

TO: Advisory Group, South Atlantic Regional Research Priorities (SARRP)
From: Christine Laporte
RE: Meeting Background
Date: November 20, 2007

The Sea Grant Programs from the South Atlantic states (NC, SC, GA, FL) are working with the Georgia Coastal Research Council to develop a coordinated research program for the our region. The South Atlantic effort is being conducted in concert with similar projects in other Sea Grant Regions across the US and Insular Pacific. The project's primary goals are to identify priority research needs for each region and to foster productive cooperation among regional partners.

Below we provide some background on the project, and describe the DPSIR framework we are using to organize research issues identified in the needs assessment phase of the project.

Background

In 2000, Congress passed the “Oceans Act”, creating the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. In 2004, President Bush issued an Executive Order creating the Committee on Ocean Policy and the Ocean Action Plan with four key governance components, including the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR). SIMOR’s Priority Action #14 - “Regional Science Planning to Support Resource Management”- specifies “...an interagency approach in establishing regional planning efforts designed to support regional management activities and work with NOAA Sea Grant during FY 2006 to accomplish this”. The current Sea Grant effort is a response to these initiatives.

As the Regional planning effort moves forward, it would be strategic to link our research priorities to those that have been issued in the National Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy (commonly referred to as the ORPP) by The National Science and Technology Council’s Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) in January 2007. Accompanying the publication of the ORPP was a Presidential announcement requesting \$143 million in the FY 2008 budget for “priority ocean projects” focused on the themes identified in the ORPP:

1. Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources
2. Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards
3. Enabling Marine Operations
4. The Ocean’s Role in Climate
5. Improving Ecosystem Health
6. Enhancing Human Health

There are currently funds available to address several of the priorities included in the document.

Draft South Atlantic Research Priorities and DPSIR

During the initial “needs assessment phase” of this project, we examined over 140 documents related to regional research needs (Appendix A). We used this information to construct a master list that contains all the research priorities mentioned in the data. This information was then compiled into categories using the DPSIR (Driver→Pressure→Status→ Impact →Response) framework. The DSPIR model is used by the European Union, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Environmental Program in research evaluating human interaction with the environment. The DPSIR is a useful model with which to scope specific research needs among the varying types and “grain-size” of “needs” compiled from our examination of the 140 documents.

DPSIR is an evolution of the *Pressure-State-Response* (PSR) framework developed by FAO in their Land Degradation Assessments program (Turner 2004). United Nations Environment Program has endorsed the use of this framework in its work, stating it “provides a conceptual connection between ecosystem change and the driving forces of such change, together with the effects of change (impacts and their distribution) on human welfare. Policy-response feedback effects can also be incorporated into the framework. The formulation of such a framework is a useful scoping procedure even where data sets are deficient.” (Rappaport 2002)

The European Union (EU) Agencies use the DPSIR framework extensively in its reporting activities in the Agricultural sector and in Indicator reports. FAO has also expanded the DPSIR framework to Coastal Resource discussions as well (Christian et al, 2005).

References

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