

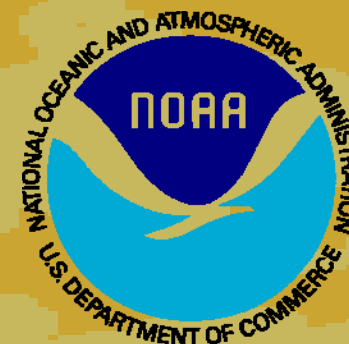


# National Sea Grant Update

Jim Murray, Deputy Director

October 16, 2006

Fisheries Extension Meeting



# Topics

- Sea Grant's role in NOAA
- Planning
- Staffing
- NRC Report
- Budget
- Where are we going with Fisheries Extension?



# Sea Grant's Role in NOAA

- Positives
  - Increased notice of Sea Grant activities (Press releases, BBB)
  - Resilient communities – NOAA needs Sea Grant's infrastructure
  - Regional planning
  - OAR-NMFS Workshop
  - AFS Symposium
- Negatives
  - Overall budget limits possibilities
  - "Hunker-down" mentality
- Where is NOAA going?
  - Regional and Ecosystem Approach to Management
  - Observation Systems
  - Community Resilience



# Sea Grant's Emerging Role in NOAA

- Community Resilience
  - Fisheries Extension, CCDDP – Sea Grant is well-positioned
  - Sea Grant – “Resilient Coastal Communities” vs NOAA “Resilient Communities and Ecosystems” – our emphasis is people
  - Need for socioeconomic data and tools
- IOOS / GOOS
  - Extension / education role for Sea Grant
  - Research role – Socioeconomic data and tools?



# Planning – Ocean Research Priorities Plan

- Plan and implementation strategy due December 2006
- Emerging themes -- all related to Sea Grant
  - Enhancing human health
  - Improving ecosystem health
  - Sustaining natural resources
  - Promoting marine operations
  - The ocean's role in climate change and variability
  - Mitigating effects of natural hazards
  - Improving quality of life
- Cross-cutting themes
  - Basic understanding of the ocean
  - Research support through ocean observations and infrastructure
  - Expanded ocean education



# Planning –Regional Research and Information Planning

- Real opportunity – NOAA committed to regional approach, but direction not clear
- First group of eight regions started this summer
  - Track for remaining regions depends on funding
- Get involved and bring others into the process – “buy-in” is the key
  - Local regional stakeholders
  - Fishery management councils, regional obs



# Planning – Sea Grant Network Strategic Planning

- National Strategic Plan – Fall 2007
- **Network plan**, not NSGO plan
- Program strategic plans greatly improved, national plan needs to catch up
- OMB looking at the process
- Need to take a “one Sea Grant” approach

