

# Sea Grant Association

**Official Statement for the Record  
Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC**

**Submitted by Paul S. Anderson  
President, Sea Grant Association  
April 24, 2007**

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Mister Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the Sea Grant Association (SGA) I respectfully submit this written testimony for the official record. Thank you for the opportunity to express these views. The Sea Grant Association joins with other stakeholders in urging the Subcommittee to recognize and support the vital research and outreach programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). ***The community requests that the Subcommittee fund NOAA at \$4.5 billion in FY 2008.*** This is a modest request when considering the immense impact such an increase would have in terms of assisting NOAA in carrying out its mission: *to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.* Further, SGA requests that, within the overall FY 2008 appropriation for NOAA, the Subcommittee ***appropriate \$72 million in base funding for the National Sea Grant College Program.*** I will use the remainder of this statement to discuss why it is so important to support Sea Grant at realistic levels this year and in the future.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a key component of NOAA's extramural research, education and outreach enterprise. This request of \$72 million is well within the \$103 million authorized for FY 2008 in P.L. 107-299, National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, and consistent with the level of base funding approved by your Subcommittee (Commerce, Justice and Science) last year. Further it is the amount supported in the House Dear Colleague Letter for Sea Grant which was submitted with 45 signatures to the Subcommittee on March 14, 2007 by Congressmen Tom Allen and Henry Brown.

The Bush Administration's request of \$55 million for FY 2008 would put Sea Grant at a hard freeze for the third year in a row. Implications of such a freeze for the nation with respect to the economy, sustainability of natural resources, and national safety and security are significant. With the costs of research and education rising, the flat-funding of Sea Grant during the last few years have forced programs to cut jobs and leave countless high-quality research and outreach projects unsupported. The Sea Grant network cannot sustain current activities, staff, and operations within this budget scenario. This request of \$72 million would allow Sea Grant to sustain ongoing research and education efforts, address emerging needs, and continue assisting NOAA in carrying out its many missions.

## *Sea Grant—Science Serving the Nation’s Coasts*

Research and outreach programs supported by Sea Grant are based on competition, undergo rigorous peer-review, and are geared to address the many marine, coastal and Great Lakes challenges and opportunities that face our citizens. The federal investment in Sea Grant enables a nationally coordinated network embedded in the best research universities to apply unparalleled intellectual capital to address these problems and opportunities while assisting NOAA in addressing its missions. Cost-effectiveness is enhanced by access to existing university management infrastructure.

Sea Grant serves the nation in many ways. Sea Grant’s unmatched access to regional, state and local constituencies through its extension and outreach programs ensures that the federal investment is targeted at relevant issues. The Sea Grant model contributes to the missions of NOAA and other federal agencies, and state and local governments, to the benefit of the general public. In addition, marine education programs supported by Sea Grant funds reach from kindergarten to marine-related business people to elder hostels.

Sea Grant is a national program addressing national, regional, state and local needs. It is a partnership among government, academia, business, industry, scientists, and private citizens to help Americans understand and wisely use our precious coastal waters and Great Lakes for enjoyment and long-term economic growth. This network unites 32 Programs, over 300 universities, and millions of people. Sea Grant is an agent for scientific discovery, technology transfer, economic growth, resource conservation, and public education. It is government as our citizens want it – visible, tangible, relevant, efficient, and effective.

## *Sea Grant—An Economic Driver*

Sea Grant is an investment in America’s economic future. Attempts to balance our booming coastal economy with its associated impacts on the coastal and marine environment have raised the stakes for effective government action. America’s ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources encompass an immense area with more than 95,000 miles of coastline and more than 3.4 million square miles of ocean within the U.S. territorial sea. Over half the nation’s 280 million people live in coastal counties that comprise less than one-fifth of the total land area of the United States. The economy of these coastal counties is critical to the economic well being of the entire nation, providing a wide array of goods and services that account for at least 50 percent of the gross national product of the United States. By 2010, U.S. foreign trade in goods is expected to double to \$5 trillion, with ocean-going cargo increasing by 30 percent. Coastal tourism and recreation account for 85 percent of all U.S. tourism revenues. The oceans, in one way or another, account for one out of every six jobs. Tax revenues in coastal areas are among the fastest growing revenue sources for state and local governments. In fact, the collective economic impact of the coastal economy far exceeds U.S. agriculture, and yet federal investments in Sea Grant colleges and universities are much smaller than investments in the Land Grant college and university system funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agriculture and land-based natural resource activities, *the program after which Sea Grant was modeled.*

