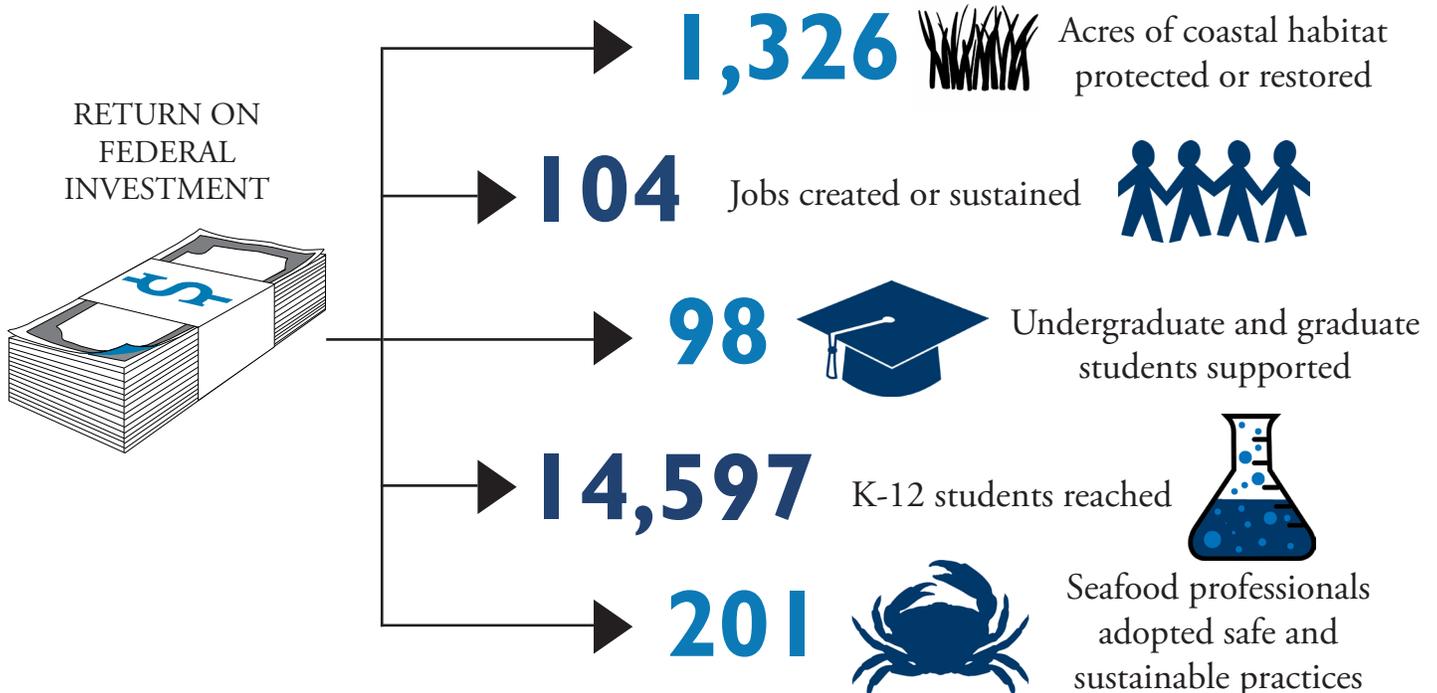


# NORTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT

**\$3.2M**  
economic impact in 2015

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



## Sea Grant investments offer 5:1 return

**“Minigrants allow us to identify and investigate a wide spectrum of emerging issues. We rapidly respond to needs in our coastal communities as well as from partners statewide.”**

- Susan White,  
North Carolina Sea Grant Director

Small investments can offer big payoffs. In 2015, North Carolina Sea Grant’s minigrant program provided more than a 5:1 return on investment. Approximately \$182,000 in grants were distributed to researchers and businesses with an over \$1 million return on investment in leveraged funds. Projects addressed critical needs for coastal economics, aquaculture expansion, fisheries, public health, sustainable land-use, and response to extreme weather.  
[ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/minigrants](http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/minigrants)



NC's oyster aquaculture industry is growing to serve local businesses. Credit: Vanda Lewis

**“Working with growers, we underscore the economic value of oysters not only as food but also for ecosystem benefits. We then share those messages in programs with high-school students and teachers as we develop a career pipeline.”**

**- Jane Harrison,  
North Carolina Sea Grant Coastal Economist**

## **Expanding oyster aquaculture benefits economy and environment**

The North Carolina oyster industry is a major economic resource for the state with an estimated value of \$4.54 million for wild oyster harvest and net value of \$450,000 for aquacultured oysters. North Carolina Sea Grant and partners lead efforts to explain the economic and environmental benefits of shellfish, which include improved water quality and habitat.

A major hurdle for oyster aquaculture and reef restoration alike is the carbonate-boring sponge that limits reef growth. North Carolina Sea Grant supported a research team, consisting of a university scientist and a local fisherman, that developed a biodegradable substrate to promote oyster growth while limiting sponges and other oyster enemies. The team's new business is drawing international attention for its sustainable technology and fast-growing oysters. [ncseagrants.ncsu.edu/oysters](http://ncseagrants.ncsu.edu/oysters)

## **Sea Grant saves consumers \$1M in annual insurance premiums**

Consumers win when construction practices increase protection from flood damage that in turn reduces insurance policy costs. North Carolina Sea Grant informed updates to the state building code to reduce wind and water damage from hurricanes, floods and other severe storms, and to improve community resilience and understanding of insurance rating systems. These updates save about \$1 million annually for policyholders in eligible North Carolina towns, cities and counties. [ncseagrants.ncsu.edu/coastal-construction](http://ncseagrants.ncsu.edu/coastal-construction)



### Contact information

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