



CONNECTICUT SEA GRANT



February 2018

Connecticut Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Connecticut-Avery Point.



Aquaculture Extension Specialist Tessa Getchis, right, examines seed oysters grown in the Mystic River with Jill Plant of Connecticut Cultured Oysters. Credit: Judy Benson, Connecticut Sea Grant

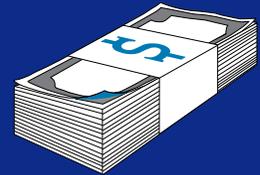
Oyster company applies Connecticut Sea Grant research to stabilize annual seed supply

Most Connecticut shellfish farms rely on natural oyster beds for seed which are transplanted to leased beds for grow-out. Natural seed availability, however, can be unpredictable year to year. Connecticut Sea Grant research on remote setting techniques for oysters was applied by a Connecticut shellfish company as a means for stabilizing the amount of new oyster seed available for planting annually. The company has high hopes that their new commercial scale hatchery will be a consistent and reliable source of seed to use on their oyster beds.

seagrant.uconn.edu

\$2.4 M

Economic benefit



50

Businesses created or sustained

280

Seafood professionals trained to adopt safe and sustainable harvest practices



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Connecticut Sea Grant responds to urgent request for commercial fishing safety and survival training refresher



Fishermen practice safety and survival training at a course offered by Connecticut Sea Grant in the spring of 2016. Credit: Nancy Balcom, Connecticut Sea Grant

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 In March 2016, three Connecticut commercial fishermen abandoned ship due to fire. After the fire, another fishermen asked Connecticut Sea Grant to coordinate refresher training courses since the private business conducting training courses had not been in operation since 2014. In less than a month, Connecticut Sea Grant coordinated safety and survival training opportunities for 49 commercial fishermen in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, Fishing Partnership Support Services in Massachusetts and the local fishing community. Twenty-four fishermen returned for a second day to become certified Drill Conductors to comply with Coast Guard regulations.

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“On behalf of the industry a heartfelt thanks for all of [Sea Grant’s] efforts. It was very important to us for this to be a success and the results were overwhelming. Not only did we all receive much needed training, but I have to say, it was a good time.”

- Mike Theiler, owner of the F/V Jeanette T.

Promoting Safe Seafood Handling



A Connecticut and Rhode Island Sea Grant partnership offers annual training courses in the application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles to the safe processing of seafood. In 2016, 59 individuals completed the Sea Grant training courses, retaining 40 businesses and 57 jobs. Eighteen high school students also completed the course as a School-to-Career training opportunity.

Standardizing Storm Briefings using Social Science



As part of the Coastal Storm Awareness Program, the New Jersey, New York and Connecticut Sea Grant Programs supported a social science research initiative. The initiative assessed NOAA National Weather Service storm briefing materials and suggested improvements that resulted in a new briefing template, which was adopted by all Eastern Region Weather Forecasting Offices in 2016.

Using Rain Gardens to Treat Stormwater



Connecticut Sea Grant educates landscape professionals, municipal officials, homeowners and students about the effectiveness of rain gardens as a way to limit the harmful effects of stormwater runoff. Connecticut Sea Grant training prompted the installation of two new rain gardens in 2016. Rain gardens across the state collectively treat about 2.15 million gallons of stormwater annually.