Sea Grant has been leading the quest for practical solutions by providing research and education on national coastal and Great Lakes issues for four decades. Federal dollars appropriated to the Sea Grant program are leveraged and matched by state and private funds by at least 2 to 1, some states matching 60 percent or more. The matched federal investment fills an enormous demand

for expertise to tackle rapid growth, change, and pressure on coastal resources. In addition, the 32 Sea Grant programs, located in every coastal, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast state, conduct policy-relevant research linked to an extensive outreach and education network. This structure ensures that Sea Grant research is useful to coastal resource managers at the regional, state and local levels, marine-related businesses and industries, and most importantly the general public. Some examples where Sea Grant has contributed to economic growth and vitality at the local, state and regional levels include:

- ∞ Following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast in 2005, approximately 3,000 commercial and 35,000 to 40,000 recreational boats were in need of salvage due to the storms. The Washington and Alaska Sea Grant Programs donated a surplus 60-ton Travelift® from Alaska to Plaquemine Parish, Louisiana. Without that hoist to move displaced boats to dry land for repair, fishermen affected by the hurricanes would have been out of work for several years, potentially costing millions of dollars in loss to the fishing industry.
- ∞ Sea Grant plays an instrumental role in nature-based tourism by promoting low impact uses of natural resources. For example, efforts to develop state designated underwater preserves have led to new diving activity in Great Lakes coastal communities providing an economic stimulus of at least \$1.5 million over a two-year period.
- ∞ Sea Grant saved taxpayers \$120,000 in the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup program in South Carolina. Over the past 14 years, more than 75,000 volunteers have collected 728 tons of trash and have saved state taxpayers more than \$1.6 million.
- ∞ Sea Grant research efforts to develop new drugs from marine organisms have resulted in discovery and description of more than 1,000 compounds that may be vitally important to the health industry.
- ∞ Sea Grant training at 5,000 seafood processing plants will prevent 20,000 to 60,000 seafood-related illnesses a year, which could cost consumers as much as \$115 million annually.
- ∞ Sea grant specialists are working directly with seaport managers, resource managers, commercial interests and the general public to address issues associated with ports, harbors and marine transportation — ecological and economic centers of America's coasts. For example, in Southern California, Sea Grant continues to educate local businesses on maritime security and business continuity in this, the busiest port complex in the U.S.
- ∞ Sea Grant research and extension work with hybrid striped bass aquaculture has expanded this species from being a demonstration project ten years ago to a \$25 million dollar annual business.

- ∞ In North Carolina, 200 of the 205 new oceanfront homes built to the Sea Grant hurricane standards survived Hurricane Fran in 1996, compared to more than 500 older oceanfront houses in the same area that were destroyed.

Attached to this testimony is a letter sent to your Subcommittee earlier this year signed by 157 Sea Grant stakeholders around the country about the importance of Sea Grant to this nation's economic vitality. It urges your Subcommittee to fund Sea Grant at \$72 million in FY 2008.

### *Sea Grant—A Local Approach to Addressing National Priorities*

Sea Grant has established long-standing working relationships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in every coastal state. Because it is science-based and non-regulatory, Sea Grant is viewed as an honest broker among a wide range of constituents. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy called on Congress in its 2004 report to expand the Sea Grant program in conjunction with a doubling of all ocean and coastal research funding. Further, in January 2007, the Bush Administration released its inter-agency Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy, *Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade*. Several of the plan's most important priorities dovetail with Sea Grant's strength, experience, and relationships with state and local decision makers and ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resource managers. Here are just two examples:

***Sea Grant Increases Resiliency to Natural Hazards.*** Coastal areas of the United States comprise only 10 percent of our nation's land mass, yet they are home to over half of all Americans. As witnessed by recent record-breaking storm seasons, coastal communities and the natural resources and infrastructure on which they depend are at increasing risk from hurricanes, tsunamis, coastal storms, shoreline change, and sea level rise. Sea Grant institutions and their partners pool research, education and outreach capabilities to enhance mitigation, preparedness, planning, education, response, and recovery in coastal communities throughout the nation. As a result of the 2005 hurricanes, Sea Grant is working to improve storm modeling and community resiliency through regional research initiatives. In addition, Sea Grant is working closely with coastal communities to develop and implement long-term planning that will allow communities to become more resilient to storm events.

