

2019 Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Meeting Session Summaries

(Contents arranged by conference schedule. Hyperlinks indicate sessions with available highlights/notes.)

Activity/Session		
Tuesday, September 17	Plenary	Welcome Addresses and Opening Remarks
		IGNITE Session (Speed Presentations)
	Concurrent sessions	Great strides toward green infrastructure in the Great Lakes
		Aquatic Invasive Species
		Professional Development – The Power of Positive Confrontation
		Marine Debris Action Plan (working meeting)
	Concurrent management meetings	
	Meetings	Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL) Meeting
		Great Lakes Clean Marinas Meeting
	Sessions	<i>Professional Development – Art and Science Showcase</i>
Sea Grant Film Festival		
Wednesday, September 18	Special session	Sea Grant Carnival – A world café of diverse topics from around the region
	Concurrent sessions	Harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes basin
		Sea Grant’s role in the Great Lakes Blue Economy
		Great Lakes Sea Grant Aquaculture Collaborative (working meeting)
	Field Trips	Tour 1: Tribal Natural Resource Management
		Tour 2: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Northern Great Lakes
Tour 3: Diversifying Small Coastal Town Economies		
Tour 4: Paddling the Great Lakes		
Awards		
Thursday, September 19	Concurrent sessions	Emerging Contaminants & Microplastics
		Watershed collaboration on nutrient runoff issues and emerging opportunities
		Supporting communities facing high water level events
		CSMI (working meeting)
	Concurrent sessions	Weather & Climate Resilience
		Sea Grant and Great Lakes Fisheries
		Professional Development - Social Science Think Tank: Real Guidance for Real Projects
Closing activity & group photo		

Available Session Highlights and Notes

Great strides towards green infrastructure in the Great Lakes

Organizers: John Bilotta (University of Minnesota), Eliana Brown (IISG), Julia Noordyk (WISG), and Kara Salazar (IISG)

[Original agenda](#)

Action items:

1. Join or opt-in to the Sea Grant Green Infrastructure Community of Practice (CoP)
 - Send an email request to SeaGrantGI+subscribe@googlegroups.com
 - The purpose of the CoP is to:
 - SHARE successful and effective GI and stormwater education programs and training methods.
 - DISCUSS and DEVELOP new products or programs to meet our needs as Extension and Sea Grant professionals.
 - COLLABORATE on GI and stormwater education and training opportunities.
 - Anyone can be part of the CoP who has in interest in Sea Grant and Land-grant Extension green infrastructure and stormwater programming efforts.
2. Sharing of resources from the November 2018 workshop to explore decision support tools to support community resiliency
 - This workshop was held to share and cross-train Sea Grant, Extension, NOAA professionals and their partners on models, methods, and tools to understand and assess green infrastructure and stormwater policies, codes, and ordinances, and on effective green infrastructure extension and outreach to community leaders, business owners and others.
 - [HERE](#) is a Google drive with the presentations and other resources.
3. Join us in co-leadership in 2020!
 - As discussed at the Network session, the organizers are looking for others to join us in leading CofP efforts such as developing a second in-person training and webinars to connect with members in 2020.
 - The organizers will schedule a conference call later this fall.
 - Those who are interested in being a part of this discussion and the leadership team, please send an email to: John Bilotta (jbilotta@umn.edu), Eliana Brown (brown12@illinois.edu), Kara Salazar (salazark@purdue.edu) or Julia Noordyk (noordykj@uwgb.edu)
4. Building Equitable and Just Green Infrastructure project, Presented by Lisa Merrifield, University of Illinois Extension
 - See accompanying [presentation](#) and [abstract contained on p.2 of session agenda](#).
 - The CoP will continue to share information as the project progresses for the 2020 listening sessions and Professional Development Workshop.

