

An information exchange scientific symposium focusing on the development of an Integrated Ecosystem and Marine Mammal Assessment for the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) was held on April 16 and 17, 2009.

The objective of the meeting was to coordinate research plans for conducting both Ecological and Marine Animal Health Assessments within the SINERR. To better coordinate research efforts along the Georgia coast, NOS, NCCOS and Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD) scientists met with Georgia researchers who work locally. This provided participants an opportunity to exchange information and enhance collaboration among researchers conducting scientific studies in the marshes and surrounding waterways of Sapelo Island. Additionally, scientists from the Center for Disease Control, Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research, Hollings Marine Laboratory, and the National Institute for Standards and Technology presented research plans for the summer of 2009 summer. These activities included probabilistic sampling for assessment of marsh ecological condition, an assessment of bottlenose dolphin health and contaminant exposure, and a pilot study to assess the potential of specific PCBs presence within humans at differing exposure risks to the toxin. The NCCOS research plans follow preliminary sentinel habitat and sentinel species assessments suggesting the potential presence of legacy chemical contaminants within SINERR from nearby industrial sites.

The meeting also served to support the ERD/NCCOS partnership agreement to develop and synthesize environmental data of mutual interests with the potential to enhance the management and long-term trend NERRS data-bases.

**Information Exchange Meeting for Supporting an
Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Sapelo Island NERR
University of Georgia Marine Institute
Sapelo Island, GA
April 16-17, 2009**

Time	Topic	Lead/ Moderator	Comments
Thursday, April 16 – Travel Day			
8:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.	Passenger Ferry departs Meridian Dock for arrival on Sapelo Island	Capt. Larry Johnson	
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Mixer at Reynolds Mansion	Reynolds Mansion staff	Snacks and beverages provided
Friday, April 17			
8:00-9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast in central kitchen area of Dormitory	Participants	Light foraging
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks and Overview of the Sapelo NERR	Dorset Hurley, Buddy Sullivan (SINERR)	
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Sentinel Habitat Assessment	Derk Berquist (SC DNR, for Denise Sanger)	
9:45-10:10 a.m.	Studies to Examine Health and Contaminant Exposure of Bottlenose Dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) Along the Georgia Coast.	Lori Schwacke (NCCOS), Brian Balmer (UNCW)	
10:10-10:20 a.m.	NIST Role in Environmental Assessment	John Kucklick (NIST)	
10:20-10:50 a.m.	Sediment and Fish Tissue Contamination data at and near the LCP Superfund site, Brunswick GA	Lisa Dipinto, Michel Gielazyn (NOAA OR&R)	
10:50-11:00 a.m.	Break		Caffeinate
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Plans for Ecological Assessment of SAP NERR Using Probabilistic Sampling Scheme	Jeff Hyland, Mike Fulton	

		(NCCOS)	
11:30-11:45 a.m.	Pilot Project to Examine Selected Environmental Contaminants in the Sapelo Island Resident Population and their Seafood	Lorrie Backer, Birgit Bolton (CDC)	
11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Wetland Assessment	Janet Nestlerode (EPA)	
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch On Your Own (working lunch for Dom, Jill, Jan, Dorset, Jeff, Mike, Marie) (working lunch for Birgit, Lorrie, Natty)		Nutrient inputs and double caffeinate
1:00-1:30 p.m.	Overview of the GCE-LTER	Merryl Alber (UGA/GCE-LTER)	
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Watershed-Related Antibiotic Resistant Genes in Planktonic and Benthic Habitats the Sapelo NERR and Bioaccumulation of <i>TET(D)</i> in Microbiota of <i>CRASSOTREA VIRGINICA</i> .	Andrei Barkovskii (GA College and State U.)	
2:00-2:30 p.m.	The TNC Marine Conservation Initiative and Regional Conservation Action Plans: Data acquisition needs	Christi Lambert Altamaha River Bio-Reserve (TNC)	
2:30-2:50 p.m.	Trematode Parasites in Salt Marshes as Indicators of Biological, Chemical, and Physical Characteristics	Jeb Beyers (UGA Odum School of Ecology)	
2:50-3:30 p.m.	Community comments on strategies, indicators and methods of upcoming sampling	Marie Bundy, D. Hurley moderators	
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn		
4:00 p.m.	Participants load in SINERR bus for travel to ferry dock	D. Hurley	
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Ferry departs Sapelo Island /arrives in Meridian, GA	Capt. Larry Johnson	Adios Muchachos!

The Integrated Ecosystem Assessment - SINERR 4.09

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