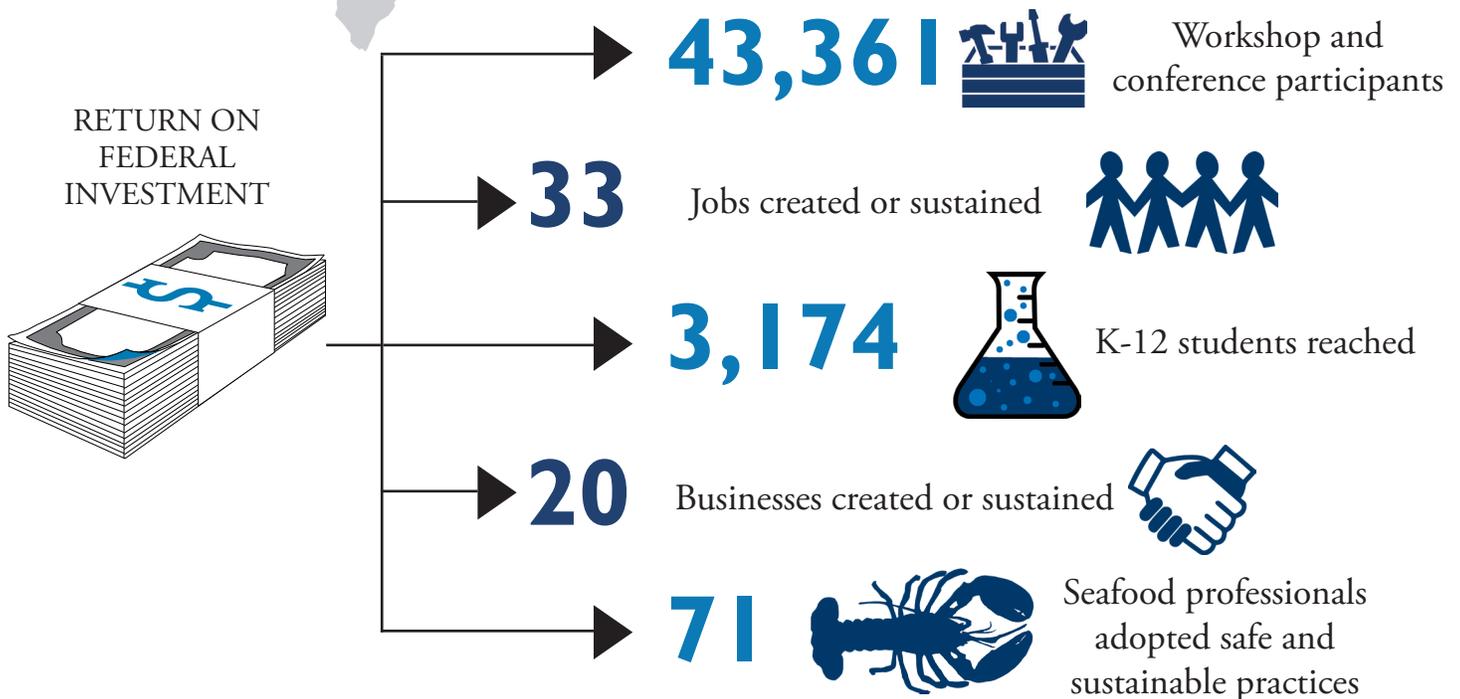


# MAINE SEA GRANT

**\$20.5M**  
economic impact in 2015

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



## Sea Grant helps advance an emerging seaweed aquaculture industry

**“With Sea Grant, there’s this repository of knowledge and extension staff. Sea Grant was essential to the birth of the seaweed aquaculture industry in Maine.”**

- Paul Dobbins,  
Ocean Approved

Sea Grant provides essential support to help grow Maine’s seaweed aquaculture industry. In the last four years, Sea Grant helped start the first commercial kelp farm in the U.S. in Casco Bay, provided technical assistance to wild harvest companies, and supported seven new seaweed farms along the coast. In 2015, Maine Sea Grant guidance led to the first certified organic sea vegetable aquaculture farm in Maine, which allows organic seaweed companies to incorporate farmed product into their market.

[seagrant.umaine.edu/research/projects/sea-vegetable-aquaculture](http://seagrant.umaine.edu/research/projects/sea-vegetable-aquaculture)



Sea Grant provides valuable support for the Maine lobster industry. Credit: Maine Sea Grant

**“Sea Grant investment in applied research has contributed directly to lobster management in Maine and New England.”**

- Carl Wilson,

Director of the Maine Department of Marine Resources,  
Bureau of Marine Science

## **Sea Grant workshop helps keep family business alive**

Waterfront property owners in Maine are faced with escalating property taxes that are difficult for fishing families to afford, resulting in property being converted to uses that do not support traditional working waterfront industries. Family-owned lobster fisheries have particularly struggled due to a collapse in lobster prices.

Maine Sea Grant has been addressing working waterfront and coastal access issues for nearly two decades. After attending Sea Grant workshops, third-generation fishermen Wayne and Robert Davis received funds from the state’s Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program to preserve their family’s 0.57 acre property “Davis Wharf.” Davis Wharf is the last full-service family-owned fishing wharf on Mount Desert Island, ME and currently supports eight commercial fishermen, with the potential to benefit four more in the future.

[seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-access-and-working-waterfronts](http://seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-access-and-working-waterfronts)

## **Sea Grant helps York County sustain its \$1.6 billion tourism industry**

Maine’s coastal tourism industry contributes \$2.5 billion annually to the regional economy. In York County alone, the Maine Office of Tourism estimated over 11.5 million visitors to coastal beaches in 2014, contributing over \$1.6 billion to local economies. Elevated fecal bacteria levels occur during and following rainfall events, which hurt local tourism economies by limiting beach access due to public health concerns.

Maine Sea Grant has worked with community members in York County to identify, eliminate and prevent pollution sources. In 2015, a site-specific, weather-based model was developed for York’s beaches that resulted in precautionary rainfall advisories. Additionally, York retained a Shoreland Resource Officer position to continue improving the quality and management of stormwater.

[mainehealthybeaches.org](http://mainehealthybeaches.org)



### Contact information

Beth Bisson, Interim Director, Maine Sea Grant,  
[beth.bisson@maine.edu](mailto:beth.bisson@maine.edu), Office: (207) 581-1440