

**Date of Report Submission:** 07.30.2009

**Title as it appears on title/cover page:** Shifting Baselines: Watershed Connections to Landscape Changes

**NOAA Award Number:** NA09SEC4690053

**MASGC Project Number:** E/O-76

**Project Initiation Date:** 01/0/2009

**Revision Date (complete if revisions were made):** NA

**Original Completion Date:** 12/31/2009

**Extended Completion Date (if an extension was granted):** NA

**Reporting Period:** 01/01/2009 – 06/30/2009

**Principal Investigator:** Jessica Kastler  
**Affiliation:** University of Southern Mississippi  
**Co-Principal Investigator:** Sharon Walker  
**Affiliation:** University of Southern Mississippi

**Type of report (X):**  
Progress Report  Completion Report

**Status of the project (X):**  
New  Continuing  Complete  Extended

**Amount awarded to date:** \$99,200

## **SUMMARY**

The first six months of work on the B-WET Shifting Baselines project emphasized recruiting participants and preparing to train to school teams.

### ***Recruitment***

**Press.** An information flyer including an application was developed to describe the goals of the program for potential applicants. Recruitment efforts included an article in *SeaBriefs*, the newsletter of Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), as well as a press release, also prepared by MASGC, which resulted in multiple requests for more information. The press release resulted in an invitation to present the program during the 4:00pm news presentation of WLOX, the Biloxi, Mississippi affiliate of ABC Television. In addition, the press release and application were sent several times to teacher listservs throughout Alabama and Mississippi. By the end of March these measures resulted in the confirmation of one team of teachers from a private school in Mississippi.

#### **Newsletter Article:**

B-WET Grant: Educational Program Receives Funding. *Sea Briefs*, Winter 2008

#### **Press release**

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, 01/07/2009. \$300,000 NOAA grant to develop science programs in schools

#### **Television Interview**

Dr. Kastler, 01/21/2009. Recruiting appearance on WLOX television, Biloxi, MS

**Participation.** It was anticipated that recruitment of three teachers from single school to participate for three years might take more time than training through a single workshop or two an individual teacher. However, the low response, especially from the target audience, teachers of underserved and underrepresented groups, prompted reconsideration of the initial, broadcast-style, recruiting techniques. Renewed efforts included reaching out to science curriculum coordinators in urban areas, and clarifying the target audience to include teachers of economically poor and minority students. The new efforts led to interest from several teachers and schools, whose participation has not yet been confirmed. Each will be contacted in early August to follow-through with the application process. The single confirmed and the five schools that have most consistently expressed interest are listed below.

**St. Stanislaus College**, 304 S. Beach Boulevard, Bay St. Louis, **MS** 39520, 228-467-9057  
Contact: Letha Dawson, Science Teacher Grade 7  
Confirmed

**Semmes Middle School**, 4566 Ed George Road, Semmes **AL** 36575, 251-221-2344  
Contact: Brenda Shenesey, Principle  
Tentative

**Grand Bay Middle School**, 12800 Cunningham Road, Grand Bay, **AL** 36541,  
Contact: Wade Whitney, Principle  
Tentative

**VanCleave Middle School**, 4725 Bulldog Lane, Vancleave, **MS** 39565, (228) 826-5902  
Contact: Ms. Jill Davis, Principle  
Tentative

**Brinkley Middle**, 3535 Albermarle Road, Jackson, **MS** 39213, (601) 987-3573  
Contacts: Leroy Pope, Principal; Anthony Brown, Science Coach  
Tentative

**Blackburn Middle**, 1311 West Pearl Street, Jackson, **MS** 39203, (601) 960-5329  
Contact: Ms. Mary Wesley, Science Teacher Grade 7 and team leader  
Tentative

### ***Team Training Preparations***

**Oral History DVD.** Several resources are in development for teachers while others have been identified as components of the incipient Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE). The resources being developed include an oral history DVD, in development by Lynn Rabren in partnership with MASGC and Mississippi DMR. The draft DVD is 20 minutes long and focuses on reminiscence by four generations of commercial fishermen of coastal Mississippi. The draft DVD will be shown to teachers during the Shifting Baselines Institute. Their comments will inform the next revision, which will also include fishermen from Alabama.

### **Life on the Water, Lynn Rabren**

**Facebook Page.** Additionally, a Facebook Page is being prepared to facilitate communication among teachers from each school and Marine Education Center educators. This page will link to the web page that will be housed at MASGC (in preparation), but will allow project investigators to update MWEE modules quickly as teachers provide them, while also offering a forum for comments. The page may or may not be published beyond the group of educators and students composing the learning community.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Shifting-Baselines-Watershed-Learning-Community/86534046431?ref=ts>

**Web Resources.** Several resources named in the proposal have been confirmed for use during the Shifting Baselines Institute. Several others have also been identified and confirmed for use.

**United States Geological Survey Topographic Maps**

Each school will have a pdf of the topo map most relevant to their school and the one that includes the Gulf Coast Research Lab. These will be georectified using the free software available at this website to allow students to use them as a geographic information system layer.

[http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/usgs/maplocator/](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/)

Confirmed

**Surf Your Watershed, Environmental Protection Agency**

Each school will use this website to learn specific information about the environmental quality and possible stewardship options for their watershed

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Confirmed

**NOAA Coastal Services Imagery**

This site provides imagery of the Gulf Coast (complete for both Mississippi and Alabama) from both before and after Hurricane Katrina and will illustrate how major storms change coastal landscape (with some inland areas also included for a comparative study)

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/>

Confirmed

**NOAA Ocean Service Education**

Ocean Services Kits on pollution and estuaries will provide useful background content regarding watershed pollution and estuarine ecology

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/>

Confirmed

**Wetland Education Through Maps and Aerial Photography**

The Mobile Site and the Lake Pontchartrain Northshore Site provide location background as well as maps and photos from the 1950s and 1990s that illustrate

<http://www.wetmaap.org>

Confirmed

**Green Map**

Teachers and students may take advantage of their mapping expertise to document energy use, degradation, stewardship efforts or otherwise share their efforts with the world via the internet.

[http://www.greenmap.org/greenhouse/participate/youth\\_intro](http://www.greenmap.org/greenhouse/participate/youth_intro).