Aquatic invasive species

Organizers: Doug Jensen (MNSG) and Mark Malchoff (LCSG)

[Original agenda](#)

Session highlights:

- Sara LeSage, MI EGLE: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) provides broader scope than previously, authorizes EPA to continue to establish water quality standards for ballast water, US Coast Guard to lead monitoring, inspection and enforcement of standards, includes state pre-emption of more stringent standards/requirements but allows states to work with the Great Lakes Commission (\$5M authorized for GLC), acting through the Great Lakes Panel on ANS, to petition for higher standards and requirements.
- Mark Malchoff, L. Champlain SG: As part of VIDA, the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program is authorized at \$50M per year (2019-2023) to monitor, detect, respond, collaborate, conduct ballast water management system research and support the regulatory framework – much of which programs of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network currently support.
- Rochelle Sturtevant, NOAA-GLERL: GLANSIS (www.glerl.noaa.gov/glansis/) is a searchable resource to help improve management of AIS by providing custom lists of non-indigenous species, maps of species distributions, a risk assessment clearinghouse, FAQs and additional resources. Great Lakes Water Life is a comprehensive searchable database inventory of aquatic species that includes information on taxonomy, distribution, habitat and DNA markers (www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/waterlife). Based on session input, St. Lawrence Seaway will be added to GLANSIS and a plant component will be added to GLWF.
- Doug Jensen, MN Sea Grant: Formation of Habitattitude Collaborative Networks can effectively engage community partners, who co-host events, generate high visibility (9.1 M exposures generated) and serve as models that can be easily expanded across the Great Lakes region.
- Rebecca Shroeder, Invasive Species Centre: Asian Carp Canada effectively brings together information on prevention, early detection, response and management on invasive carp through projects including: their website, webinars, public information sessions, workshops and events, digital outreach/social media, knowledge surveys, media kit and Toronto Zoo exhibit.
- Nick Cassel, Three Shores CISMA: As a collaborative effort by federal, state, tribal, university and private entities, Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area is locally managing several aquatic invasive plants, especially European frog-bit infestations in the St. Mary's River including: public outreach, mapping, research, manual removal and chemical treatments, and monitoring.
- *(Highlights also available for download as a [document](#))*

Professional development - The Power of Positive Confrontation

Organizer: Cindy Hudson (MISG)

Highlights:

1. It's possible to learn how to prepare to have positive confrontations.
2. It takes practice.
3. Buy the book and read it! "The Power of Positive Confrontation" by Barbara Pachter
4. *Other follow-up:* If anyone is interested in doing a bookclub read of this during 2020, let Cindy Hudson know and she will facilitate establishing a schedule and discussion times!

Marine Debris Action Plan - Working meeting

Organizers: Sarah Orlando and Jill Bartolotta (OHSG)

Highlights

- Established the main successes for the Great Lakes Marine Debris Action Plan.
- Determined what information needs to be in the fact sheet and PowerPoint.
- Received communication tips from communicators who attended the session.
- Links to [meeting notes](#) and [copies of flipcharts](#)

Management Team and Working Meetings

(contact co-chairs for information)

- **Directors Meeting** (Jim Hurley, WISG)
- **Program leaders meeting** (Jesse Schomberg, MNSG)
- **Communicators meeting** (Kelly Donaldson, PASG)
- **Research Coordinators meeting** (Carolyn Foley, IISG & Jen Hauxwell, WISG)
- **Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL) - Working meeting** (Marti Martz, PASG)
- **Great Lakes Clean Marinas - Working meeting** (Erin DeVries, MISG & Sarah Orlando, OHSG)

Art and Science - Professional Development

Organizer: Cindy Hudson (MISG)

Part 1: Photography and painting

Part 2: The Great Lakes Cycle by Alexis Rockman

Sea Grant film festival

Organizer: Cindy Hudson (MISG)

