

Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

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Minutes of Meeting

University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, November 10, 1995

Present:

Lew Incze	Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Rene Lavoie	Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Daniel Lynch	Dartmouth College
John Allen	Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Judy Pederson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Scott Kraus	New England Aquarium
Ivar Babb	National Undersea Research Center, University of Connecticut
Eugenia Braasch	RARGOM headquarters at Dartmouth College
Brad Barr	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Page Valentine	United States Geological Survey
Larry Mayer	University of Maine
Bob Wall	University of Maine, Regional Marine Research Program
Gordon Wallace	University of Massachusetts - Boston
Wendell Brown	University of New Hampshire
Ann Bucklin	University of New Hampshire Sea Grant College Program
Steve Jones	University of New Hampshire
Rich Langdon	University of New Hampshire
Bruce Tripp	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The Meeting was called to order by Gordon Wallace at 9:30 a.m., with Genie Braasch and Dan Lynch keeping the minutes. John Allen moved that the minutes of the 9 June meeting (Darling Marine Center, Walpole, Maine) be approved as they stand, Ivar Babb seconded the motion.

Old Business

Health of the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Workshop

G. Braasch reported that the workshop was held on September 18-20 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. 63 people attended and the group had an enjoyable and productive time. The Executive Summary is well underway and will be finished by the end of the month. The workshop proceedings are in process, with two plenary papers completed and three working group reports submitted in draft form. B. Wall asked whether the Association planned to continue to consult with member agencies (such as this NMFS contract) and conduct programs of this sort - the consensus of the group was that this type of activity exemplifies the Association's service to the region and should be continued.

Actions to take:

1. Complete the Executive Summary, distribute for review, deliver to NMFS by 12/14 (J. Pearce, G. Wallace, D. Dow, G. Braasch).
2. The workshop proceedings will be the primary winter activity (D. Dow, G. Braasch and contributors).

Gulf of Maine Scientific Workshop

Planning: The activities of the initial steering committee have been progressing, and information is currently posted on the RARGOM www home page (see handout), but the final planning document is not ready for distribution yet. G. Wallace detailed the activities during the summer and fall months. The consensus was that the group needs to finalize the program plan soon. Integration of management/science at the first meeting was discussed (i.e. what are the scientific issues that can be helped via management, and what are the questions of managers that science can answer). While the science/management theme has been discussed at length at all of the planning sessions, the consensus has been that this event will be primarily science focused, with a second, integrative workshop planned to take place 6-9 months after the Sept. St. Andrews event. It was agreed to add a plenary session and panel discussion on the science/management process. The notion that we need to think of "management" beyond the state/federally defined positions, i.e. scientists working at the applied interface was

injected into the discussion. While fisheries is a dominant concern, the proposal was made to find a speaker who would challenge scientists to consider management issues present and future, to set the stage for the next workshop. People such as Andy Rosenburg, Bruce Babbitt, Gerry Studds, were mentioned and it was also recommended that industry and ngo representatives be contacted. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Dec. 11th, and speakers need to be contacted and enlisted for all areas of the program.

Budget & Funding: Budget details are yet to be worked out. Aspects of the budget were discussed, with a suggestion that speakers be offered a \$1,000. honoraria primarily for travel expenses. The suggested registration fee was \$100., with a two tiered level, students and others. On the fund raising side, the Association has been awarded \$5,000. of EPA funds for the planning process. The Council on the Marine Environment has offered \$5,000. to conduct a workshop to bring together U.S. and Canadian scientists and managers to discuss mutual needs, with the stipulation that this money needs to be spent by the 1995 year end. S. Kraus suggested that the U.S. Dept. of State might be a source of funds for international activities.

Program Themes/Sessions: The members of the steering committee reported on their search for speakers and topics activity. The discussion moved to the issue of whether the program should shift in emphasis from a few integrative review speakers, to more speakers addressing smaller topics. L Incze recommended that a mechanism for involving more speakers might be to add sub working groups with more reporting sessions. It was noted that discussion leaders hold a key responsibility for the outcome of the workshop, and suggested that discussion leaders participate in a pre-conference training session.

Publications: The workshop proceedings will be produced as a part of the RARGOM Report series. D. Lynch proposed the idea of also preparing a post symposium, peer reviewed, volume and solicited ideas for journal ideas (i.e. AGU, Estuaries, NWAFO). It was agreed that these two publication endeavors are distinct and that the planning needs for each are extensive and should be kept separate. The notion that the workshop event could catalyze into the journal volume was accepted.

Travel: Group arrangements from the Boston area will be looked into.

Actions to take:

1. G. Braasch will convey the notion that the Association desires to use the CME money for planning the integration of the 2 workshops, with part of the money designated for travel stipends. Propose that the CME become a sponsoring member with the \$5,000. (analogous to the RMRP model), this will enable formal participation in Association activities.
2. The steering committee will finalize its speaker lists.
3. G. Braasch will work with G. Wallace on the budget and fund raising approach.
4. A steering committee for the 2nd workshop needs to be identified and planning needs to be launched.
5. A letter announcing the workshop will be sent out to scientists, state agencies, congressional staffers, and NGOs.

New Business

Financial Report and Membership Dues

D. Lynch presented a 1995 budget update, noting that the Association's expenses are on track with the 1995 budget, but that dues revenues are lagging, underscoring the importance of a contingency line item in the budget (which is currently funded through the sponsorship category). Two full member institution dues have not yet been received (\$5,500.), but all Associate dues are currently paid. He presented a level funded 1996 budget, stating that additional activity will need to be supported through outside sources. All in attendance indicated that their institutions were committed to 1996 Association membership.

