

Florida Sea Grant College Program

*A statewide university program for
Coastal Research, Education & Extension*

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January 27, 2020

Kelly Samek
Program Analyst/Gulf Regional Lead
National Sea Grant Office
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dear Kelly,

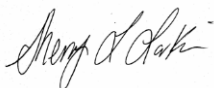
The Florida Sea Grant College Program recently hosted the 2014-17 Program Site Review Visit, which resulted in the following recommendation:

The SRT discussed with the University leadership the success that Sea Grant has had reporting directly to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and the team would like to see that continue. Being one of only a few statewide centers helps the University maintain its preeminence. The current structure is ideal for serving the University of Florida mission while tapping into the expertise of the rest of the Statewide University System.

This recommendation re-affirms the current organizational structure of the Florida Sea Grant College Program, as such no implementation plan is necessary. The program concurs with this assessment and appreciates the observation of the role that this organizational structure has had ensuring that initiatives are successfully implemented statewide. To confirm, no changes in the reporting structure of the program are anticipated.

The SRT also provided nine suggestions and seven best management practices. The majority of the suggestions (six in total) pertained to organizing and managing the program, including how the program reports on performance in addressing each national focus area. I am pleased to report that efforts to address these six have already commenced with several planned meetings with current and new partners, a re-envisioning of the Advisory Committee, and development of documents to help guide program management when a director is appointed. The remaining suggestions were program specific (i.e., support seafood industry, address sea level rise and expand youth programming including to the network) and are helpful in guiding future efforts, especially in conjunction with the seven best management practices.

Thank you for providing guidance and leadership throughout the Site Review Visit. I look forward to our continued progress and collaboration toward helping our program meet the needs of our state and nation.



Sherry L. Larkin
Interim Director, Florida Sea Grant College Program

*Florida A & M University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida International University,
Florida State University, New College of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of North Florida,
University of South Florida, University of West Florida, Nova Southeastern University, Mote Marine Laboratory, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution*