GEORGIA SEA GRANT

$115 M
economic impact in 2015

Metrics reported to National Office in June 2016 for work completed Feb 2015 to Jan 2016.

RETURN ON FEDERAL INVESTMENT

14,398 K-12 students reached

12,000 Jobs created or sustained

31 Businesses created or sustained

311,732 Workshop and conference participants

2,000 Acres of coastal habitat protected or restored

Oyster hatchery on track to produce $3M in market value annually

"[Sea Grant has] been really helpful in advising everybody on how to do it. Providing the seed was a big incentive to try to make it work and those guys did a lot of testing beforehand to see what works best."
- John Pelli,
Owner of Savannah Clam Company

Through an effort to reduce pressure on capture fisheries and expand aquaculture in the state, Georgia Sea Grant extension specialists created a program that introduces local fishermen to sustainable oyster aquaculture practices. Ten shellfish farmers were provided a stable supply of oyster spat as well as technical guidance for the sustainable harvest of single oysters. In 2016, these farmers produced 500,000 - 750,000 oysters with an estimated value of $100,000 - $280,000. At full capacity, the hatchery will produce 15 million spat, with a value of $3 million.
gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/programs/oyster-hatchery

Jason Evans studies flood patterns on the only access road to Tybee Island.
Credit: Georgia Sea Grant

"One of the key successes of this plan has been engaging the local knowledge that residents and community leaders already have in managing flooding...With this foundation, we simply assisted the island in anticipating future challenges and opportunities.

- Jason Evans,
Assistant professor at Stetson University

Sea Grant helps Tybee Island residents save $3M in flood insurance

As a low-lying barrier island, Tybee Island is already vulnerable to frequent and widespread flooding. The beach community has experienced 10 inches of sea-level rise since 1935. Georgia Sea Grant assessed how coastal flooding risks in the City of Tybee Island are being exacerbated by sea-level rise and explored potential adaptation actions for making the city more resilient over time.

The Tybee Island Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan was formed from Georgia Sea Grant's assessment and directly impacted the economy of Tybee Island by helping to improve the City's rating under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS). During the planning process, Tybee Island went from a class 7 to 5 in CRS, enabling savings in flood insurance of $3 million for property owners on the island. The planning project received Sea Grant's highest national outreach award and was featured as a case study in the federal government's U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. **gacoast.uga.edu/research/major-projects/sea-level-rise**

Scientists and fishermen team up to find solutions to shrimp black gill

Many Georgia shrimpers believe that black gill, a condition caused by a microscopic parasite that lives in shrimp gills, is responsible for reduced harvest in recent years. Black gill does not change the taste of the shrimp and is not harmful to humans, but it does seem to impact shrimp endurance making them more susceptible to predators.

Gerogia Sea Grant funded researchers at the University of Georgia to explore possible causes and impacts of black gill. A smartphone app was developed so shrimp fishermen could help document the extent of black gill throughout Georgia waters, providing scientists a more detailed picture of the prevalence and distribution of black gill. Fishermen and resource managers are anxious to solve this problem because shrimp is Georgia's most economically viable fishery, worth ~$14 million annually. **gacoast.uga.edu/research/major-projects/black-gill**

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