



SGA DOCUMENTS

Sea Grant Network and American Zoo and Aquarium Association Resolution

Adopted March, 2003

Resolution encouraging partnerships between the Sea Grant Network and members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association

Whereas, Sea Grant programs across the country have a history of innovative partnerships with local aquaria and zoos; and

Whereas, the Sea Grant Association and members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association have similar goals of increasing understanding of coastal and marine species and their unique ecosystems; and

Whereas, Sea Grant educators and aquaria staff can combine efforts to develop interesting curricula for grades K-12 that will captivate students while also meeting national science standards; and

Whereas, marine science lessons are of interest to persons of all ages; and

Whereas, Sea Grant experts can provide cutting-edge marine science findings, and aquaria can provide broad audiences, including millions of school children as well as the general public; and

Whereas, projects based on true and equal partnerships often have strong support from private and public funding agencies; and

Whereas partnerships between Sea Grant programs and individual zoos and aquaria could meet a number of recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, including but not limited to those included in the commission's preliminary report, such as:

- Offering opportunities for coastal and marine scientists to interact with educators and the public, serving as role models for future generations;
 - Providing leadership to other federal and state offices that are now recognizing the role of outreach programs - a strength of the Sea Grant programs for nearly 35 years;
 - Sharing information about how coastal topics affect residents across the nation;
 - Increasing a sense of stewardship for our coastal and Great Lakes waters and surrounding ecosystems and communities;
 - Generating excitement with the public about coastal topics through exhibits, videos and other messages that present science in real-world terms rather than as abstract concepts;
- and

- Increasing the level of coastal literacy by reaching a wide section of the general public, including school groups, with particular attention to minority groups traditionally underrepresented in marine sciences

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underrepresented in marine sciences.

So, now therefore be it resolved that the Sea Grant Association and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association agree to encourage an expansion of existing partnerships to the regional and national level.

And may it be further resolved that such partnerships may include, but not be limited to:

- Workshops for teachers and teachers-in-training to provide innovative lessons they can share in their classrooms.
- New curricula that can link Sea Grant research and aquaria exhibit topics while meeting national science standards.
- New rotating exhibits based on critical and emerging regional topics, with accompanying curricula materials and lectures or presentations by appropriate Sea Grant researchers or extension specialists.
- Publications and web pages that support chosen topics.
- Participation in additional partnership efforts, such as the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence and new outreach efforts from other NOAA agencies, such as Office of Ocean Exploration, or the National Undersea Research Program.
- Other projects that meet the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.
- Projects that incorporate mission of the National Sea Grant College Program, NOAA and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.
- Cross-training opportunities that utilize expertise within a Sea Grant program or zoo/aquarium, or that brings in other experts to benefit both staffs.
- Sharing of expertise in evaluation and assessment of coastal/marine education and outreach programs.

AND be it further resolved that participation in the new regional and national partnership efforts will be voluntary on the part of all individual Sea Grant programs, zoos and aquaria; and that this resolution is not intended to preclude existing partnerships between members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Sea Grant network.

Date

Signed

Sea Grant Association
American Zoo and Aquarium Assn.

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