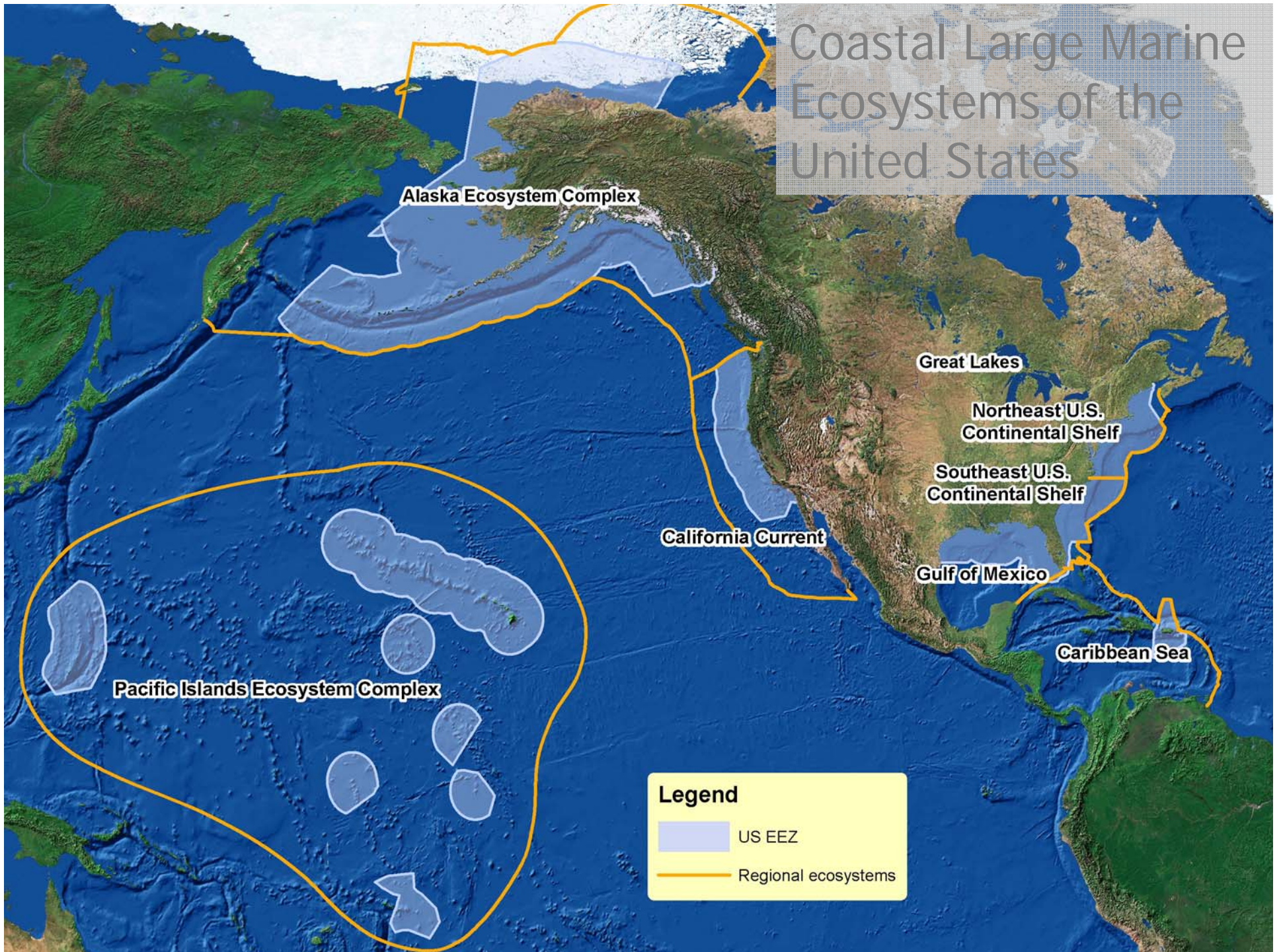


# Planning – Sea Grant Network Strategic Planning

- “One Sea Grant”
  - National first, then state program plans
  - Common cycle would help regional / cross-program efforts
  - Would respond to OMB concerns
- More focus to the plan
  - A few (3-5) major focus areas (e.g. resilient communities, seafood, obs)
  - Specific outcomes, performance measures
  - State program plans would address focus areas (if possible) along with state/region specific issues
- Program Officers involved in state planning process
  - Plans approved by NSGO, removed from PAT process



# Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems of the United States



# NOAA Working Definitions for EAM

- An *ecosystem* is a **geographically specified** system of organisms (including humans), the environment, and the processes that control its dynamics.
- Characteristics of EAM are:
  - collaborative,
  - adaptive,
  - incremental,
  - takes account of ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties,
  - considers multiple external influences,
  - strives to balance diverse social objectives, and
  - geographically specified.



# Key Science Needs Supporting EAM

- Operational **Ocean Observation System** integrating biology, physical oceanography, chemistry, ocean-atmosphere links and socio-economic data (at appropriate geographic scales) ~ 1/2 built
- **Systematic reporting** on the status of marine and coastal ecosystems through Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs), including key indicators of pressures on ecosystems and their state
- Ecosystem **research plan** that enables **linking of human activities** to incremental change in ecosystem state indicators
- Modeling, experimental ecology, and observation **systems linked** to support adaptive approaches **to human uses** of marine ecosystems consistent with goals of sustainable use