Sea Grant Carnival

- **NOAA in the Great Lakes** - Jennifer Day, Margaret Lansing, Chris Ellis (NOAA)
 - Participants flagged Sea Grant multi-media resources, like video clips, that NOAA/GLERL can post to their YouTube channel and incorporate into touchscreen content
- **Zero Waste Tips and Tricks** - Meaghan Gass (Michigan Sea Grant)
 - Participants learned why it is important to reduce waste for the Great Lakes and blue planet
 - Participants received resources to help reduce programming and event waste through a pilot zero waste toolkit
 - Participants provided input on additional resources that would be useful for the toolkit as it develops

- **Great Lakes Islands Alliance** - Matt Preisser (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) and Kristy Beyer (Great Lakes Alliance steering committee)
 - The diversity and distribution of year-round island communities in the Great Lakes is not well known among decision-makers and other influencers in government, academia, and elsewhere (including Sea Grant). This suggests poor appreciation of the unique environmental, social and economic challenges associated with living on islands, and presents a need for enhanced engagement.
 - Similarly, island communities appear to be less aware of Sea Grant programming (compared to mainland communities). They would benefit from targeted engagement by the Sea Grant network.
 - The Great Lakes Islands Alliance, a new network of island leaders and advocates, provides an entry point into these unique, isolated communities.
- **Tribal Colleges collaboration** - Steve Yanni (Bay Mills Community College)
- **Fisheries Heritage Tourism Network** - Brandon Schroeder (Michigan Sea Grant)
- **Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium** - Jesse Schomberg (Minnesota Sea Grant) and Leslie Dorworth (Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant)
 - Great Lakes Sea Grant programs helped form, and have been collaborating with the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium on dangerous current issues and water safety. A number of water safety resources are available, including reduced-price signage, guidance for beach safety equipment, and life guarding best practices for Great Lakes Beaches. Find this all at <http://greatlakeswatersafety.org/>
 - Next steps: The next water safety conference is being planned for May 4-5 in Traverse City, Michigan; mark your calendar and watch the link above for more information. Leslie Dorworth of IL-IN SG or Jesse Schomberg from MN SG can also get you on the Water Safety E-mail list.
- **Death by Powerpoint** - Julia Noordyk (Wisconsin Sea Grant)

Harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes basin

A perspective from Ohio and updates on state program activities to identify regional synergies

Organizers: Kris Stepenuck (LCSG) and Jesse Lepak (NYSG)

[Original agenda](#)

Highlights:

- The HABs issue is one faced by every one of the GLSG programs
- There is opportunity for the GLSG Network to become better coordinated around HABs, especially as related to understanding target audiences and sharing messages about cyanobacteria blooms with them in a meaningful way. As such, there is opportunity to share planning documents (e.g., surveys to assess awareness and how certain target audiences want to learn), programs (e.g., charter captain monitoring), and case studies (e.g., Ohio's case study videos) to help other programs build their involvement in this topical area, understand their audiences, and engage in effective research and outreach.

- The GLSG Network may want to explore seeking funding for a collaborative project that allows improved understanding of key target audiences, and development of programming (especially messaging) that most effectively reaches key target audiences for their health and safety.
- There is potential for overlap across HABs funding and research programs given the extent of work underway across the region. There is a benefit to enhanced sharing of research findings and project development in order to better focus planning for future Sea Grant program development in support of HABs research.
- *Action item:* Those interested in joining the GLSGN HABs distribution list should contact Kris Stepenuck (kstepenu@uvm.edu)
- *Link to [session notes](#)*

Sea Grant's role in the Blue Economy

Organizers: Caitie Nigrelli (IISG), Chris Ellis (NOAA), and Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe (MISG)

[Original agenda](#)

Highlights:

- Sea Grant plays an important role in the Great Lakes Blue Economy and provides science-based contributions to promote the wise use of coastal resources.
- Sea Grant is well-poised to further contribute to regional collaborations to advance and even help lead the Great Lakes Blue Economy should any initiatives arise.
- Session attendees generated a list of potential projects vetted for regional network interest, capacity, and partnership opportunity that stand ready for further development.
- *Link to [session notes](#)*

Great Lakes Sea Grant Aquaculture Collaborative - Working meeting

Organizer: Don Schreiner (MNSG) and John Downing (MNSG)

Highlights:

- Participants working on the Great Lakes Aquaculture Collaborative grant, that was recently funded by the NSGO for ~ \$1 million, met to organize next steps and discuss how best to move forward.
- The project was briefly outlined and key contributors provided short summaries of their anticipated contributions.
- Future near-term meetings that addressed specific topics were scheduled, with the first meeting in October focusing on the status of aquaculture in each Great Lake state/SG program.

