



# Sea Grant 701

## PART 3: Evaluation of Programs



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# Sea Grant 701

Graduate level mini-course on the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant): history and evolution

## History and Structure of Sea Grant

- How Sea Grant was formed?

## Federal Budget Process

- Where Sea Grant fits into the federal budget?

## Evaluation of Programs

- **How did the evaluation process evolve and why does it matter?**

## The Challenges Ahead

# Sea Grant 701: Part 3

## Evaluation of Programs

- Prospective Proposal Review
- Performance Based Review
- Retrospective Program Performance Review
- Creation of PIE

### OBJECTIVES:

Understand the history of PIE and evolution of the review process

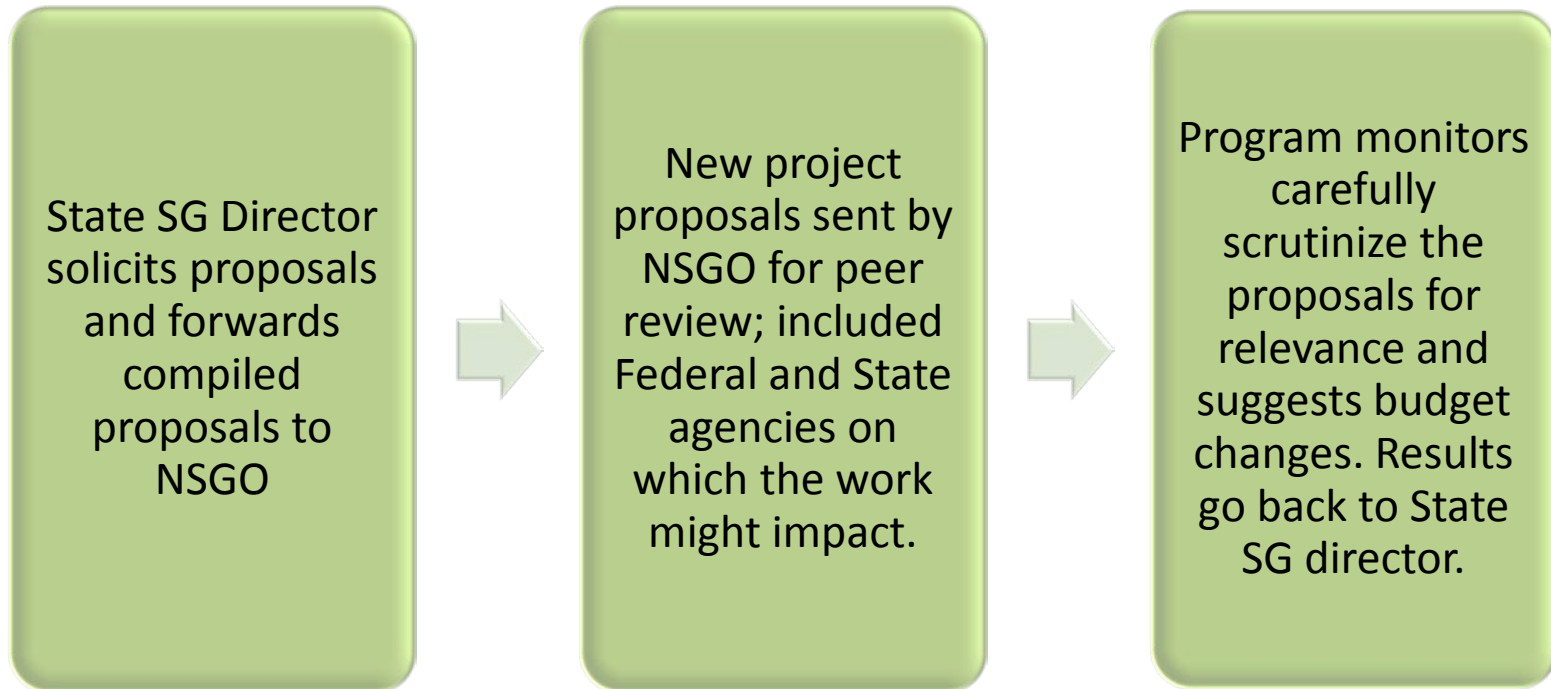
Gain knowledge on the importance of reporting

# Sea Grant 701: Part 3

## Evaluation of Programs

- **Prospective Proposal Review**
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# Prospective Proposal Review 1968-1989



