Program Review Final Report

for

Marine Technology

Submitted to

Dr. Eric McKeithan, President (and serving as interim Vice President of Instruction)

by

Program Review Committee Chair:
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education

Program Review Team:
Jason Rogers, Marine Department Chair
Dr. Barbara Hanson, Vice President of Instruction
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Regina McBarron, Allied Health Department Chair
Matthew Thomas, Career and Job Placement Specialist

Signatures:

Lead Instructor: 

Instructional Dean: 


I. List of Team Members

Jason Rogers, Marine Department Chair
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education
Dr. Barbara Hanson, Vice President of Instruction
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Regina McBarron, Allied Health Department Chair
Matthew Thomas, Career and Job Placement Specialist

II. Analysis of Results:

A. Strengths

Marine Technology is one of our signature programs at CFCC and is extremely well known and respected because of program quality, and the rarity and uniqueness of the program.

Enrollment has increased steadily.

Graduation rate is steady.

Instructors are enthusiastic, professional, knowledgeable, and work as a team and are involved in numerous professional development activities to stay current in the field.

Excellent safety record of student voyages on the RV Dan Moore.

Good employment rate of graduates.

The Advisory Committee is very active and supportive of the program.

On the Graduating Student Opinion Survey, 100% of graduates responding to the question indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the program.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, 98% of responding students indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction, the hands-on ship experience and the overall program.

B. Weaknesses
Weak economy and budget constraints may affect program because of cost of operating the research vessels in the program.

Students need more exposure to marine electronics within the program.

Computers in lab need to be updated in order to run GIS software without crashing repeatedly. Budget constraints may limit the ability to purchase the computers in the next budget cycle.

The RV Dan Moore is outdated and needs to be replaced.

It is hard to keep up with evolving instrumentation on the RV Dan Moore because of the age of the wiring on the ship.

The aging wiring could be a fire hazard for the ship.

C. Opportunities

Most of the program objectives in Strategic Planning on Line (SPOL) demonstrate skills students should be learning. Assessment for the objectives should be made by individuals other than the instructor responsible for the outcome.

If the program could acquire a Mass Spectrometer, in conjunction with Chemistry Technology, more types of tests in the water analysis class, such as testing for heavy metals, could be run enhancing the student’s exposure to current technology and employability.

The program is not currently accredited by an outside accrediting body. However it would benefit the program to have the water analysis lab meet EPA certifications to possibility facilitate collaboration with water quality researchers at UNCW.

Threats

The RV Dan Moore is aging and could compromise the safety of students if funds are not readily available for maintenance and upkeep.

Funding challenges could prevent the purchase of a new or more up-to-date research vessel for the program.

Budget constraints will likely prevent the purchase of new, updated equipment for the program in the next budget year.

III. Committee Recommendations

The team recommended that the college:
Continue program with the following recommendations.

Continue efforts to secure funds to replace the RV Dan Moore.

Collaborate with Chemical Technology and investigate the requirements for EPA certifications of the shared water analysis lab.

Submit requests for equipment needs, Mass Spectrometer and lab computers, during the annual budget process.

Evaluate the content and applicability of Marine Electronics for students.

Focus of objectives in SPOL should be on Student Learning Outcomes rather than focusing on demonstration of skills.

Program director is commended for his professionalism, program leadership and participation in professional development activities to stay current in his field.

Review again in five years.