***Sea Grant is a Dedicated Steward of Natural and Cultural Ocean and Great Lakes Resources.*** Domestic seafood production has not kept pace with consumer demand; the United States imports an ever-increasing amount of seafood consumed domestically. Issues with quality assurance and consistent supplies are increasing. At the same time, the nation's commercial seafood industry is threatened by the loss of coastal access and multiple use conflicts in coastal waters. Sea Grant institutions, through the use of their fisheries extension, address the increasing needs of the nation's seafood industry by utilizing expertise in seafood safety and technology and marine aquaculture.

The above examples illustrate Sea Grant's connectivity to the Administration's stated priorities. As the federal government works to implement these priorities, we hope it will look to the National Sea Grant College Program—a major component of NOAA's extramural research arm—as a resource and as a partner.

The SGA recognizes and appreciates the difficult funding tradeoffs the Subcommittee is forced to make each year. We urge you to consider Sea Grant as an investment in the future health and well-being of our coastal communities and support the program at \$72 million in FY 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these views.

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### **About the SGA**

The *Sea Grant Association* is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the Sea Grant program concept. The SGA's regular membership consists of the academic institutions that participate in the National Sea Grant College Program, located within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). SGA provides the mechanism for these institutions to coordinate their activities, to set program priorities at both the regional and national level, and to provide a unified voice for these institutions on issues of importance to the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. The SGA advocates for greater understanding, use, and conservation of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Paul S. Anderson, SGA President  
Director, Maine Sea Grant College Program  
(207) 581-1435, [panderson@maine.edu](mailto:panderson@maine.edu)

April 6, 2007

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and  
Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

We, the undersigned entities, represent the users, the stakeholders and the beneficiaries at the state, local and regional levels of the information and services provided by the National Sea Grant College Program funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We are writing to urge your Subcommittee to support this program in fiscal year 2008 at the level recommended by the bipartisan Dear Colleague Letter sponsored by Congressmen Allen from Maine and Brown from South Carolina which requests \$72 million for this national program.

At this level, the National Sea Grant College program is well within the \$103 million level authorized in the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (P.L. 107-299). More importantly, it would reverse the severe reductions this program has endured in recent years and restore it to a level where it could enable vital research to go forward, support important education and outreach efforts at the local, state and regional level, and strengthen the state programs in their application of research to address important local coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes marine resource issues.

For four decades now, the National Sea Grant College Program has led the quest for practical solutions by providing research and education on ocean, coastal and Great Lakes issues. Federal dollars appropriated to the Sea Grant program are leveraged and matched by state and private funds. The 32 Sea Grant programs, located in every coastal, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast state, conduct policy-relevant research linked to an extensive outreach and education network. This structure ensures that Sea Grant research is useful to coastal resource managers at the regional, state and local levels, marine-related businesses and industries, and most importantly the general public.

Sea Grant has established long-standing working relationships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, like those of us who have signed below, in every ocean, coastal and Great Lake state. Because it is science-based and non-regulatory, Sea Grant is viewed as an honest broker among a wide range of constituents. Some examples where Sea Grant has contributed to the economic vitality at the local, state and regional levels include:

- The Sea Grant training program at 5,000 seafood processing plants will prevent 20,000 to 60,000 seafood-related illnesses a year, which could cost consumers as much as \$115 million annually.

