

# Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

## **Graduate Program in Marine Sciences & Limnology PhD Oceanography College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences AYs 2016/17 & 2017/18**

Submitted by: Mark Johnson  
Contact Information: [majohnson@alaska.edu](mailto:majohnson@alaska.edu), -6933  
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### **1. Assessment information collected**

1. Comprehensive examinations
2. Audience evaluations of oral thesis defense, with rankings on a scale of 1-5 (1 being excellent, 5 being poor)
3. Review of graduate theses by Program Chair (rankings: Acceptable, Good, Very good, Outstanding)
4. Presentations and publications by graduates
5. First employment of graduates
6. Exit interview questionnaires collected from graduates to assess satisfaction with program and educational outcomes (rankings: not satisfied, mostly satisfied, very satisfied)

### **2. Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above**

We will continue with the Department Chair evaluations of the written dissertations as this has proved helpful. Exit interviews suggest we should increase the number of seminar course offerings, and steps are underway to do this, including hiring of new faculty.

### **3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above**

Students generally are satisfied with the program, produce publishable-quality dissertations or publish papers that lead to dissertations, and go on to find employment. Enrollment is low in the Oceanography PhD program. Faculty continue to be encouraged to recruit and admit additional students to the program. Plans have been discussed to pursue sources of funding that would support graduate student fellowships and assist with new-student recruiting, but budget constraints and departmental

restructuring have impacted and/or delayed some of these efforts. In addition, seminar offerings are encouraged particularly by new faculty still in the process of developing courses, as this is a common complaint.

**4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting**

The Department Chair is responsible for completing dissertation evaluation forms and reviewing exit interviews. Defense attendees are invited to complete defense evaluations. CFOS has recently completed an organizational restructuring, and the current Chair is leading a search for new faculty which will broaden the faculty and is expected to increase student enrollment.

**5. Has your SLOA plan been updated to include assessment of the program's Communication Plan, as required by Faculty Senate motion? (required for baccalaureate programs only)**

I believe it has been updated.