

21st International Conference of The Coastal Society

MARINE AFFAIRS EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Mark T. Imperial, University of North Carolina Wilmington

A Panel Discussion

This panel explores the future of marine affairs education in the 21st Century. While many marine affairs graduate programs have been around for decades, there are several relatively new options for students wishing to pursue careers in coastal and ocean resource management. Thus, it is appropriate to take stock of where we have been and to examine the needs for Marine Affairs education in the 21st Century.

The panel consists of academics and professionals with experience in marine affairs education at various institutions. Prior to the conference, each panelist will receive a short summary of the results of surveys being done by the panel organizer. One will survey the graduate directors of master degree programs that offer some sort of curriculum specializing in coastal or ocean resource management. The second surveys potential employers of marine affairs graduates and focuses on the training and educational needs. Panelists will also be supplied with excerpts from reports detailing estimated hiring needs related to environmental management.

The panel session begins with a short overview of these survey data to facilitate audience participation. Panelists will then each have an opportunity to briefly comment on the findings. The goal of the discussion will be oriented around identifying future educational and training needs as Marine Affairs education enters the 21st Century. Substantial time will also be set aside for audience questions. Our goal is to have a very interactive and informative session and begin a dialog on future educational needs in marine affairs.

Panel Moderator

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