- Sea Grant saved taxpayers \$120,000 in the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup program. Over the past 14 years, more than 75,000 volunteers have collected 728 tons of trash and have saved state taxpayers more than \$1.6 million.
- Sea Grant has contributed to the founding or operation of eight pearl farms, four demonstration and training pearl hatcheries, 15 giant clam farms (including the largest commercial giant clam aquaculture venture in the Pacific) and 20 sponge farms (Micronesia is the only area that farms sponges). Overall, the number of aquaculture enterprises in the Hawaiian Islands has reached 126 farms valued at \$25.2 million dollars, which translates into approximately 630 jobs.
- Sea Grant researchers and policy experts have provided information and assistance to decision makers at every level, from small-town mayors to regional leaders, to help them make sense of complex issues, including climate change, ecosystem-based fisheries management, and coastal resource conflicts.
- In North Carolina, 200 of the 205 new oceanfront homes built to the Sea Grant hurricane standards survived Hurricane Fran in 1996, compared to more than 500 older oceanfront houses in the same area that were destroyed.
- Sea Grant research and outreach on Manila clams and blue mussels have resulted in new industries worth \$19 million annually.
- Sea Grant research and extension work for hybrid striped bass aquaculture has expanded this species from being a demonstration project ten years ago to a \$25 million dollar annual business.
- No mussel culture industry existed in the Northeast prior to 1980 and after a five-year Sea Grant research effort landings of wild and farmed mussels are now valued at \$6 million.
- Sea Grant research efforts to develop new drugs from marine organisms have resulted in discovery and description of more than 1,000 compounds that may be vitally important to the health industry.
- Efforts to develop state designated underwater preserves have led to new diving activity in Great Lakes coastal communities providing an economic stimulus of at least \$1.5 million over a two-year period.
- In Southern California, Sea Grant continues to educate local businesses on maritime security and business continuity in this, the busiest port complex in the U.S.
- Research on gear preventing endangered seabirds from dying in longline fisheries prevented closure of those fisheries saving hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars.

We recognize that the U.S. Government is facing a time of extreme fiscal constraint and competing priorities. At the same time, we believe the National Sea Grant College Program provides a significant return on the investment of public resources. We urge the Congress to take advantage of this program's strength, experience, and connections at the local, state and regional

level and fully support the program in the upcoming fiscal year 2008 appropriations process.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

**Sincerely,**

Alabama Seafood Association – Pete Barber, President  
Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition – Brett Dungan, Founding Member  
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Portsmouth, Rhode Island – Ms. Tina Dolen,  
Executive Director  
Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, Bedford, New Hampshire – Bonnie Spinazzola,  
Executive Director  
At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington  
Avon Lake Boat Club, Ohio – Joe Slife, Trustee  
Blackbrook Audubon Society, Ohio – Mary Ann Wagner, President  
Board of Millcreek Township Supervisors, Erie, Pennsylvania  
Boating Association of Ohio – Norman A. Schultz, Executive Director  
Borough of Belmar, New Jersey – Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle  
Bosarge Boat, Inc. – Steve Bosarge,  
President  
Brett's Fish Farm/Texas Sportfish and Koi Breeders, Liverpool, Texas – Brett Rowley, Owner  
Carteret County, North Carolina Fishermen's Association  
Casey's Seafood Inc., Newport News, Virginia  
Center for the Inland Bays, Delaware – Edward Lewandowski, Executive Director,  
Central Basin Charterboat Association (CBCBA) – Captain Jim Cooper, Secretary  
The Chesapeake Bay Commission  
The Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association  
City of Bayfield, Wisconsin – Mayor Larry MacDonald  
City of Bayou La Batre Port Authority, Alabama – David Rice, Chairman  
City of Huron, Ohio – Douglas Steinwart, Huron Parks & Recreation, Huron Boat Basin Facility  
Manager  
City of Mentor, Ohio – Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina – Kurt Krause, Director of  
Parks, Recreation and Public lands  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio – John Piskura, Mayor  
City of Sylvania, Ohio Community Improvement Corporation – Herbert Hoehing  
Clemons Boats – John Clemons  
Cleveland Botanical Gardens – Natalie Ronayne, CEO  
Cleveland Fishing Association – John Schenk, President  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio – Dr. Bruce Latimer, Director  
Jeff Collier, Mayor of Dauphin Island, Alabama  
Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association – Mike Theiler, Vice-President  
Connecticut Seafood Council – Barbara Gordon, Executive Director  
Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland – Dennis Roche, President  
Cordova Fishermen United, Anchorage, Alaska – Dan Hull, Commercial Fisherman  
Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas  
Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Metro Detroit Area, Michigan – Anita Twardesky, Co-  
Chair  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Duluth, Minnesota – William Kron, Chairman  
First Energy in Toledo, Ohio – Hans Rosebrock, Senior Economic Development Representative  
Fishermen's News, Seattle, Washington  
Fishtown Preservation Society, Leland, Michigan  
Florida Clean Boating Partnership