# NSGO Staffing

- Turnover in last six months
  - Gone: Baird, Schuler, McVey, Day, Carter, Connors
  - New: Jack Oliver, Melissa Pearson, Andy Lazur
  - Half the staff we had in 1990
- New leadership: Cammen (Director), Murray (Deputy), Carlson (Research)
- Ass't Director for Operations: Garber
  - NSGO operations
  - Planning and Evaluation
- NSGO Internal Review – Summer/Fall 2006



# NRC Report on Sea Grant's Program Assessment Process

- Released in June
- Major themes
  - Process is generally a good one, programs are improving as a result
  - Emphasis should be more on improvement of all programs rather than on competition among them
  - Evaluation should be a continual process, not focused on a four-year event
  - National office needs to be more involved with programs and evaluation
- Team approach to recommendations – Programs, National Review Panel, NSGO
  - Overall responsibility – Response and Integration Team
  - Several working groups – Evaluation, Strategic Planning, NSGO Operations
- Implications
  - Reauthorization
  - NSGO staffing
  - Strategic Planning
  - Scheduling of next round of Program Assessments



# Budget

- FY2006 down \$7M from FY2005
  - NSI's reduced
  - Start dates shifted
  - Bonus funds eliminated
- What about 2007?
  - At this point could be great (!) or worse than 2006
  - Level funding would mean cuts to core programs, NSIs
  - “Always change a losing game, never change a winning game” – SGA approach to working with Congress is changing
  - **There is hope!** – Communities, Seafood initiatives



