



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Sea Grant College Program
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

December 22, 2016

Susan White, Director
North Carolina Sea Grant
North Carolina State University
575 Varsity Drive,
Raleigh, NC 27695-8605

Dear Susan:

First and foremost, I want to congratulate you and your staff for reaching and sustaining the *Standards of Excellence* expected of all Sea Grant College Programs. As part of our National Sea Grant Office evaluation process, North Carolina Sea Grant underwent a site visit review and a program performance review for activities undertaken during the 2010-2013 funding period. The site review team evaluated the Program's management and organization, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative network activities. The performance review evaluated North Carolina Sea Grant's performance according to the priorities set forth in your Program's strategic plan and your Program's overall impact based on the Federal investment. These two independent reviews together provided a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of your entire Program.

The site review team that visited your program found that your fellowship programs, in particular, represent best practices that should be considered in other Sea Grant programs. Your partnerships were seen as "targeted, effective, and relevant." The site review team also found the extension, education, and communications teams to be highly innovative and effective. In addition to the on-site review, an external performance review panel found that North Carolina Sea Grant exceeded their expectations given the federal investment. Many panelists that focused on your coastal community hazard resilience efforts deemed your Program to be among the highest performing in the Sea Grant Network.

The results from the site review team and program performance reviews are clear: North Carolina Sea Grant is a well-managed, cost-effective and impactful program that provides valuable services to your stakeholders and your successes contribute to the strength of the National Sea Grant College Program.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Pennock
Director, National Sea Grant Program

Cc: Christopher Hayes
Federal Program Officer
National Sea Grant Office

