

Experimental Aquarium Facility Advisory Committee Annual Report 2007-2008

The Experimental Aquarium Facility Advisory Committee oversees the use and upkeep of the Experimental Aquarium Facility, which consists of two large experimental aquarium rooms. The Hubbs Hall facility is 2751 square feet with 12 trays and 30 tanks with volumes ranging up to 7560 liters, utilizing a flow-through seawater system that can deliver chilled, ambient, and warm seawater. The Kaplan Hall facility is 2150 square feet with 18 trays and 19 tanks with volumes up to 21,000 liters, with additional cubicle rooms. Chilled and ambient flow-through seawater is available. Further information can be found at http://mbrd.ucsd.edu/labpages/aquarium_lab.cfm. Currently more than 50 SIO, UCSD Biology, and visiting scientists access the facility and rely on its seawater systems for their research. Approximately 95% of the specimens housed in the Experimental Aquarium facilities are indigenous to California.

The Committee met during November 2007. A major topic of discussion centered on the need for seawater discharge from the Facility to be in compliance with the state of California Oceans Plan, which requires that the effluent from aquaria containing non-indigenous species not be discharged into the ocean adjacent to Scripps because it is designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance. Therefore the facilities need to be redesigned to allow for the separate handling of aquaria effluent from indigenous and non-indigenous species.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- (1) The status of the planned renovation of the Kaplan Hall facility, which has been closed down since February 2007 for work necessary to bring it into compliance with the Oceans Plan. Unfortunately the work has halted due to a shortage of funds to complete the necessary improvements.
- (2) Plans for the renovation of the Hubbs Hall facility to bring it into compliance.
- (3) The status of the warm seawater system in the Hubbs Hall facility.
- (4) The status of the storm water and seawater separation project, and the maintenance of non-indigenous species.

As a result of this meeting, the Committee sent a memo to Director Haymet providing an update on the status of the Facility and identifying critical improvements that are required to maintain a state-of-the-art Facility for scientific research.

In addition, the Committee chair attended a meeting in April 2008 held by representatives of the Director's Office to further discuss the renovation issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Latz