



IUCRC:	Science Center for Marine Fisheries Science Phase III
NSF Award Number:	2332982, 2332984
Award period:	2/27/2024 - 2/26/2025
Program Manager:	Barbara Ransom
Evaluator:	Lindsey McGowen

Funded by the
National Science Foundation

Science Center for Marine Fisheries Science

Award Period: 2/27/2024 - 2/26/2025

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Summary

Provide brief description of current status of Center focusing on major changes since last Evaluator report. Address the following: change in sites, change in leadership/governance of the Center/Sites/IAB membership, significant events at IAB companies that might affect participation in the Center.

SCEMFIS has completed its first year of Phase 3 IUCRC funding under NSF solicitation 20-570, which began on 03/01/2024. SCEMFIS has had a successful and productive year.

- University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is the lead site (Award 2332982). Dr. Eric Powell is the Center Director at USM.
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is the second site (Award 2332984). Dr. Roger Mann serves as the Site Director at VIMS.
- SCEMFIS had 12 member organizations holding the equivalent of 16 full memberships.
- Intershell International did not renew their memberships for this reporting period.
- 17 faculty members participated in SCEMFIS by leading five completed, 11 ongoing projects, and seven new IAB-funded projects.
- Seven students and postdocs also participated in SCEMFIS by conducting research, leading project mentor calls, attending IAB meetings, and presenting project updates at IAB meetings. The Center also hosted a number of REUs over the summer.
- SCEMFIS has very established and mature IUCRC policies and operations following IUCRC best practices as well as lessons learned from Phases 1 and 2.
- As they move into Phase 3, IUCRC grant support for operations has decreased and the IAB has begun to cover the administrative cost shortfall from their membership fees. Because they are now bearing that cost, in addition to the funds they allocate to Stove Boat for communication and dissemination of SCEMFIS research results, the IAB has begun to scrutinize those costs more closely. The Center leadership is mindful of these concerns and has been taking steps to ensure the budget is managed appropriately and that the value of these administrative and communication costs is transparent to the members.



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Center Leadership

Role	Name	University/Organization	Email address
Center Director	Eric Powell	University of Southern Mississippi	eric.n.powell@usm.edu
Site Director	Roger Mann	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	rmann@vims.edu
USM Operations Manager	Kelsey Kuykendall	University of Southern Mississippi	kelsey.kuykendall@usm.edu
VIMS Operations Manager	Karen Reay	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	kreay@vims.edu
IAB Chair	Jeff Kaelin	Lund's Fisheries	jkaelin@lundsfish.com
IAB Vice-Chair	Joe Myers	Sea Watch International	joe.myers@seawatch.com

Provide brief description of current leadership structure (can be repeated from prior report if no changes since last Evaluator report) and focus on major changes since last Evaluator report, e.g., changes in lead university/site leaders.

Center leadership remains unchanged. Dr. Eric Powell serves as center director and director of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) site. Dr. Roger Mann serves as director of the site at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Karen Reay and Kelsey Kuykendall provide operations support for the Center. Jeff Kaelin (Lund's Fisheries) serves as IAB chair. Joe Myers (Sea Watch International) serves as IAB vice-chair.

Faculty Members Directing I/UCRC Research Projects Funded by IAB

Provide brief description, no more than one paragraph per site, of activities concerning participation of current faculty researchers in the I/UCRC. Highlight major changes since last Evaluator report, e.g., addition of new faculty researchers, loss of faculty researchers, attendance of faculty researchers at the IAB meeting.

17 faculty members participated in SCEMFIS by leading five completed, 11 ongoing projects, and seven new IAB-funded projects. In addition to researchers at USM and VIMS, SCEMFIS research was also led by external collaborators from Rutgers Univ., Univ. of Maryland, Mississippi Polymer Institute, Open Ocean Research, Nicholls State Univ., UT Austin, and Virginia Tech.

SCEMFIS faculty were asked to complete the faculty survey at the Fall 2024 IAB meeting (response rate = 11/17, 65%). On average, faculty were quite to very satisfied with SCEMFIS research quality and relevance, as well as with Center administration. Faculty satisfaction rates were improved from previous years and within a standard deviation of national norms for these metrics, as was faculty commitment to SCEMFIS. In terms of areas for improvement, fundraising was cited as the primary focus by responding faculty members. Communication was also identified as an area for improvement. In terms of areas of excellence, respondents mentioned the meetings, responsiveness of the leadership, and engagement from the IAB.



