

Sea Grant Education Network



*Educating future
environmental professionals and leaders,
improving marine and aquatic literacy for all.*

Maia McGuire, SGEN chair 2015-16

Diana Payne, SGEN chair 2008

Where are we?

33 state/territory
Sea Grant
programs





Sea Grant Educators are diverse...

- A 2008 survey received input from 46 educators representing all but 2 SG programs.
- 54% spend at least 75% of their time on SG education; 46% spend 50% or less of their time on SG education.
- 48% are 75% or more paid by SG dollars. 22% receive no federal SG funding.
- 58% have Extension appointments.





Sea Grant Educators (cont.)

- Most work with middle and high school teachers most frequently, but SG educators work with many different groups* at least sometimes.

**college students, pre-K teachers, elementary teachers, undergraduates, graduate students, informal education school programs, families, professionals*

(Educators were asked to rank the frequency with which they work with various groups—4-point scale from never to always)

Who SG Educators report to

- Sea Grant Extension Leader (57%)
- Sea Grant Director (41%)
- Education director/coordinator (12%)
- Communications director/coordinator (7%)
- *Some report to more than one person, some report to a director outside SG*





What is SGEN?

- Purpose of SGEN is to:
 - facilitate communication and interaction among Sea Grant Educators and with others in and outside of the Sea Grant network.
 - to improve the delivery of science education-based and science-based information, programming, and resources to constituent groups at the local, regional and national levels in support of the Sea Grant mission.



What is the SGEN structure?

- Executive committee: chair, past-chair, chair-elect, at-large positions (3), secretary, liaisons to National SG Office*, Sea Grant Association and National SG Advisory Board.
 - Quarterly conference calls
- In-person meetings are held at least annually—every other year at Sea Grant Week, and at NMEA.

**This was Chelsea Berg...*



SGEN chair vs. NSGO Education liaison

- SGEN chair coordinates SGEN activities (meetings, professional development, etc.)
- SGEN chair represents education interests in the Sea Grant Association
- NSGO Education Liaison represents education interests in the National Sea Grant office.
- **Currently the NSGO position is vacant**



National Sea Grant College Program

2014-2017 Focus Areas

1. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
3. Resilient Communities and Economies
4. *Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development**

**New in 2014 SG strategic plan—Education was not previously included a focus area*



NSGO reporting metrics (ELWD)

GOAL 1: An environmentally literate public supported and informed by a continuum of lifelong formal and informal engagement opportunities.

GOAL 2: A future workforce reflecting the diversity of Sea Grant programs, skilled in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other disciplines critical to local, regional and national needs.

Performance Measures

- 1) Number of Sea Grant facilitated curricula adopted by formal and informal educators.
- 2) Number of people engaged in Sea Grant supported informal education programs.
- 3) Number of Sea Grant-supported graduates who become employed in a career related to their degree within two years of graduation.

Cross-Cutting Performance Measures

- Economic (market and non-market; jobs and businesses created or retained) benefits derived from Sea Grant activities.



SGEN goals align with many of the goals of the Ed Council's Strategic Plan

- **Goal 1: Science-Informed Society**
 - especially 1.1 and 1.2
- **Goal 2: Conservation & Stewardship**
- **Goal 5: Organizational Excellence**
 - especially 5.1, 5.3



Priority: How do we communicate our value?

- STEM consolidation—how do we get SG (and other NOAA Education groups) off the chopping block?
 - Need support throughout SG program leadership for education
 - Need to write stronger impact statements/“stories”
 - Need to collect data that can be compiled (common metrics?)



What actions can the Council take?

- Help in providing professional development for SG Educators
 - Evaluation (common metrics/methods)
 - “Selling” SG Education to decision makers
 - Helping us learn what is known from education research (e.g. what is known about the importance of field/environmental experiences for youth? For adults?)
 - How do we turn outputs into impacts?



Priority: Strengthen Partnerships and Collaborations

- While there are some partnerships between SG Educators and other local NOAA educators, there are probably many more opportunities for networking
 - Need to know who you are... (and vice versa!)
 - Are we duplicating efforts?
 - Are we missing opportunities to partner/increase visibility for NOAA Education?



What actions can the Council take?

- Council members can help Sea Grant Educators form/strengthen partnerships/collaborations
 - Within NOAA entities
 - With groups/projects outside NOAA