Awards Banquet

- Early Career Award: Sara Zack (IL-IN SG)
- Mid-Career Award: Dan O'Keefe (MISG)
- Distinguished Service Awards: Helen Domske (NYSG) and Steve Stewart (MISG)
- Great Lakes Outreach Programming Award: Mary Austerman (NYSG) for the project: *Assisting Lake Ontario Coastal Communities with Record High Water and Flooding*

Also recognized during the awards banquet were recent or upcoming Sea Grant retirees:

- Helen Domske, NYSG
- Jim Diana, Ron Kinnunen, and Steve Stewart, MISG
- Gene Clark and Terri Liebmann, WISG
- Cindy Hagley, MNSG
- David Boughton and Anna McCartney, PASG
- Mark Malchoff, LCSG

Emerging contaminants and marine debris

Organizers: Jill Bartolotta (OHSG), Marti Martz (PASG), and Sarah Zack (IISG)

[Original agenda](#)

Highlights:

- Attendees learned about a vast array of emerging contaminant issues in the Great Lakes including PFAS, sodium chloride, and microplastics.
- Presenters highlighted several projects being facilitated or managed by Sea Grant.
- *Next steps:* Emerging Contaminants workgroup will be moving forward after a short hiatus and folks should get in touch with Sarah Zack for more information.
- *Link to [session notes](#)*

Watershed collaboration on nutrient runoff issues and emerging opportunities

Organizers: Jesse Schomberg (MNSG), Bethany Perry (NOAA), Karen Bareford (Sea Grant/National Water Center), and Jennifer Day (NOAA)

Supporting communities facing high water level events

Organizers: Mary Austerman (NYSG), Mark Breederland (MISG), Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe (MISG)

Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative - Working meeting

Organizers: Paris Collingsworth and Kristin Tepas (IISG)

Weather and climate resilience

Organizers: Mary Austerman (NYSG), Sara Stahlman (PASG), Roy Widrig (NYSG)

Sea Grant and Great Lakes fisheries

Organizer: Titus Seilheimer (WISG)

Highlights:

- The session provided a forum for updates on the fisheries-related activities and projects happening around the Great Lakes.
- There is an updated Salmon and Trout of the Great Lakes brochure now available from IL/IN, MI, NY, and WI - <https://publications.aqua.wisc.edu/product/salmon-and-trout-of-the-great-lakes/>
- Interest in economic impacts of fisheries. Some ongoing projects, with need to further discuss what can we do to help efforts.

Professional development - Social science think tank: Real guidance for real projects

Organizers: Chris Ellis (NOAA-OCM) and Caitie Nigrelli (IISG)

Highlights:

- Social science continues to reveal itself in the full suite of activities within the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.
- The 'Social Science Think Tank' session offered insight into some of the technical and administrative needs, as expressed by participants. Questions included:
 - What are ideas for meaningful metrics, or novel ideas for how to report social science-based project impacts?
 - How do other Sea Grant Programs report and share their social science successes and lessons learned?
 - Is there a role for the Sea Grant Law team to play, with regard to social science and evaluation of projects?
 - Is there a desire beyond those that participated in the session to resurrect the Great Lakes Social Science Network?
- *Next steps:* The questions that came out of this discussion will be shared with the NSGO, in hopes of furthering and expanding this dialogue.

Closing

Group Photo with Green Confetti Toss!



High resolution copies of these and other photos from the GLSGN Meeting are available [here](#).