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Students Working on I/UCRC Research Projects Funded by IAB

Provide brief description, no more than one paragraph per site, of current student researchers focusing on highlights and major changes since last Evaluator report, e.g., addition of new student researchers, graduation of student researchers.

Seven students and postdocs participated in SCEMFIS by conducting research, attending IAB meetings, and presenting project updates at IAB meetings. The Center also hosted a number of REUs over the summer. NSF INTERNs are also highly valued and frequently discussed at SCEMFIS IAB meetings. Students and postdocs were asked to respond to the annual survey at the Fall 2024 IAB meeting, however only 2 responded. As such, summary statistics are not provided. However, the students who did respond were largely positive, reporting a high level of engagement and impact on their skills. In comments, respondents mentioned the value of their INTERN placements. When asked for suggestions to improve, respondents asked for more opportunities for engagement during the meetings and with industry members.



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Membership Activity Table

Member	Number in Attendance (Spring)	Number in Attendance (Fall)
AMPHA	1	1
Atlantic Capes Fisheries Inc	1	1
Bumble Bee Foods, LLC	1	1
Community Offshore Wind, RWE	2	1
Daybrook/Westbank	2	1
LaMonica Fine Foods	1	1
Lund's Fisheries, Inc.	1	1
NEFSC - NOAA NMFS	1	1
NFI-SMC	1	1
Omega Protein	1	1
Sea Watch International, Ltd.	1	1
Surfside Products	1	1

Provide brief description of current IAB membership focusing on major changes since last AC report.

SCEMFIS IAB members were asked to respond to the IUCRC Member Pulse Survey at the Fall 2024 IAB meeting (response rate = 8/12). On average, members were quite to very satisfied with Center research, administration, and meetings. Member satisfaction is within a standard deviation of national norms for these metrics. All responding members said they would probably or definitely renew their membership next year. Members identified fundraising and recruitment of new members, as well as results reporting as the primary areas for improvement. When asked to comment on how the Center could improve in these areas, one member suggested that having a matrix of projects by thrust area, over time would be very informative, and potentially beneficial for recruitment. Another member suggested that they would like to have thrust-specific conference calls as part of the project ideation process. When asked to comment on any benefits realized as a result of their SCEMFIS membership, respondents mentioned the value of specific research projects, and the ability to leverage research results for public relations, regulatory engagement, decision support, and commercial benefits. Multiple members mentioned the value of student interns (See appendix for full survey results).



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IAB Members That Have Left the Center

Member Company	Delegate Name	Email Address
Intershell International	Not Available	Not Available

Provide a brief description of the context regarding reasons for leaving and extent to which these reasons were influenced by unmet expectations regarding quality of research, Center performance, Center leadership, or other aspects of Center performance.

Intershell International did not renew their membership for this reporting period. In discussions with the Center Director, he explained that they have been in and out of the Center over the years, and he is hopeful they will return again in the future.

Management of IAB Member Contact Information

Explain methods used by the Center to maintain contact information of primary IAB member representatives, as well as alternate delegates within the Member Company, in case the primary member representative is unreachable?

The Center maintains and regularly updates a contact list shared between the two sites, including contact information for the primary IAB representative for each member company, any additional representatives or past meeting attendees, and other participants from each member company. All member contact information is also shared in a members-only secure area of the Center's website (www.scemfis.org). Member contact information is updated at every IAB meeting and throughout the year as needed.



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Use of NSF Required Governance Practices for Center

(Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/iucrc/requirements.jsp>)

