



The National Sea Grant Advisory Board welcomes four new members

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Four new members were appointed to the [National Sea Grant Advisory Board](#) at its March 2013 meeting in Washington, D.C. These new members bring a wealth of experience to the 15-member board, which advises the Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Administrator, and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program director on policies in marine science administration.

Throughout 35 years in academia, Dr. Rosanne Fortner specialized in crafting marine science education, research, and curricula as the education coordinator for Ohio Sea Grant. Her education projects and innovative methods of dissemination became leading models for ocean education for the next 26 years as her teaching strategies were adopted throughout Ohio. In 2006, Dr. Fortner's marine science curriculum development was adopted by other Great Lakes educators and helped establish a Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE)

Great Lakes program, jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and NOAA Sea Grant. She went on to serve as COSEE program director for six years.

Dr. Fortner states, "I am a career-long stakeholder in Sea Grant education, and I look forward to working with the Board, the programs and the Marine Educators Network to strengthen the role of education within individual programs and collectively."

During his 36 years with New York Sea Grant, Mr. Dale Baker showed unyielding dedication as associate



New Sea Grant Advisory Board members with Acting NOAA Administrator, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

The four newest National Sea Grant Advisory Board members after their swearing-in ceremony. From the left, Dr. Rosanne Fortner, Dr. Amber Mace, Mr. Dale Baker, Dr. Paulinus Chigbu, and the ceremony official, Acting NOAA Administrator, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan. Credit: NOAA

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director and extension program leader. The Sea Grant Extension Program's purpose is to take discoveries from marine science, public policy, economics, and other connected fields of research and make them accessible to all interested stakeholders. Mr. Baker has served Sea Grant since the 1970s when he began as an agent in New York, relocated to Michigan, and returned to New York to complete his career. In 2008, upon his retirement, he received the William Q. Wick Award for Visionary Career Leadership, one of the highest honors given to Sea Grant extension agents.

"I believe that Sea Grant is one of the best investments made by the federal government. Our nation's coastal communities get tremendous returns from the small investment made by our government in Sea Grant," said Baker.

A third appointee, Dr. Amber Mace, is currently associate director of the University of California (UC Davis) Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy. Dr. Mace hails from the world of policy and has spent eight years immersed in marine ecology and policy in both advisory and administrative roles.

Dr. Mace says, "I am grateful for all of the doors that Sea Grant has opened for me from research funding to support for my graduate work in marine ecology to policy fellowships at the state and federal levels. It is an honor to serve as a member of the Advisory Board and a great opportunity to return the favor and help support this important national program."

Last but not least is Dr. Paulinus Chigbu, a professor of marine science with the University of Maryland (Eastern Shore). He serves multiple functions: director of the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center; director of the National Science Foundation's Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology; Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He has also served as coordinator for the Office of Naval Research's Interns in Biomolecular Sciences program at Jackson State University.

Dr. Chigbu has worked diligently on many initiatives that link NOAA opportunities with Minority Serving Institutions via projects, partnerships, and programs such as the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation with diverse student populations.

The National Sea Grant College Program is privileged to have four distinct voices join the ensemble of fifteen virtuoso oceanic advisers who provide NOAA leadership with sound scientific and administrative policy guidance.



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