Minutes from 2022 NOAA-NCCOS-CW HAB Liaison Project Advisory Meeting:

November 14th via Zoom

Invitees included the PIs/CoPIs (i.e., reps from relevant Sea Grant programs and IOOS programs, NSGO, and NOAA partners (NCCOS, CoastWatch)

Attendees: B. Staugler (Florida SG), S. Larkin (Florida SG), R. Stumpf (NCCOS), M. Allen (Maryland SG), P. Plotkin (Texas SG), T. King (Washington SG), J. Lively (Louisiana SG), M. Fraker (Michigan SG), A. Sirviente (GLOS), B. Kirkpatrick (GCOOS), M. Ford (MARACOOS), J. Newton (NANOOS), and M. Medina (SCCOOS)

Updates/announcements: Brooke Carney has replaced Elizabeth Rohring as our main point of contact for the liaison position within the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), and while she wasn’t in the meeting she has already helped us (see #1 below). Sea Grant partners/participants met at a meeting during Sea Grant week (September 2022) organized by Betty who shared the Approaches, Accomplishments, Aims, and Asks of the points of contact. The latter led to a robust discussion of the needs of a community of practice (CoP) within the Sea Grant network and the best way to build and strengthen capacity and information needed by each program. The plan for a State of the States report led to the need for “regional chats” to gather information/needs since consistent information is not available from each program so tasking the POCs with state-level reports at this time would not be productive or helpful.

Summary by item:

#1 – R. Calendar and C. Winslow (WA and Ohio SG, respectively), had offered to reach out to NSGO and perhaps beyond to try to have Betty tapped into any HAB related working groups that have sought out Sea Grant representation. Since the meeting Brooke has reached out to Dave Kidwell and I believe they are meeting today. Betty has already chatted with Dave so he is aware of her position and project.

#2 – “HAB chats” were discussed as a means of learning about state/regional needs and gaps. The discussion followed from the meeting at Sea Grant Week where the focus of the CoP was narrowed to include Sea Grant practitioners (i.e., Sea Grant personnel that provide HAB programming within their states/regions). Several suggestions were provided on the format and timing and planning is underway to start in January. Issues that may shape how the chats morph over time included optimal group size and regional interest.

#3 –  Need for public health information. This was discussed at Sea Grant Week and there was general agreement that it is a high priority, including information for pets. Barb Kirkpatrick summarized a recent effort she led in the Gulf of Mexico to propose developing detection tools for the public and training health care professionals on symptoms through CEU’s; the proposal was not submitted due to timing issues but the team is looking for further funding opportunities. There was a good discussion on engaging with other entities (e.g., poison control centers, and with veterinarians).

#4 –  Attendees were reminded of the new website and materials that are available. Please let us know if you have any corrections or suggestions.

#5 –  Trainings and workshops. A summary of past and upcoming was provided. Information is on the website.

Other. Rick shared that his two recent priorities are to improve/generate tools for (1)  health and (2) aquaculture and he stressed that our feedback matters. He needs to know what people need and want; that development of these tools is a two-way street.

Thanks again for your time and contributions to this project.

Sherry & Betty