NSF Governance Requirement	Yes/No
An I/UCRC shall be composed of one or more universities, each of which is a Site.	Yes
Each Site shall name a Director who shall be the Principal Investigator for that Site's NSF grant.	Yes
Each Site shall create a University Policy Committee composed of administrators from that university to oversee compliance of that Site with the university's policies and procedures.	Yes
A Director shall be designated for the entire I/UCRC. She/he shall be either one of the Site directors or a co-principal investigator on one of the Site awards.	Yes
The I/UCRC shall define a membership structure for non-university, fee-paying members.	Yes
I/UCRC members may include for-profit and not-for-profit organizations (public or private), state and local agencies, or non-NSF federal agencies. A complete definition is found in the solicitation.	Yes
The membership structure shall define the types of members, member fees, and the rights of members, including all voting and governance rights, as per the conditions found in the solicitation.	Yes
The I/UCRC shall have an Industry Advisory Board (IAB) with one representative from each member. NSF, and/or its authorized representative, has the right, but not the obligation, to attend I/UCRC IAB meetings in their entirety.	Yes
The IAB shall elect a Chair.	Yes
The IAB shall meet at least twice per year with the meeting schedule and agenda being developed collaboratively with NSF.	Yes
The I/UCRC Leadership Team shall include all Site Directors, I/UCRC Director, and IAB Chair.	Yes
All I/UCRC members shall sign a single membership agreement approved by NSF and based on the template provided by NSF.	Yes
The membership agreement shall provide that all fee-paying members shall have non-exclusive, royalty-free rights to all intellectual property created by any research funded using member fees.	Yes
The I/UCRC shall create Bylaws that define its policies and operations.	Yes
The Bylaws shall adhere to the membership agreement and be approved by the IAB and NSF.	Yes
The Bylaws shall define a voting process for the approval of all research projects funded using member fees.	Yes
Research performed by the I/UCRC shall be pre-competitive in nature, and it shall be shared, directed, and funded by the fee-paying members.	Yes
All research projects funded by member fees shall be approved by the IAB using the voting process defined in the Bylaws.	Yes
NSF shall designate an NSF-funded Evaluator who shall attend all meetings of the IAB in their entirety, provide guidance to the I/UCRC, and collect data for NSF on the performance of the I/UCRC, from the IAB as well as the Center/Site Directors.	Yes
The I/UCRC shall submit an annual report to NSF summarizing the activities of the I/UCRC, including all Sites, and in accordance with NSF's reporting requirements.	Yes

Highlight non-compliant practices and discuss reasons for non-compliance.

At both sites, SCEMFIS functions under the compliance protocols for externally funded research overseen by the Office of the Associate Director for Research and Advisory Service. The Center substitutes this university structure for a University Policy Committee.



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Center Collaboration and Alignment with NSF Practices

Please provide description of the Center status relative to each item below. If problems exist, AC should try to identify the source(s) of the problem and suggest potential remedial measures to NSF in the narrative box following each item.

Interaction/synergy among all Center Stakeholders (Academics and IAB members at meetings and in between meetings). Examples include: social hours and banquets during IAB meeting, video or telephone conference calls between IAB meetings.

Provide brief discussion of frequency and quality. Highlight unique or highly effective practices, as well as weak and ineffective practices.

Communication among the Center's stakeholders is open and frequent. Because of the regulatory nature of this industry and the widespread participation of the Center's stakeholders in the regulatory process, Center researchers and IAB members interact frequently throughout the year at meetings of organizations related to the fishing industry.

Each SCEMFIS IAB meeting includes ample time and opportunity for interaction and networking between Center stakeholders, including networking breaks and meals. Outside of these meetings, flagship events are January and July conference calls between the Center leadership and the IAB to discuss issues of concern to the Center.

Describe the level of collaboration across university sites and among the Center's major stakeholders (Center and site leaders, IAB chair, faculty researchers, student researchers, and Center support staff) and its impact on Center performance.

Provide brief discussion of extent and quality of collaboration and its impact on performance of the Center, e.g., use of faculty and student researchers from multiple university sites on the same research project versus research projects conducted with researchers from a single university (silos of research), proportion of all research projects that are collaborative.

Center staff collaborate to manage administrative tasks across both university sites. VIMS oversees website management and communication efforts, while USM handles financial operations, meeting agendas, and research portfolio planning. Together, the two sites coordinated the April and October IAB meetings. Membership fees are paid to USM, which serves as the central financial hub for the Center. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USM and VIMS ensures the efficient transfer of funds to support the Center's research program.

Collaboration across universities, with external investigators, and IAB members is strong and contributes significantly to the center's success and impact. In 2024, SCEMFIS supported 23 research projects, most of which involved collaboration among researchers from multiple institutions. The Center has successfully recruited scientists from outside its partner sites to lead research projects, including scientists from Rutgers University, the University of Maryland, the Mississippi Polymer Institute, Open Ocean Research, Nicholls State University, the



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University of Texas at Austin, Virginia Tech, and Stove Boat Communications. The scope and success of collaboration with consulting researchers outside the center may be unique among IUCRCs. The robust attendance of IAB members and researchers at each IAB meeting supports this high level of collaboration. Additionally, the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) designates industry members as liaisons for each funded project, further fostering collaboration and enhancing project management. There may be additional opportunities to expand collaboration, as identified by the IAB. For example, at the Spring 2024 IAB meeting, the IAB identified some overlaps in faculty project ideas and agreed to work off-line with the relevant PIs to ensure valuable ideas from both were incorporated into project P22, which was selected for funding at that meeting.

