



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

M. Richard DeVoe, Director
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
287 Meeting Street,
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Rick:

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, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium 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 South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium'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 visioning exercise and leadership in the South Carolina Coastal Information Network are best practices that should be considered in other Sea Grant programs. Further, the report includes a finding that "Rick DeVoe's performance as Executive Director of the Consortium is exemplary." That leadership was tested during several budget cycles, and the Consortium showed remarkable resilience and improvement through that time. In addition to the on-site review, an external performance review panel found that South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium exceeded their expectations given the federal investment. The panels noted the clear line between research, product development, and application that exist in much of your programming.

The results from the site review team and program performance reviews are clear: South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan R. Pennock".

Jonathan Pennock,
Director, National Sea Grant Program

Cc: Christopher Hayes
Federal Program Officer
National Sea Grant Office

