

National Sea Grant Legal Network

Network Bylaws

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the National Sea Grant Legal Network (hereafter referred to as the Legal Network) is to raise awareness of Sea Grant’s law and policy programming; facilitate collaboration among those programs; and support Sea Grant law and policy efforts locally, regionally, and nationally.

Section 2. Function

- a. Represent the Sea Grant legal programs in relations with other organizational entities both within and outside of the Sea Grant network.
- b. Provide a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to Sea Grant and the legal programs.
- c. Support and encourage innovative law and policy programming at all levels, including regional efforts, and increase cooperative programming within the Sea Grant Extension Network.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1. Members

- a. **Core Members:** The recognized law and policy programs within the Sea Grant network. There are five law and policy programs: National Sea Grant Law Center, Louisiana Sea Grant Law and Policy Program, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program, North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, and Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program.
- b. **Associate Members:** Include any individual with a J.D. degree that is employed or funded full-time by a Sea Grant program and working in an extension capacity and non-Sea Grant law and policy programs or personnel that receive on-going Sea Grant funding support.

Section 2. Quorum and Voting

Two-thirds of members participating in any meeting of the Legal Network shall constitute a quorum. Participation via electronic means such as telephone or video conferencing shall constitute participation for the purposes of voting and establishing a quorum. Each matter shall be decided by the majority vote of those participating.

ARTICLE III – LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Chair

The position of Chair of the Legal Network rotates among the Directors of the Core Members. The Chair may be either the Director of the Core Member program or the Director's designee. The designee must be a staff member of the Core Member program and have a J.D. degree. The rotation schedule is as follows: National Sea Grant Law Center, Louisiana Sea Grant Law and Policy Program, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program, North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, and Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. If a Program's Director is unable to fulfill the duties required of the Chair during that Program's term in the rotation, the position of chair passes to the next Program.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings and conference calls of the Legal Network and serve as the Legal Network's liaison to the Sea Grant Association (SGA), the Sea Grant Assembly, and other Sea Grant networks. The Chair also will serve as a member of the SGA's Network Advisory Council and serve as a non-voting member of the SGA's Program Mission Committee. These duties will require, at a minimum, attendance at the two yearly SGA meetings.

Section 2. Vice-Chair

The position of Vice-Chair of the Legal Network rotates among the Directors of the Core Members or their designees. The Vice-Chair shall be the Director of the Program next in line to assume the duties of Chair. If the Director of a Core Member is unable to fulfill the duties required of the Vice-Chair or is unable to appoint a designee, then the position of Vice-Chair passes to the next Core Program Director in the rotation.

The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and serve as the assistant to the Chair in his/her efforts for the good of the Legal Network.

Section 3. Secretary

The Chair shall appoint a Secretary at the beginning of his/her term of office. Any individual attorney working for Core or Associate Member may be appointed to the position of Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of Legal Network meetings; maintaining the Legal Network membership roll and other records; and scheduling conference calls and sending notices of meetings, etc. to Legal Network members.

Section 4. Terms of Office

The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary each serve a two-year term, which begins on January 1. In the event that a Chair resigns his/her Program position during his/her term of office, the position of Chair may pass to his/her Program successor, the Vice-Chair, or the membership may vote to appoint a temporary chair for the remainder of the Chair's term.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 1. Quarterly Conference Calls

The Legal Network shall meet quarterly via teleconference. The purpose of the conference calls is to provide members with updates from the Chair and members and attend to any business items.

Section 2. Network Meetings

The Legal Network shall meet every two years in conjunction with Sea Grant Week and may meet during the off-years in between Sea Grant Week. The purpose of these meetings is to increase awareness of the Legal Network and its activities and to discuss network business. As part of its meetings at Sea Grant Week, the Legal Network shall organize and host a legal panel, when feasible, to be included in the Sea Grant Week agenda.

ARTICLE V – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Legal Network in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Legal Network may adopt.

ARTICLE VI – BYLAWS CHANGES

Section 1. Amendments.

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of members at any Legal Network meeting, teleconference, or via email providing that written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting or the vote. The notice shall include the complete text of the amendment.

Section 2. Effective Date of Amendments.

Amendments to these by-laws shall take effect at the adjournment of the meeting or at the completion of the email vote at which they are adopted unless otherwise provided.