Describe the level of interaction within the IAB with respect to the Center mission/ operations and how this interaction influences performance of the Center.

Provide brief discussion of extent and quality of interaction among IAB members and its impact on performance of the Center, e.g., most or all IAB members participate in discussions and contribute to decision making versus a small number of IAB members that dominate discussions and decision making.

At each IAB meeting, members provide feedback on areas for improvement and participate in open discussions about Center operations during their closed-door session. The Center Directors collaborate with the IAB Chair and Vice-Chair to identify topics requiring IAB input, which are then included in the closed-session agenda.

Outside of these meetings, key events include January and July conference calls between Center leadership and the IAB to address issues of concern. The Center's academic leadership maintains regular communication with all members regarding significant events, decisions, requests, and announcements. IAB members actively support the Center's marketing efforts and play a key role in recruiting new industry members. Additionally, the IAB funds Stove Boat Communications, a public relations firm, to promote Center activities and attract new members. The IAB Chair and Vice-Chair also maintain frequent communication with all IAB members to ensure ongoing engagement.



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Research Roadmap

Research Roadmap	Responses
Does the Center have a Research Roadmap that clearly identifies its research strengths/weaknesses and opportunities/threats?	Yes
Is the IAB directly involved in the Research Roadmap creation/updating?	Yes
Does the Roadmap clearly show the research gaps and voids that need to be filled?	Yes
Does selection of member-funded research projects reflect gaps and voids identified in the Center Roadmap?	Yes

Provide brief discussion of quality of the Center's research roadmap and how it is used to guide decision making, new project selection, and strategic growth of the Center, e.g., selection of new research projects, addition of new university research sites, recruitment of new IAB members.

The SCEMFIS research roadmap is organized around the commodity areas that are the focus of its members: fin fish, clams, and wind. The current research roadmap outlines needs aligned with the timetable and decision-making cycle of government regulatory agencies responsible for stock assessments and management quotas relevant to the Center's industry members. Research projects targeting critical leverage points in this decision-making process are prioritized and funded. The roadmap is a dynamic document that evolves as needed, maintaining its core structure while allowing flexibility to adapt to changes in regulations and stock status over time.



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Compliance with NSF Pre-IAB Meeting Practices

Pre-IAB Meeting Practice	Yes/No
Collect and make accessible in advance of meetings Executive Summaries (following the template found at http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/iucr/summary_portfolios.jsp) for all new project proposals to be presented at the IAB meeting.	Yes
Clearly document the Center project history. List completed projects and currently funded projects. List the cost, and beginning and end dates of each. Update this document prior to every meeting and provide to the IAB.	Yes
Organize an executive summary of Center financial information since the last meeting. Include major categories of income and sources, outlays and purpose, and balances. Keep income from memberships (use governed by the membership agreement, bylaws) separate from other income. Given this overall picture, show funds allocated to current projects and funds remaining for allocation by the Center to new projects. Conservatively project future funds for planning purposes.	Yes
Distribute NDA/CDA documents to all invited guests prior to the meeting with the expectation they be completely executed prior to the meeting.	Yes
Ensure all printed or electronic material conveying results of the Center's research clearly state that the content is Center Proprietary and that the Terms of the Center membership agreement apply.	Yes
Develop and distribute in advance a preliminary agenda for the meeting, outlining main meeting events and start/stop times with which people can plan travel.	Yes
Distribute a detailed final agenda just prior to the meeting. Effective agendas include:	Yes
Summary of the State of the Center by Center leadership	Yes
Meeting activities that support interaction between industry members as well as with faculty and students, including: poster sessions, industry presentations, and industry-driven mentoring session	Yes
Adequate time for LIFE assessment form completion after every project	Yes
Adequate time for IAB closed door meeting	Yes

Briefly highlight and discuss pre-meeting practices the Center is doing exceptionally well, not doing well, or not doing at all.

SCMFIS does a good job of planning their meetings well in advance and communicating those plans and pre-meeting materials to the IAB. As a result, SCMFIS meetings are well-organized and highly effective.



