A SMART INVESTMENT IN OUR COASTAL ECONOMY

Fall 2020

For over 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension and education.

34
University-based programs

998
businesses created or sustained

10,400
jobs created or sustained

1,825,793
Acres of habitat restored or protected

Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.

252,047
Volunteer hours

In 2019, a federal investment in Sea Grant of $89.1 million resulted in

$412.1M
ECONOMIC BENEFIT

1,224
Resilience training events provided to communities

897,729
K-12 students reached

646 SEA GRANT EXTENSION AGENTS*
are stationed in communities across the country to advance understanding of coastal and fisheries science for communities and economies that are more resilient.

Metrics are direct results of Sea Grant work between February 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020 as reported by Sea Grant programs in Summer 2020. Economic benefit = market and non-market value of Sea Grant's work; value of jobs and businesses ($316.1M) as well as total leveraged funds ($89.1M) and value of volunteer hours ($6.9M).

Photo credits: Virginia Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Georgia Sea Grant
*Extension agents refers to total number of Sea Grant-affiliatedextension agents. Sea Grant extension full-time equivalents = 250.

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

12,950

People modified practices based on knowledge of fisheries sustainability and seafood safety gained in Sea Grant activities

Sea Grant work on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture includes: advancing aquaculture through research and informing regulation, sustaining wild fisheries through research to test new catch strategies, listening and responding to needs of fishing communities, and training young fishermen and aquaculture professionals such as through Maine Sea Grant's Aquaculture in Shared Waters training program.

2,074

Seafood HACCP safety certifications as a result of Sea Grant training

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Sea Grant work on healthy coastal ecosystems includes: research to understand ecosystem change and test new recovery techniques, identifying and testing new methods to mitigate water pollution sources, guidance and expertise on planning and management, and monitoring and habitat restoration efforts, such as California Sea Grant's restoration work with partners and citizen science programs to remove trash and invasive species and plant native species in the San Diego Canyon.

3,993

Resource managers used ecosystem-based approaches to management as a result of Sea Grant's work

Resilient Communities and Economies

Sea Grant work on resilient communities and economies includes: long-term community planning, climate and ecological research, social science research to communicate more effectively, increasing access to existing tools, helping communities identify needs and solutions, and disaster recovery, such as Louisiana Sea Grant's partnership with FEMA and others to strategize optimal paths to flooding recovery and future damage prevention with affected communities.

263 Communities improved resilience

Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development

Sea Grant work to advance environmental literacy and workforce development includes: fellowship opportunities, on-the-job training, support for undergraduate and graduate research, experiential education programs, educational tourism programs, and teacher training workshops, such as the Shipboard Science workshop which provides teachers with hands-on Great Lakes science experience aboard a research vessel. The workshop is organized by seven Sea Grant programs and supported by several partners.

1,982

Undergraduate and graduate students supported