Ideas for possible 1996 Association activity were presented. L. Mayer endorsed the notion of a GoM Journal, saying that there is a real need for a descriptive, regional science publication that would integrate watershed, atmospheric, and marine issues. This activity would need an additional staff person, with a volunteer editorial board. The group endorsed the notion of planning for this product.

1. The Association staff will begin to work on a proposal for a GoM journal and will seek funding support for this.

Gulf of Maine Research Overview

Ann Bucklin, UNH Sea Grant Program, reported on the activities of this program. She characterized the UNH Sea Grant program as a partnership between academia and industry, with lots of in kind collaboration. Program components include research, outreach, management, advisory, and communications activities (see UME/NH Sea Grant brochure for further details). 1995 priorities include stronger integration of sea grant functions. The UNH/ME Sea Grant Program has been very successful competing for project funding on a national level, ranking in the top 10 nationally. Bucklin described finfish aquaculture activity underway, "development of commercially viable groundfish aquaculture industries in the northeast", stating that more knowledge is needed about the biology of the fish species, regardless of whether this information will be applied to aquaculture or enhancement. She also noted that the GoM region lags behind other areas, particularly Asia, which has a much larger aquaculture effort.

A call for abstracts has recently been issued for a Open Ocean Aquaculture Conference, May 8-10, 1996, Portland, ME. contact Pat Fiorelli, New England Fisheries Management Council, for details.

Wendell Brown described the Ocean Engineering Program, saying that it is about 10 yrs. old, is flexible in academic approach, and offers a MS in oceanography. While there is no oceanography department at UNH, there are complementary activities and resources: Sea Grant, Center for Ocean Sciences, Center for Marine Biology, Center for Ocean Engineering, the Jackson Estuarine lab and a Coastal Marine lab, and the R/V Gulf Challenger. The Ocean Engineering program research focus areas are marine geotechnics/geo-acoustics, marine pollution, hydrodynamics, offshore aquaculture technology, and gillnet/harbor porpoise acoustics. Ken Baldwin is in charge of the program and collaborates a lot with industry, working to link academic applied activity with potential employment opportunities for program participants.

CME Monitoring Committee

Steve Jones reported that his group is working to move beyond mussels. The Gulfwatch Program has received funding to hire a staff person to synthesize data collected over the past 4 years. They are also writing up a report including a literature search, and will possibly conduct a small workshop to bring together experts to review and synthesize their work. Next steps include biological effects. In the short term, with support at the \$30-\$40,000. level, the group plans to conduct contaminant analyses in upper trophic levels. RARGOM will be approached as a resource for the review activity. Reports are available on edims via Karen Garrison. John Sowles has paper copy versions.

New England Aquarium Forum Series

S. Kraus reported that this series was launched in June with a "Seals and their interactions with humans" (reports for this are now available) and the series is proceeding with the next forum being held next week on "Aquaculture in Boston Harbor", and on Jan. 11th, "Fisheries" forum will be held. The goal here is educational, to bring together stakeholders in the region.

Association Officers Nominating Committee

The terms for the officers will expire in June. For a smooth transition, the group needs to identify the next set of leaders soon. A nominating committee was established to conduct this activity: Lew Incze, Larry Mayer, Page Valentine, and Brad Barr.

The winter meeting will be held at the Association Headquarters, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH on February 2nd.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Policy Board Minutes

Present:

Lew Incze	Bigelow Lab
Daniel Lynch	Dartmouth College
Ivar Babb	National Undersea Research Center, University of Connecticut
Page Valentine	United States Geological Survey
Larry Mayer	University of Maine
Gordon Wallace	University of Massachusetts - Boston
Wendell Brown	University of New Hampshire
Bruce Tripp	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by G. Wallace.

Articles of Association

D. Lynch reported that there are inconsistencies in the current version of the Articles of Association, suggesting that the group update this document (see handout). Under Article III, the lobbying problem has consistently surfaced - recognizing that the region needs to present its case at the federal level, it was agreed to establish a standing committee of non-governmental institutions that are able to lobby and to create an educational information packet for their use. Under Article IV, it was noted that there are currently no standing committees for activities such as publications, financial matters, program/education, ships/research infrastructure, and research planning. It was unanimously agreed to establish a standing committee on Research Infrastructure. W. Brown will serve as chair. It was also recommended that a standing committee for Regional Research Priorities be established, but no one has been identified to chair this activity.

Also, under Article IV, there are statements made about 3 year terms for institutional representatives to the Policy Board, but there is no mechanism for that transfer to take place or a description of the duties of the representatives. Clarification to this area, a key element in the effectiveness of the Association, needs to be drafted and voted on at the next meeting.

Other changes noted were: under Article IV, C, a change from "secretarial services" to "staff services", and that the dues rates are not current and do not include the sponsorship category.

1996 Budget, Membership, and Workplan

The Association 1996 budget (see attached) was approved unanimously.

Concern about membership dues revenue was expressed. L. Mayer will speak with Brian Rothschild, UMass Dartmouth, about increasing their contribution to Full Member. Lew Incze will speak with Linda Mercer at MDMR and David Brooks at Texas A&M about continued membership. Gordon Wallace will continue discussion with URI about membership for 1996. The idea of a combined BU/MBL Full Membership was promoted. There is a need for someone to follow-up on this.

Activities to include in the workplan were discussed further. Given the level funded budget, the consensus was to stress activities with direct Association benefit. Workshops will continue to be the priority activity.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eugenia Frey Braasch
12 December, 1995