

upwellings

VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2000

Michigan Sea Grant: Then and Now

PROGRAM REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES, CURRENT ACTIVITIES

As we cross the century mark, Michigan Sea Grant also passes a milestone. The program observed its 30th year of Great Lakes research and outreach in 1999. This long history provided plenty of material to draw from as staff members prepared for the program's four-year evaluation last October—an event that provided an opportunity to recognize program accomplishments over the last three decades and to take a look at what lies ahead.



CAROL SWINEHART

Sea Grant staff and friends learn about current efforts to improve the Detroit River ecosystem.

The evaluation tapped the time and expertise of more than 50 people from around the state who have worked with Michigan Sea Grant over the years.

Conducted by a national Program Assessment Team, Sea Grant's evaluation was unlike any that had occurred in the past. Yes, the team pored over reams of program reports, but they also did something else: they turned directly to Michigan citizens to learn about Sea Grant's impacts on their lives, organizations, businesses and communities.

The evaluation tapped the time and expertise of more than 50 people from around the state who have worked with Michigan Sea Grant over the years. For instance: sportfisherman Jim Fenner explained the benefits of Sea Grant's CoastWatch website; FDA representative Sally Eberhard highlighted Sea Grant's work with Great Lakes fish processors to ensure seafood safety; and John Hartig of the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative discussed Sea Grant's role in helping to improve the Detroit River corridor. These and many other people helped personalize Sea Grant's many efforts during the past three decades—the substance beyond the written goals, objectives and mission statements.

From an organizational standpoint, preparing for the evaluation provided an excellent opportunity to quantify program strengths and identify areas for improvement. Brief summaries of Michigan Sea Grant's accomplishments and current efforts appear on the next two pages. Following this review, Director Russell Moll introduces nine new Sea Grant research projects to begin this year.

For more information about Michigan Sea Grant projects, contact any staff member listed on page 8.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Sea Grant:
Then and Now

Research 2000

Lake Michigan:
Hot Topic