



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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May 29, 2013

In North Carolina, coastal and marine related activities are important to the State's economy. We can boast strengths in traditional sectors like recreation and tourism, fisheries, hazard resilience, and marine heritage, as well as in emerging areas like ocean energy, aquaculture, and marine biotechnology. The UNC System has faculty leaders in each of these areas as well as a variety of infrastructural assets for research, teaching and service in the coastal and marine sector.

We engaged the highly-respected American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Research Competitiveness Program to assist us in a comprehensive review of the coastal and marine programs within the UNC System. As part of that review, each campus involved (ECU, ECSU, NCSU, UNCCH, UNCW and WCU), NC Sea Grant, and the UNC Coastal Studies Institute undertook and submitted a comprehensive self-study. AAAS convened a peer review panel of Deans of Colleges of Marine Science from the University of Delaware, the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, the University of South Florida, and Louisiana State University to review the self-studies. The panel followed up on their insights from the self-studies in a series of site visits and discussions at our facilities on the coast.

The resulting report "Independent Review of the University of North Carolina System Marine and Coastal Activities" found that while the UNC System has a rich assemblage of assets relevant to the NC coastal and marine environment, there was no obvious redundancy or overlap in programs. The panel provided 14 recommendations in the report outlining opportunities for improved coordination. The potential exists to realize a number of administrative and operational efficiencies in acting upon some or all of the recommendations of this report.

The report, along with the self-studies, can be found at:

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/research/initiatives/CoastalandMarineSciences.htm>

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Brown