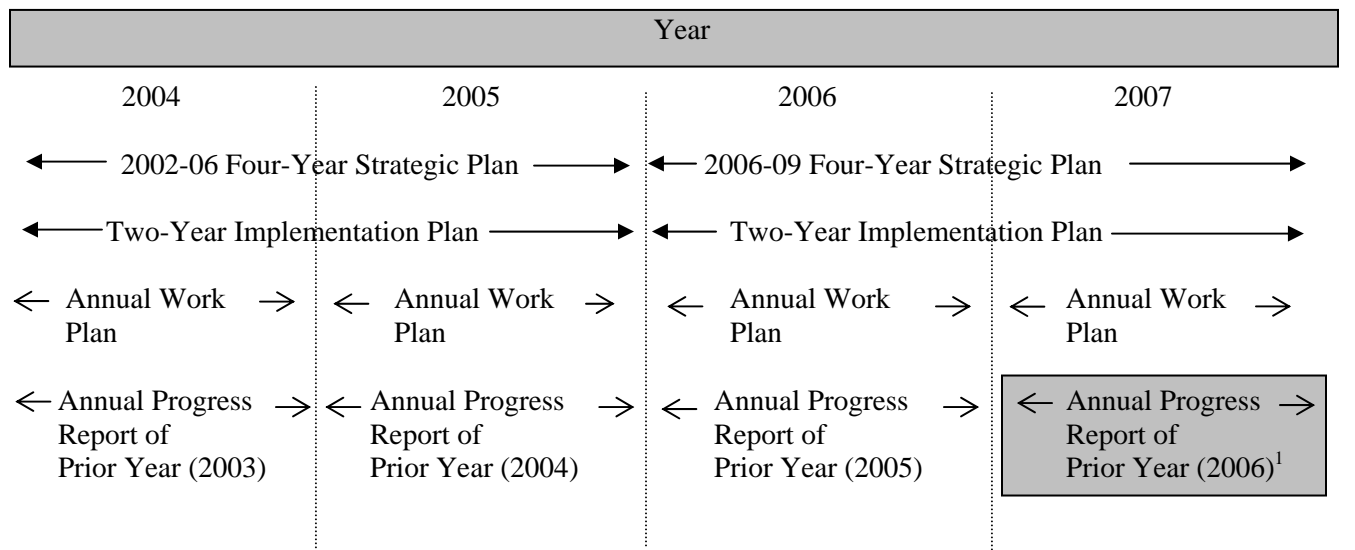
This annual progress report for 2006 is the ninth annual progress report submitted by Florida Sea Grant under the program evaluation procedures adopted during 1998 by the National Sea Grant College Program. This report covers the year 2006, but some historical data are included to provide baseline information for subsequent annual progress reports.

Florida Sea Grant had 10 different NOAA grants in effect during 2006. This annual report covers work completed and ongoing under all 10 grants.

Florida Sea Grant awards from NOAA activities during calendar year 2006.			
Number	Keyword Identifier	Start Date	Current End Date
NA16RG-2195	Omnibus Research, Extension, Communications, Management	02/01/02	05/31/08
NA06OAR4170014	Omnibus Research, Extension, Communications, Management	02/01/06	04/30/09
NA16RG-2558	Coastal Storms Project #8 (E/T-10)	03/01/02	05/31/06
NA17RG-2992	South Florida Marine Ecosystem Outreach E/T-9	09/01/02	09/30/07
NA06OAR4170025	Knauss Fellow E/ST-33	02/01/06	01/31/07
NO04NOS4730008	E/T-14 Manatee	04/01/04	03/31/07
NA05OAR7171024	Knauss Fellow E/ST-30	02/01/05	01/31/06
NA05OAR4171029	Knauss Fellow E/ST-31	02/01/05	01/31/06
NA05OAR4171036	Knauss Fellow E/ST-32	02/01/05	01/31/06
NA05OAR4170156	Growout Technology Production for Cobia R/LR-A-42	06/01/04	05/31/06

Every Florida Sea Grant activity and accomplishment reported on in this progress report satisfied three simple but tough criteria: 1) it was based on a strong rationale; 2) it demonstrated scientific or educational merit; and 3) it produced results that are clearly useful and applicable in industry, management or science. A number of core values allow Florida Sea Grant to deliver results based on these criteria: 1) **Excellence**; Research was funded on a competitive basis, with scientific merit as the most important criterion. Extension programs were based on reviewed faculty plans of work. Communications efforts use the latest technology to achieve maximum output, visibility and citizen receipt of our science-based information; 2) **Participation**; High value was placed on the involvement of a large number of participating institutions in research, education and extension programs. Graduate student involvement was high and a diverse male and female faculty was involved, from assistant to full professors; 3) **Accountability**; Both external and internal processes were used to measure a wide range of achievements. These included tracking the scientific publication output of faculty and students, understanding the contribution to society of scientific discovery, measuring the way citizens receiving educational programs changed their behavior, and determining the economic impact or level of new business activity resulting from a research project; 4) **Connection with Users**; A strong advisory process was used to define research priorities, to plan extension programs, and to measure the impact of programs. It was also used to build public and private support for Florida Sea Grant; 5) **Partnerships**; Faculty, students, and citizens all benefited from functioning in a partnership mode. Scientific results and education projects reached greater success levels and were implemented when partners, from agencies to businesses, provided financial support to an activity.

The 2006 annual progress report in the context of Florida Sea Grant's four-year cycle strategic plan, implementation plan and annual work plan.



¹ Representation of this document on the timeline.