

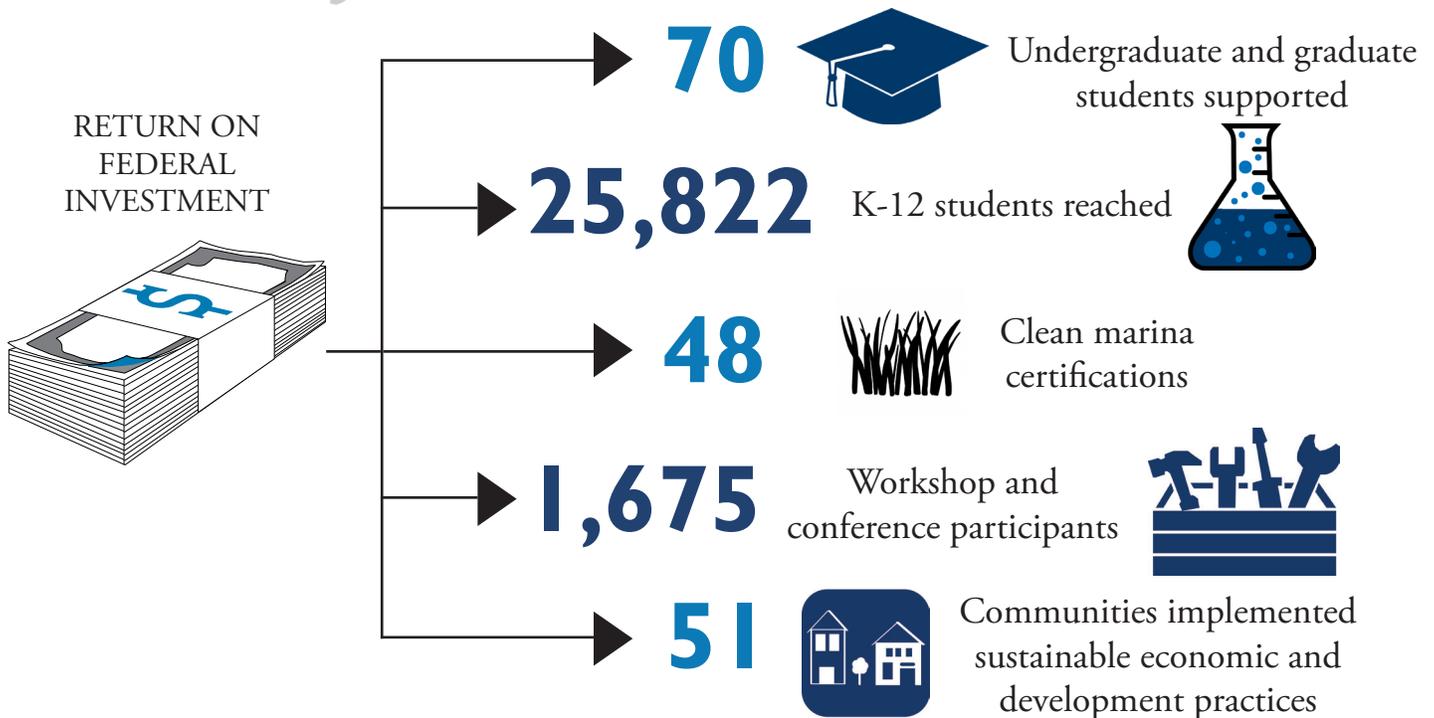
NEW JERSEY

SEA GRANT

CONSORTIUM

\$500,000
economic impact in 2015

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



Sea Grant prevents sewage discharges in coastal waters

“There were 151,672 registered vessels in 2015... Fortunately, [New Jersey Sea Grant] helps boaters take steps to minimize their impact on water quality.”
- Michael Danko,
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

Sewage discharges from recreational boats impact water quality and diminish both recreational and commercial use of New Jersey’s ocean and estuarine waterways. Pumpout stations located at marinas have the potential to greatly reduce sewage discharges, however, more than half of New Jersey’s existing stations were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. New Jersey Sea Grant partnered with federal, state and local agencies to rebuild more than 50% of the damaged stations. During the 2015 boating season, about 600,000 gallons of sewage were collected and properly disposed of at marinas and pumpout facilities.
njseagrant.org/extension/recreational-fishing

Sea Grant brings coastal stability to life



Volunteers aid living shoreline project by relocating oyster spat for reef growth.
Credit: New Jersey Sea Grant

New Jersey Sea Grant was a major partner in drafting a set of engineering guidelines to assist 15 communities and their consultants in designing living shorelines projects. Living shorelines stabilize eroding coasts using living elements, like seagrass and oyster reefs, to provide storm protection benefits and sustain ecosystem integrity. In 2015, New Jersey Sea Grant helped develop a web-based visualization tool to provide technical guidance to communities pursuing living shoreline projects. Approximately 7.9 million people live within the coastal counties of New Jersey, and so living shorelines help protect these communities by mitigating damage from coastal hazards, in addition to providing important ecosystem services, such as flood control, stormwater filtration and serving as critical habitat for endangered and migratory species. njseagrant.org/extension/coastal-concerns

Sea Grant identifies steps to minimize risk of disease in oyster farms

Oyster farming is a \$300 million-plus industry in the U.S. supporting thousands of small farms and sustainable green jobs in rural areas. New Jersey's oyster farms are concentrated on the intertidal sand flats of the lower Delaware Bay where they are exposed to direct sunlight during low tide. Studies in the Pacific Northwest showed that this exposure increases the risk of harmful levels of vibrio bacteria in oysters posing a potential threat to human health. For oysters in New Jersey waters, this does not appear to be the case. A New Jersey Sea Grant research project studied the presence and abundance of harmful and non-harmful vibrio in aquacultured oysters. Unlike the results from the Pacific Northwest, levels of harmful vibrios did not differ between oysters constantly under water and those exposed to direct sunlight during low tide in New Jersey waters. This research shows that aquaculture practices vary regionally, and highlights the need for locally-relevant harvest and management methods to minimize the risk of vibrio illness in humans. njseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Vibrio-Bacteria-oysters-Bushek-3.pdf

“Science-based vibrio control measures [identified by New Jersey Sea Grant] are critically important to us to ensure that we are harvesting the highest quality and safest half shell oysters possible.”

- Betsy Haskin,

Sweet Amalia Oyster Farm, Cape May, NJ



Contact information

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