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Compliance with NSF IAB Meeting Practices

IAB Meeting Practice	Yes/No
Sign in all attendees.	Yes
Provide an attendee list to all of preregistered attendees.	Yes
And distribute an updated list at the close of the meeting. Most effective lists have faculty, students & postdocs, IAB members, and NSF grouped in their respective categories.	Yes
List must include complete contact information, must identify "guests" among the members from current members.	Yes
To showcase students, indicate if Master's Degree or Ph.D. and year of anticipated graduation.	Yes
At Point of Registration, "Non-Disclosure Form" is signed by each non-member industrial attendee and collected.	Yes
Deliver a Center report to the Center that brings members and faculty up-to-date on the Center and the university research site(s) including:	Yes
A review of the Center's vision and research roadmap and/or explicit set of Center priorities.	Yes
An update on the current Center membership.	Partial
Attention to outputs of interest of members and faculty (technology transfer impact, product, etc) from recently completed projects.	Partial
An update on publication/awards and other highlights.	Yes
An opportunity for discussion and questions by IAB members about the state-of-the-Center.	Yes
An overview of the upcoming meeting.	Yes
Material related to projects presented throughout the meeting (including posters).	Yes
Use a common slide master template for all presentations across all sites. Be conscious of maintaining Center branding. Slides should reflect the following (as appropriate):	Partial
Proposed projects should include proposed schedule, overall and first year deliverables, and proposed budget.	Yes
Ongoing projects must clearly state progress, milestones achieved, and deliverable status from those originally proposed.	Yes
Final project reports should summarize all deliverables and outcomes as well as new directions that have emerged from the work.	
Enforce strict time limits for each project presentation and item in the agenda.	Yes
"Closed Meeting" sign posted; materials labeled "Center Proprietary".	Yes
Meeting activities are included that support industry/university networking; such as poster sessions, and industry-driven mentoring sessions.	Yes
Project LIFE assessment forms are completed and discussed by the IAB at each meeting.	Yes
IAB closed door meeting (NSF and IAB members only):	Yes
Work with your IAB Chair the agenda for the IAB closed-door meeting that provides an opportunity for members to raise issues about Center policies, procedures and research activities, and use of and modification of by-laws if any.	Yes
Ensure that the IAB has the comprehensive financial update of the Center to enable them to make informed funding decisions.	Yes
Provide the IAB Chair with a well-defined procedures and timetable for selection of research projects.	Yes
Action Items and Plans for Next Semiannual Meeting Make sure to have reviewed the IUCRC Master Travel Calendar and have consulted with the NSF prior to the meeting regarding the availability of your preferred meeting dates.	Yes



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Briefly highlight and discuss IAB meeting practices the Center is doing exceptionally well, not doing well, or not doing at all.

SCEMFIS is very mature and has a well-established set of meeting practices. Their meetings are well organized and professional and the IAB is actively engaged in all aspects of the meeting. The IAB Chair serves as the MC and leads virtually all aspects of the meeting. SCEMFIS has adopted AirTable for project feedback and the IAB has mentioned that they are happy with the new interface and enhanced functionality.

Comments on items marked partial or not rated:

- Center membership status updates were discussed verbally but were not included in the slides or other written documentation provided.
- SCEMFIS goes above and beyond to ensure that the results of their research have an impact on the Center's innovation ecosystem. Their dissemination and extension efforts through Stove Boat Communications are very robust and extensive. An update on these dissemination efforts was presented at the meeting, but the slides were not shared in advance. SCEMFIS is also actively engaged with industry through the use of INTERN supplements. The Spring IAB meeting included updated presentations for three INTERN projects, with slides included in the meeting materials shared via AirTable.
- Slides generally used a common background and included roughly similar sections, but there was wide variability in the labels used to refer to the same sections (e.g. Background/prior work, problem statement/motivation, research plan/experimental plan/methods).
- Final reports were not presented at this meeting. The Center Director did provide an update on the status of those reports and explained that these will be shared with the IAB as written reports, rather than verbal presentations.



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Compliance with NSF Post-IAB Meeting Practices

Post-IAB Meeting Practice	Yes/No
Send meeting outcomes to Center participants.	Yes
Forward copy of IAB meeting minutes to IAB.	Yes
Confirm next meeting date.	Yes
Maintain an up-to-date and good quality centralized webpage for the Center with a secure area (password protected for members) where to promptly save meetings information, research products, and any material related to Center activities.	Yes
Center facilitates opportunities for project related communication (e.g., newsletters, regularly scheduled project conference calls) with the IAB between meetings.	Yes
Promptly inform the IAB of any invention and publication generated by the Center in compliance with the terms set in the membership agreement and bylaws.	Yes
Provide accurate and up-to-date information for the IUCRC directory on the IUCRC website. Instructions for updating here.	Yes

Briefly highlight and discuss Post-IAB meeting practices the Center is doing exceptionally well, not doing well, or not doing at all.