Florida Outdoor Writers Association  
 Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association  
 Fresher Than Fresh, Inc., Gastonia, North Carolina  
 Friends of Stone Laboratory, Ohio – Christopher J. Winslow, President  
 Dr. Delbert Gatlin, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University,  
 College Station, Texas  
 Genesee Charter Boat Association, Rochester, New York – Sam Zucco, President  
 Goeden Fisheries  
 Graham and Rollins Inc., Hampton, Virginia  
 Great Lakes Historical Society – Carrie E. Sowden, Archaeological Director  
 Haasch Guide Service, Algoma, Wisconsin – Lee Haasch  
 Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu 1994-2004  
 Harborcreek, Pennsylvania – Mr. Dean S. Pepicello, Harborcreek Township Supervisor  
 Harlingen Shrimp Farms, Ltd., Harlingen, Texas, Dr. Fritz Jaenike  
 Hawaii Aquaculture Association – Mr. Ronald Wiedenbach, President  
 Holland American Line, Anchorage, Alaska – John Shively, Vice President Government and  
 Community Relations  
 Holiday Harbor Marina, Inc., Ohio – Bob Lieblein, Jr  
 Houston Underwater Club, Houston, Texas – Page Williams  
 Huron Lagoons Marina, Ohio – Mike Solberg  
 Integrated Marine Systems, LLC – Ken Anderson, Owner  
 The Jersey Shore Partnership, Red Bank, New Jersey – Jack Rosenfeld, Chairman  
 Juneau Borough Schools, Juneau, Alaska – Peggy Cowan, Superintendent  
 Paul Kelly, Member, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Consultant, Rowan Industries,  
 Houston, Texas  
 Lake County Planning Commission – Darrell Webster, Director  
 Lake Erie Charter Boat Association – Bob Collins, President  
 Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, Inc. – Scott Carpenter, President  
 Lake Erie Marine Trades Association – Kenneth J. Alvey, President  
 Lake Erie Shores & Islands – Sandusky Area Welcome Center – Joan Van Offeren,  
 Executive Director  
 Lake Erie Walleye Magazine and www.walleye.com – Rick Kubb, Editor & Publisher  
 Lone Star Aquafarms, Palacios, Texas – John Turner  
 Lone Star Hatchery, Inc., Rio Hondo, Texas – Daphne Wang  
 Lorain County Visitors Bureau, Ohio – Barb Bickel, Executive Director  
 Luck Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas – Jeffery Chen  
 Lucky 7 Sportfishing Charters, Hamburg, New York – Hon. Richard A. Smith  
 Maine Aquaculture Association – Sebastian Belle, Executive Director  
 Maine Harbormasters Association – David Schmanska, President  
 Maine Lobsterman's Association – Patrice McCarron, Executive Director  
 Marine Exchange of Southern California, San Pedro, CA – Capt. M. H. K. Aschemeyer,  
 Executive Director  
 Marine Industries Association of Florida  
 The Marine Trades Association of Maryland  
 Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Manasquan, New Jersey – Melissa Danko,  
 Executive Director  
 The Maritime Archaeological Survey Team, Inc. (MAST), Ohio – Kenneth S. Marshall, P.E.,  
 Chair of the Board of Directors  
 Marsh Area Regional Coalition – Darrell Webster, Chair  
 Massachusetts Audubon Society – Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy and Government  
 Relations