# Extension 2000 vs. 2004 FTEs

- Total #  
extension agents

2000 = 323

2005 = 377

- Mean FTEs per  
program

2000 = 9.0

2005 = 9.0

- Total # FTEs

2000 = 270

2005 = 288

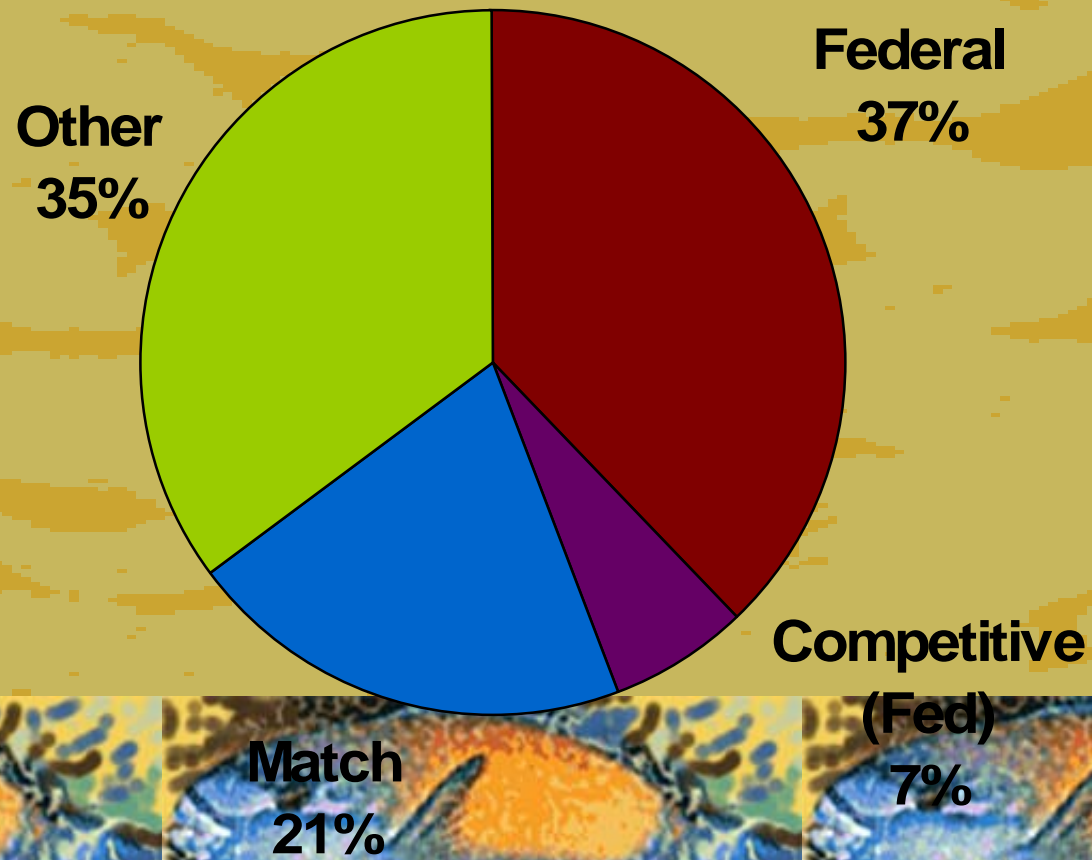
- Range of FTEs

2000 = 2.4 - 24.1

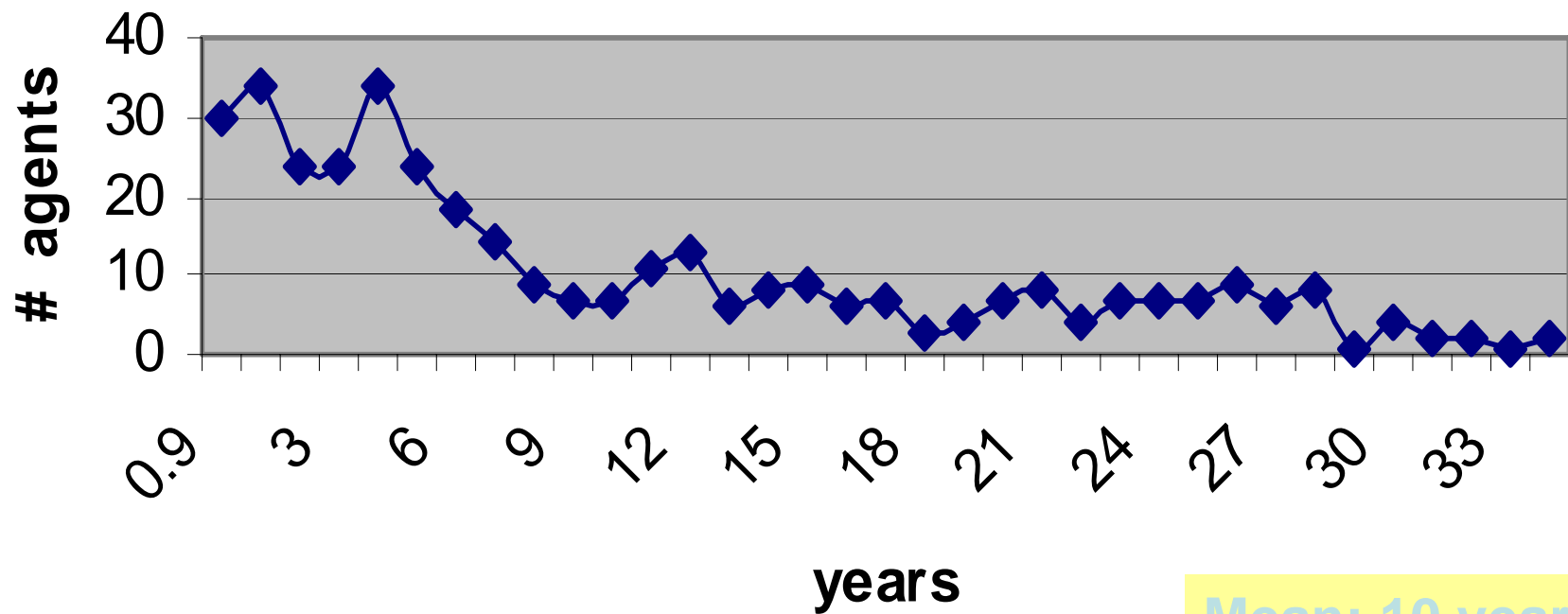
2005 = 1.3 - 23.4



# 2004 SGEP FTE % Funding Source

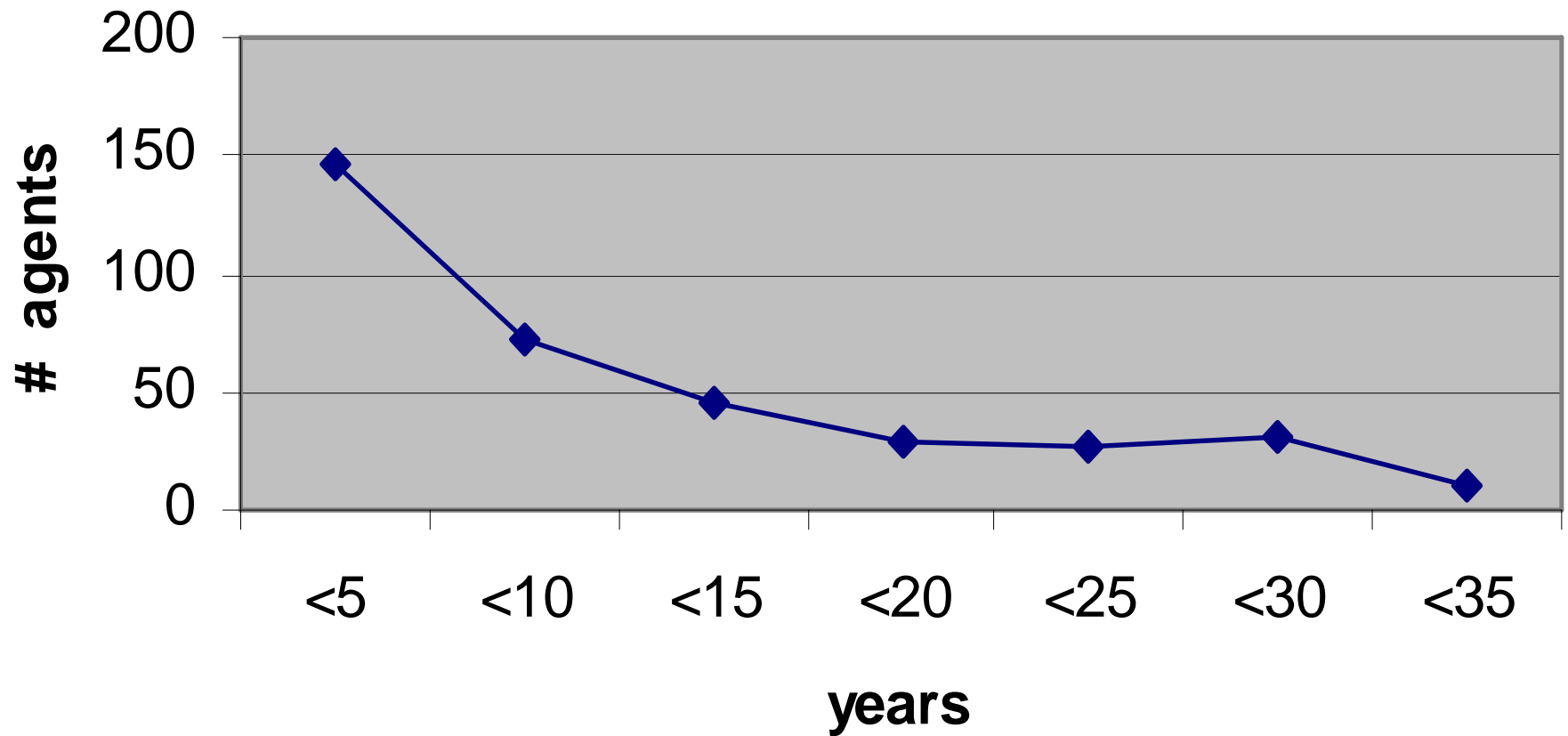


# Years in Service



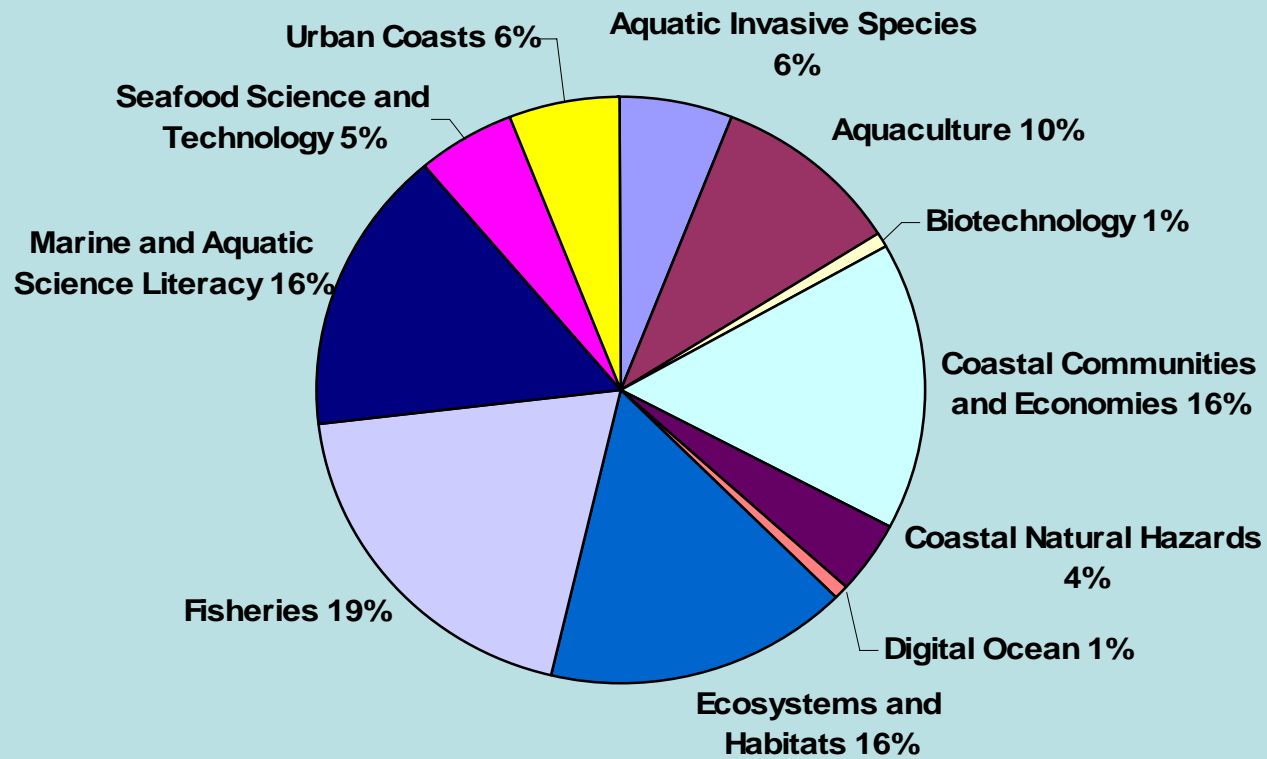
Mean: 10 years  
Median: 6 years  
Mode: 4 years

# Years in Service





# Programmatic Emphasis by Thematic Area



# Top 3 Priority Hires

Fisheries (12)

Water Quality/Watershed Management (8)

Education Specialist, Coastal Communities and Economies  
(7)

Coastal Hazards, Natural Resource Economist/Coastal  
Bus. (6)

Aquaculture (5)

Habitat Restoration, Urban Coasts/Planning (4)

Seafood Safety, Ports and Harbors, GIS/Remote Sensing  
(3)



# Fisheries Extension

- 117 Sea Grant fisheries extension staff
- A national asset, look for new ways to function as a national network
- Organize and become proactive on issues
- Leave Jacksonville with a plan for sustaining the momentum



# Fisheries Extension Enhancement??

- Very successful
- Entering final year of five-year program
- Discussions are ongoing with NMFS – enhanced partnership
- Issues
  - Funding
  - Continuity vs opportunity for new programs
  - Competition



# Questions?

## **THOUGHTS ON A STATION PLATFORM**

It ought to be plain  
how little you gain  
by getting excited  
and vexed.

You'll always be late  
for the previous train,  
And always in time  
for the next.

*Piet Hein*