SCMFIS has a professional public-facing website with relevant information about the Center.

The website includes a secure members-only area where they share the results of Center research, including project update presentations, reports, and publications. Center leaders and researchers frequently meet with IAB members through phone calls and in-person sessions between the semi-annual IAB meetings. Additionally, monthly meetings with IAB members, SCMFIS Operations staff, and Stove Boat Communications focus on exploring marketing opportunities for the Center.

SCMFIS
FY2024 Faculty and Research Scientist Process/Outcome Questionnaire
Respondents: Feedback Provided by 11 of 17 Researchers

Table 1: CENTER RESEARCH

2) During the past year, how satisfied were you with the following:

	<u>INDIVIDUAL FREQUENCIES</u>										<u>THIS CENTER</u>		<u>NATIONAL</u>	
	Not Satisfied		Slightly Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Quite Satisfied		Very Satisfied		<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous</u>		
	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>S.D.</u>
a. Quality of the center supported research program	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	45%	6	55%	4.55	4.00	4.48	0.29
b. Relevance of the center's research program to my professional goals	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	45%	6	55%	4.55	4.20	4.50	0.35

Table 2: COMMITMENT

5) Which option best expresses your current intentions?

	<u>INDIVIDUAL FREQUENCIES</u>										<u>THIS CENTER</u>		<u>NATIONAL</u>	
	Definitely Not		Probably Not		Uncertain		Probably Yes		Definitely Yes		<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous</u>		
	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>S.D.</u>
Next year I will submit my best research ideas in a center funded proposal	0	0%	1	10%	1	10%	3	30%	5	50%	4.20	3.90	4.24	0.44

Table 3: CENTER ADMINISTRATION

6) During the past year, how satisfied were you with center administrative operations?

	<u>INDIVIDUAL FREQUENCIES</u>										<u>THIS CENTER</u>		<u>NATIONAL</u>	
	Not Satisfied		Slightly Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Quite Satisfied		Very Satisfied		<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous</u>		
	<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>MEANS</u>	<u>S.D.</u>
	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	5	45%	5	45%	4.36	4.10	4.57	0.34

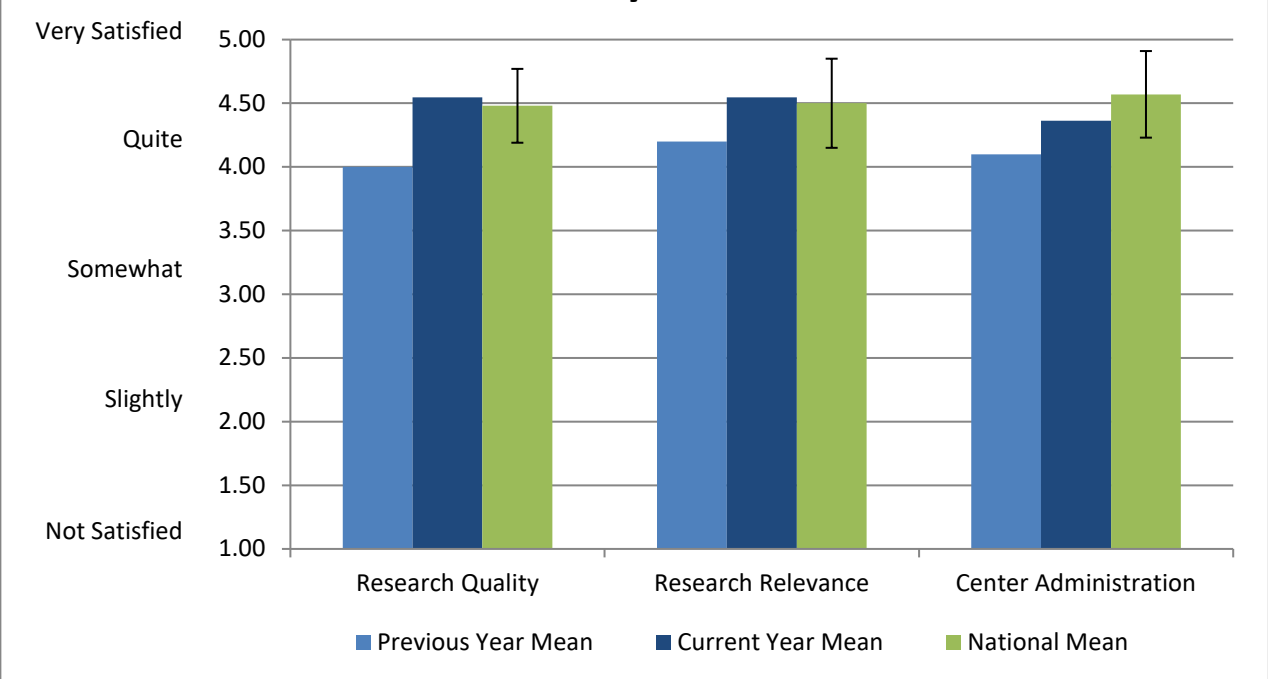
Table 4: AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