# Prospective Proposal Review 1968-1989



# Prospective Proposal Review 1968-1989

## National Sea Grant Review Panel

- 15 person panel consisting of university, government, and industry personnel and represents a broad mix of disciplines, interests and geographic regions.
- It meets formally twice a year to discuss, advise, endorse, and/or criticize both the overall Sea Grant effort and its constituent programs.
- This panel has guided national Sea Grant management ***since before the first institutional grant was awarded in 1968.***

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# Performance Based Review

## The Era of Transition

**1990-1994**

One-quarter of the Sea Grant programs started a 2 year omnibus every 6 months

State Directors ran a proposal review

Directors sent the top proposals to NSGO with state mail reviews

NSGO conducted their own mail reviews

NSGO served as the review panel (with experts/national leaders from the NSGO)

NSGO told the Directors which research proposals to fund

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# Retrospective Program Performance Review

## Changes during 1994-1998

1994: Programs were delegated responsibility to review research proposals themselves and select the projects for funding.

1995: Sea Grant Strategic Plan required covering all Sea Grant (heart of PIER classification codes today)

1998: National Strategic Investments introduced

# 1994 Ocean Studies Board's report

**“NSGO should evaluate the success of each state program on a four-year cycle, using, in part, retrospective information on recent achievements, based on measures for each of the three areas of research, education and outreach.”**

- Site visit, chaired by Review Panel member, reviewed each program on program management, stakeholder engagement, strategic and implementation planning, and impact.
- Resources allocated to programs determined in part by performance

# Theme Teams

**“Thematic *focus areas* gather the intellectual resources from throughout the national Sea Grant Network, create new mechanisms for the sharing information and ideas, and act as well-informed voices for the responsible stewardship of Sea Grant’s outstanding University-based capabilities.”**

Marine and Aquatic Literacy

Marine Aquaculture

Marine Biotechnology

Digital Ocean

Fisheries

Coastal Communities and Economies

Coastal Natural Hazards

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Urban Coast

Seafood Science and Safety

# Program Assessment Teams: 1998-2006

1998-2001: 25% of the programs reviewed and scored each year. Scores interleaved with the other 75% of programs each year (4 bins) and merit funding could change every year in relation to other programs

2002: Review of the PAT process.

# Program Assessment Teams: 1998-2006

2003-2006: 25% of programs reviewed each year. Merit similar to above, but per legislation - not more than 25% of programs could fall into each of the top two categories (6 bins). NSGRP observe NSGO review of PAT reports and scores.

2005: National Research Council review of process

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# Creation of PIE

## Planning, implementation and evaluation 2007-2009

- Development of the National Strategic Plan
- Alignment of all programs to the new 4-year omnibus cycle
- Development of Focus Teams to coordinate focus areas
- State programs develop strategic plans that align to national plan
- Shift of Review Panel focus on state programs to Advisory Board with focus on the National Program



# 10 Themes

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## 4 Focus Areas



2009-2013

- Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Sustainable Community Development
- Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities



2013-2017

- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Resilient Communities and Economies
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

# Principles of PIE 2010-2013

## Principles

- Focus on program improvement or ratings, but not both
- Reward performance
- Increase efficiency
- Encourage collaboration
- Be accountable
- Be transparent
- Retain program flexibility to address local issues

# The PIE is served...



## Components

Annual Reports/Self-Evaluation

Site Visits

Performance Review Panel (PRP)

National Office Program Evaluation

State of the Sea Grant Program Review

**2014-17 Merit funding reflection of PRP review**

# Why PIE?

## Accountability

- The importance of reporting
- Need for information on how federal dollars are invested
- Up to date information available in real time
  - Public search/National SG website
- Lots of eyes on programs now
- Need to make a strong case for funding

# How We Use Program Data

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Users of PIER Data

NSGO

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Network

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Possible partners re. website public search

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Metrics/Performance  
measures - used  
constantly

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with Hill

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with NOAA

---

with other Agencies

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Website: Feature live  
impacts/public project and  
impact search live in real  
time

Streamlined data entry with improved 90-2  
project upload allow public viewing in near  
real time of grant acceptance.

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Many want the data we  
have and the public access

OAR looking to adopt PIER (and maybe NOAA)

# The Future of PIE

- Currently completing Strategic Plan 2018-2021
- NSGO reviewing NSGAB report recommendations