



Delaware SEA GRANT



February 2019

Delaware Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment.



The Broad Creek waterfront of Laurel, Delaware, a community that Delaware Sea Grant has helped rehabilitate. Credit: Delaware Sea Grant

Delaware Sea Grant helps revitalize a local town

The populations of towns in Delaware are growing rapidly, which has led to challenges associated with housing and protection of natural resources. The town of Laurel, Delaware is one such town bursting with economic potential, but low incomes and vacant buildings limit Laurel's growth. Delaware Sea Grant helped the Laurel Redevelopment Corporation (LRC) obtain a \$500,000 grant for construction of four homes and rehabilitation of six others along Laurel's waterfront. They also helped LRC write a plan to transform Laurel into a thriving community.

deseagrant.org

9,295

people engaged in Sea Grant supported informal education programs



11,664

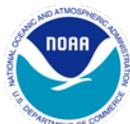
K-12 Students reached

2,340

volunteer hours



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2018 for work completed Feb 2017 to Jan 2018



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Delaware Sea Grant supports a growing shellfish aquaculture industry



INLAND BAYS OYSTERS A Southern Delaware delicacy.

Delaware Sea Grant developed branding to build the market for locally-raised Inland Bays Oysters. Credit: Delaware Sea Grant

Delaware’s shellfish aquaculture industry officially launched in 2018 with the first farmed oysters sold to the public, and industry stakeholders need assistance to succeed. Shellfish growers need technical support and help with interpretation of regulations. Restaurant owners can increase the demand for locally farm-raised shellfish but need marketing assistance and would benefit from consumer outreach. Delaware Sea Grant is addressing these needs by providing technical training workshops and one-on-one assistance for aquaculture farmers. In addition, they are building the market by launching the brand “Inland Bays Oysters--A Southern Delaware delicacy” and offering educational programs.

<https://www.deseagrant.org/oyster-aquaculture>

“Part of what we’re doing...is trying to encourage [the] oyster industry to come back again and be a natural[ly] reoccurring resource...Sea Grant has played a critical role”

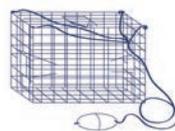
-Dr. Kent Messer, Director of the University of Delaware’s Center for Experimental & Applied Economics and Sea Grant-funded researcher

Protecting communities from future flooding events



Delaware’s inland bays are popular destinations for recreation. The inland bays are normally protected by a strip of beach between the bay and the ocean, but during severe storms the inland bays often flood. Delaware Sea Grant developed a new model to better predict inland bay flooding, which they shared with the Army Corps of Engineers in hopes of improving emergency planning during flooding events.

Protecting marine life



Lost fishing gear is a danger to marine life, which often fall victim to lost crab traps. They die there and attract other marine life, which themselves become trapped. Together with University of Delaware’s Robotic Discovery Laboratories, Delaware Sea Grant tested side-scan sonar to locate derelict traps. Additional research and clean-up efforts are anticipated in 2019 and 2020.

Evaluating microplastic pollution



Microplastics are a potentially harmful new pollutant in aquatic systems. For resource managers to make decisions regarding microplastic pollution, they need to know where microplastics may be a threat. Delaware Sea Grant funded research that produced the first report on the distribution of microplastics in Delaware Bay, which will inform water quality regulators and future research.