



Sustainable Coastal Tourism

Linking Conservation, Culture, and Commerce

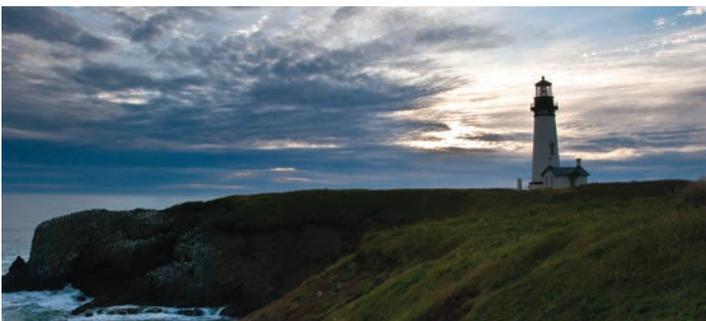
Tourism is ranked within the top three contributors to the economic growth and development of *every state* in the U.S. The unique natural settings and human-made attractions of coastal states, in particular, attract tens of millions of visitors annually to our nation’s coastlines. Tourism’s contribution to jobs, tax revenues, and local communities is undeniably significant.

At the same time, the “footprints” of tourism are increasingly apparent. From energy and water

consumption to degradation of coastal habitats to impacts on local cultural traditions, the visitor industry is recognized as a key sector to achieving the long-term sustainability of America’s coasts.

Sea Grant programs nationwide continue to address coastal tourism and associated effects on coastal residents and environments. Sea Grant works with coastal communities, the visitor industry, and other stakeholders to foster sustainable coastal development while seeking preservation of our natural capital and maritime and cultural heritage.

Sea Grant is the “go-to” organization for science-based information and community outreach related to all aspects of coastal tourism



Sea Grant Highlights: Sustainable Coastal Tourism

Climate Change & Natural Hazards

- Hawai‘i Sea Grant is assessing potential sector-based impacts of climate change on Hawai‘i’s visitor industry through research and targeted stakeholder interviews.
- Delaware Sea Grant is conducting a study on *Tourism Resilience: how coastal communities can respond, recover, and adapt to natural hazards and climate change.*



Sustainable Coastal Development and Economies

- Ohio Sea Grant and the Ohio Travel Association lead the *Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy* for emerging leaders to increase understanding of the tourism-environment-economy nexus. Within three years of academy graduation, 85 percent of graduates seek leadership positions in the tourism sector.
- Florida Sea Grant supports the science and technical assistance required for the state’s artificial reef efforts and has done so for over 30 years. Fishing and diving on Florida’s reefs are a strong local economic driver, annually providing tens of thousands of jobs, billions in economic activity and income, and about \$250 million in state revenues.

Natural Resources & Maritime Heritage

- Maine Sea Grant’s *Downeast Fisheries Heritage Trail* links 40 sites to educate visitors and residents alike about the region’s important historical and contemporary fisheries.
- New York Sea Grant’s traveling exhibits, “Great Shipwrecks of NY’s ‘Great Lakes’” and “Discover Clean and Safe Boating” educate boaters and tourists in NY, PA, and VT. The shipwrecks displays have reached over 750,000 visitors in three years, and since 2008, the boating campaign has educated over 650,000 boaters.
- Oregon Sea Grant showcases Oregon’s working waterfronts through a series of 16 videos.

What is Sea Grant?

Advisory & Extension Services • Applied Research • Workforce Training • Education

Sea Grant is a federal-state-university partnership that transitions research into practice through unbiased extension and advisory services, education programs, and other community and industry engagement. Sea Grant programs are housed within our nation’s universities and located in coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Sea Grant is a “good buy.” Nationally, Sea Grant provides a 475 percent return on federal investment in areas of critical need: coastal community hazard resilience, sustainable coastal development and economies, environmental stewardship, and fisheries and aquaculture, among others.

Sea Grant is training the next generation of our nation’s natural and social scientists with hands-on research opportunities, fellowships, and “real-world” trans-disciplinary professional extension engagement, on- and off-campus.



For more information, please contact Hawai'i Sea Grant: seagrant@hawaii.edu; (808) 956-7031; <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu>