



National Association of Marine Laboratories

Benefits of NAML Membership

The National Association of Marine Laboratories was organized in the 1980s to promote the efficient exchange of information and expertise between member institutions from all over the country. In 2005 NAML retained a Washington D.C. government relations firm to assist in the development and implementation of its public policy objectives at the national level. NAML has grown into a leading voice for ocean policy, science funding, education and outreach. Its government relations activities focus on promoting the use of sound science in policy development, increasing the quality of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes science and education, and boosting funding support for ocean science and education programs and marine science infrastructure.

Among the many benefits of joining NAML include:

- Opportunities for professional development, including extensive networking capabilities and access to members-only products on the NAML website.
- Participation in shaping NAML's goals and annual priorities through NAML working groups and committees.
- Representation in Washington D.C. by seasoned government relations professionals who interact with the United States Congress and Federal funding agencies on NAML's behalf and who represent NAML among likeminded science and education organizations in Washington.
- Opportunities to effect policy change in a meaningful way through activities such as providing testimony to Congressional committees, commenting on legislation, interacting with policymakers and staff, and serving as a resource for information and advice on ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education issues for Federal officials, among others.
- Annual national meetings in Washington D.C. which offer a platform for thoughtful in-person discussion with key leaders and decision-makers throughout the Federal government as well as partner organizations throughout the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and education.

Recent NAML Accomplishments

- In 2007, NAML formed a Committee on Education and Diversity and within just a few months, the Committee engaged in two major education activities:
 - NAML was solicited by NOAA to develop a whitepaper on recommendations for the future direction of the agency's education programs. NAML submitted its recommendations to NOAA in early 2008.
 - NAML developed a proposal to create an Ernest Everett Just National Medal of Excellence for the purpose of honoring a visiting researcher who has made outstanding contributions as a result of work conducted at marine laboratories. NAML is currently interacting with potential co-sponsors for the award.
- During NAML's 2007 Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. NAML initiated a conversation with an official from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on the need to develop a shorter and more distributable version of the interagency Ocean Research Priorities Plan. OSTP took NAML's suggestion and crafted a summary document, soliciting input from the NAML membership throughout its development. The final document is now available to the public online.
- Throughout 2007, NAML interacted with Congress and Federal agencies on a number of topics of interest to marine laboratories, including appropriations for NSF, NOAA, and NASA; ocean acidification and climate change; NOAA organic legislation; offshore aquaculture; integrated ocean observing systems; NOAA's Ocean Exploration and Undersea Research programs; and others.
- Also in 2007, NAML created a Nominating Committee for the purpose of identifying vacancies on federal advisory committees or within federal agencies and subsequently nominating qualified NAML members or non-NAML members endorsed by the organization. Since its creation, the committee has submitted nominations to the National Science Board and the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies, two federal bodies that have significant influence over ocean, coastal and Great Lakes policy.