7) How can your center improve its administration and operations? Please mark areas that need improvement.

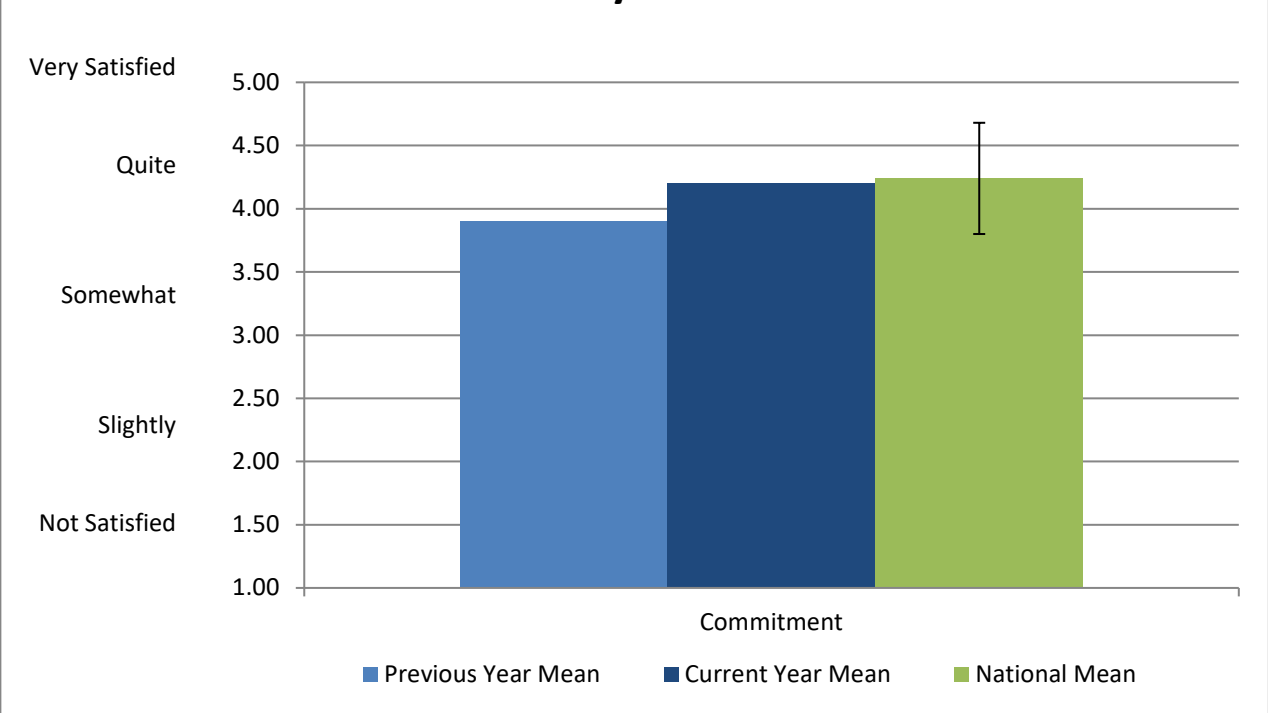
	<u>THIS CENTER</u>				<u>NATIONAL</u>	
	<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Previous Year</u>		<u>Individual Frequencies</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Communication	3	27%	1	11%	41	15%
b. Planning & development of research program	2	18%	4	44%	46	17%
c. Management of projects	0	0%	0	0%	13	5%
d. Project selection	2	18%	1	11%	32	12%
e. Proposals & publications	0	0%	1	11%	19	7%
f. Technology transfer	0	0%	0	0%	27	10%
g. Intellectual property	0	0%	0	0%	15	5%
h. Fundraising	4	36%	4	44%	72	26%
i. Other	1	9%	1	11%	27	26%
Total	12	100%	12	133%	292	122%