Massachusetts Shellfish Aquaculture Association – Scott Mullin, President  
 Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association – Gary Sherman, President  
 Dr. Michael Masser, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University,  
 College Station, Texas, (Past-president) World Aquaculture Society  
 Mattamuskeet Seafood Company, Swan Quarter, North Carolina North Carolina Coastal  
 Federation  
 Mentor Marsh Board of Management, Ohio – Sylvia Jayne, Chair  
 Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Detroit, Michigan – B. David Sanders, Executive Vice  
 President  
 Michael Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas – Michael Chen  
 Michigan Boating Industries Association – Van W. Snider, Jr., President  
 Michigan Charter Boat Association – Denny Grinold, Legislative Liaison  
 Michigan Fish Producers Association – Paul Jensen, Secretary  
 Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen’s Association – Ken Merckel, Legislative Liaison  
 Minnesota Fish and Bait Farmers Association, New London, Minnesota  
 Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association – Tom Becker, President  
 Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board, Monroe County, New York – Dan Walding,  
 Chairman  
 Montauk Inlet Seafood Inc., Inlet Seafood Property LLC, Montauk, New York – Ms. Sima  
 Freierman  
 National Aquaculture Association  
 New York Power Authority, White Plains, New York – Dr. Dennis J. Dunning  
 New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Council – Edmund Sander  
 New York Seafood Council, Hampton Bays, New York – Mr. Roger Tollefsen  
 Noisette Company, LLC, North Charleston, South Carolina – John L. Knott, Jr., President and  
 CEO  
 Norquest Seafoods, Seattle, Washington – Terry Gardiner, former President  
 North Carolina Coastal Federation  
 North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association – Jim Swartzenberg, President  
 Northwest Marine Trade Association, Seattle Washington  
 Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance – Craig Pendleton, Coordinating Director  
 Ohio Bass Federation – Jim Doss, President  
 Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders – Joe Moravec, President  
 Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association – Ken Cunningham, President  
 Ohio Fish Producers Association – Kenny King, President  
 The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance – Dr. Andrew McGreevy, President  
 Ohio Wine Producers – Donniella Winchell, Executive Director  
 Organized Seafood Association of Alabama – Ernie Anderson, President  
 Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, Ohio – Larry Fletcher, Executive Director  
 Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Olympia, Washington  
 Pamlico Packing Company, Grantsboro, North Carolina  
 Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – Kathy E. Klein, Executive Director  
 The Honorable Victor Pearson, Mayor, City of Jamaica Beach, Texas  
 PennAg Industries Association Aquaculture Council, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania – Michael  
 Rice, Council Chair, President, Mt. Parnell Fisheries, Mercersburg and Sam Sherk,  
 Assistant Vice President  
 Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center, Pennsylvania – John Byrnes Ph.D., R.D.,  
 Extension Co-Director  
 Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Seattle, Washington  
 Port of Long Beach, Long Beach, California – Richard D. Steinke, Executive Director  
 Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California – Dr. Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director

Portsmouth Fishermen's Cooperative, Portsmouth, New Hampshire – Peter Kendall,  
 Manager  
 R&B Aquatic Supply, Boerne, Texas – Brian Brawner  
 Reveille and the Zande Companies – Glenn T. Gridale, AICP, GISP; Principal, Reveille  
 Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, Rhode Island – Mr. Grover  
 Fugate, Executive Director  
 Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Center (Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association, Ocean State  
 Fishermen's Association, and R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association)  
 Riverside Kayak connection, LLC, Wyandotte, Michigan – Tiffany Van De Hey, Owner  
 Sandusky Charter Boat Association, Ohio – Bob Fravel, President  
 Sandusky/Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Ohio – Joan Van Offeren, Executive  
 Director  
 Scenic Galveston, Galveston, Texas – Evangeline Whorton, Chairman  
 Shoreline and Waterway Management Section Division of Soil and Water Conservation,  
 Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control –  
 Anthony P. Pratt, Administrator  
 Shrimp News International, San Diego, California – Bob Rosenberry, Editor/Publisher  
 Sima Marine, Ohio – John Sima  
 Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises, Valdez, Alaska – Stan Stephens, President  
 South Cuyahoga Sportsman's Association (SCSA), Ohio – Harry Arnold, President  
 South Carolina Shrimper's Association, St. Helena Island, South Carolina – Mr. Lonnie Golden,  
 President  
 South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), Charleston, South Carolina – Dr.  
 George Sedberry, President  
 South Carolina Seafood Alliance, Charleston, South Carolina – Mr. Frank Blum, Executive  
 Director  
 Southern New England Fishermen and Lobstermen's Association – Arthur Medeiros,  
 President  
 Southern Ohio Marine Trades Association – Ronald Getter, Director  
 Southern Star, Inc., DBA Arroyo Aqua Faros, Rio Hondo, Texas – Bing Hung  
 Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association  
 Gary Szatkowski, Meteorologist-In-Charge, National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office,  
 Philadelphia/Mount Holly  
 Tank Hollow, Poteet, Texas – Vance Schultze, President  
 Taylor Shellfish, Shelton, Washington  
 Texas Aquaculture Cooperative, Markum, Texas – Rob Schmid, Sales Consultant  
 U.S. Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan – Gary Kadau, Community Development  
 Director  
 Virginia Seafood Council  
 Wanchese Fish Company, Wanchese, North Carolina  
 West Cleveland Walleye Association – Captain Walt Morris, President  
 Western Basin Sportfishing Association, Ohio – Marc Hudson, President  
 World Aquaculture Society Home Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana – Juliette Massey,  
 Director  
 Yacht Brokers of Sandusky, Ohio – John C. Brown, Owner