Sea Grant support leads to 300% growth in aquaculture industry

The Connecticut shellfish industry generates over $30 million annually. Forty-six licensed harvesters work the 70,000 acres of shellfish grounds under cultivation in Connecticut’s coastal waters. Connecticut Sea Grant routinely provides services to prospective shellfish and seaweed farmers such as business planning, permitting assistance, and training. In the past two years, this assistance has contributed to an additional seven new or prospective businesses in southeastern Connecticut, augmenting the aquaculture industry in this region of the state. seagrant.uconn.edu/focus-areas/aquaculture
“Since 1997, Sea Grant Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training has been an integral step to ensure a safe seafood supply in the U.S.”
- Dr. Jim Murray, Current member of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board

Sea Grant trains 90 professionals in seafood processing; economic impact exceeds $2.3 million

From 2015-2016, Connecticut and Rhode Island Sea Grant programs worked together to provide Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) seafood processing training to 90 processors and state and federal regulators from Maine to Texas. HACCP Safety Training is necessary for workers in the retail, service and processing industries who handle seafood products for consumers.

Up to 35 businesses and 55 jobs were retained, equating to an economic impact exceeding $2.3 million. In addition, 17 senior aquaculture high school students from New Haven and Wallingford, CT also completed the standardized HACCP course as a School-to-Career training opportunity. seagrant.uconn.edu/focus-areas/sustainable-fisheries/seafood-safety

Rain gardens divert and clean 1.76 million gallons of stormwater annually

Connecticut Sea Grant training prompted the installation of three new raingardens in 2015, adding to the total area of 12,520 square feet of raingardens across the state. In an average year, these raingardens collectively treat about 208,421 gallons of 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. When it rains, runoff from rainwater carries pollutants into any nearby stream, river, lake, or ocean. Rain gardens collect water from rooftops, yards or driveways which can minimize the amount of pollution that would otherwise enter nearby bodies of water. Rain gardens can also reduce street flooding which can cause damage to nearby properties or limit access to local businesses. nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm

Contact information
Sylvain De Guise, PhD. Director, Connecticut Sea Grant, sylvain.deguise@uconn.edu, Office: (860) 405-9138