* Evaluator Survey Results – Faculty *

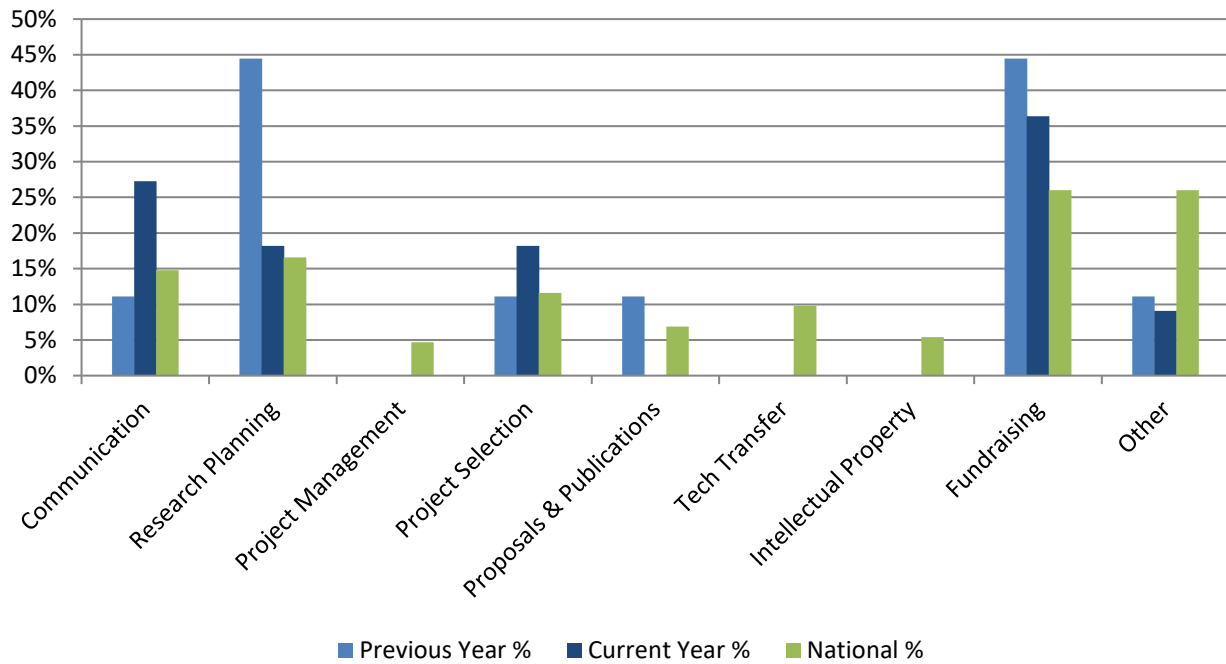
Mean Faculty Satisfaction



Mean Faculty Commitment



Areas for Improvement



SCMFIS
FY2024 Faculty and Research Scientist Process/Outcome Questionnaire
Respondents: Feedback Provided by 11 of 17 Researchers

3) How can the center improve its research program? What features of the center's research program do you definitely want to see continued into the future?

- The relevance of the research priorities to real world challenges is among the most important outcomes of this center. I highly value the center's relevance in terms of necessary science conducted in a timely manner.
- Need access to NSF UNOLS ship support.
- Continued funding of projects that improve stock assessments would be great. Given the massive to do list for most stock assessments, NOAA/states cannot possibly do it all given their limited budgets. SCMFIS is one of the few programs that supports stock assessment improvement outside NOAA.
- I belong to an adjacent technology area as a tech service provider, so this is my first time participating. I think it is great to collaborate with other dissimilar organizations to bring value to the center and its members; it also highlights the good science that is being conducted in other fields. There's beneficial outcomes for everyone.
- No comment

7b) How can the center improve its administration and operations program?

- IAB member generated proposals are often late in being submitted. Better responsiveness to deadlines would be helpful. More attention to expanding membership is important
- h. It would be great if we could bring back industry members who have left SCMFIS and solicit more new IAB members.
- i. Marketing communication for membership expansion. I was surprised that more companies weren't involved because this seems like such a valuable organization for industry.

7c) Are there any features of the administration and operations you are particularly pleased with?

- Integration of IAB members in Center decision making is excellent
- IAB meetings go well. Proposal review and project funding decisions work well
- In my experience, Eric is always super responsive and supportive of PIs, and SCMFIS staff are fantastic. In my experience, IAB chairs have always been very enthusiastic and supportive as well.
- Knowledge base is high for our industry.