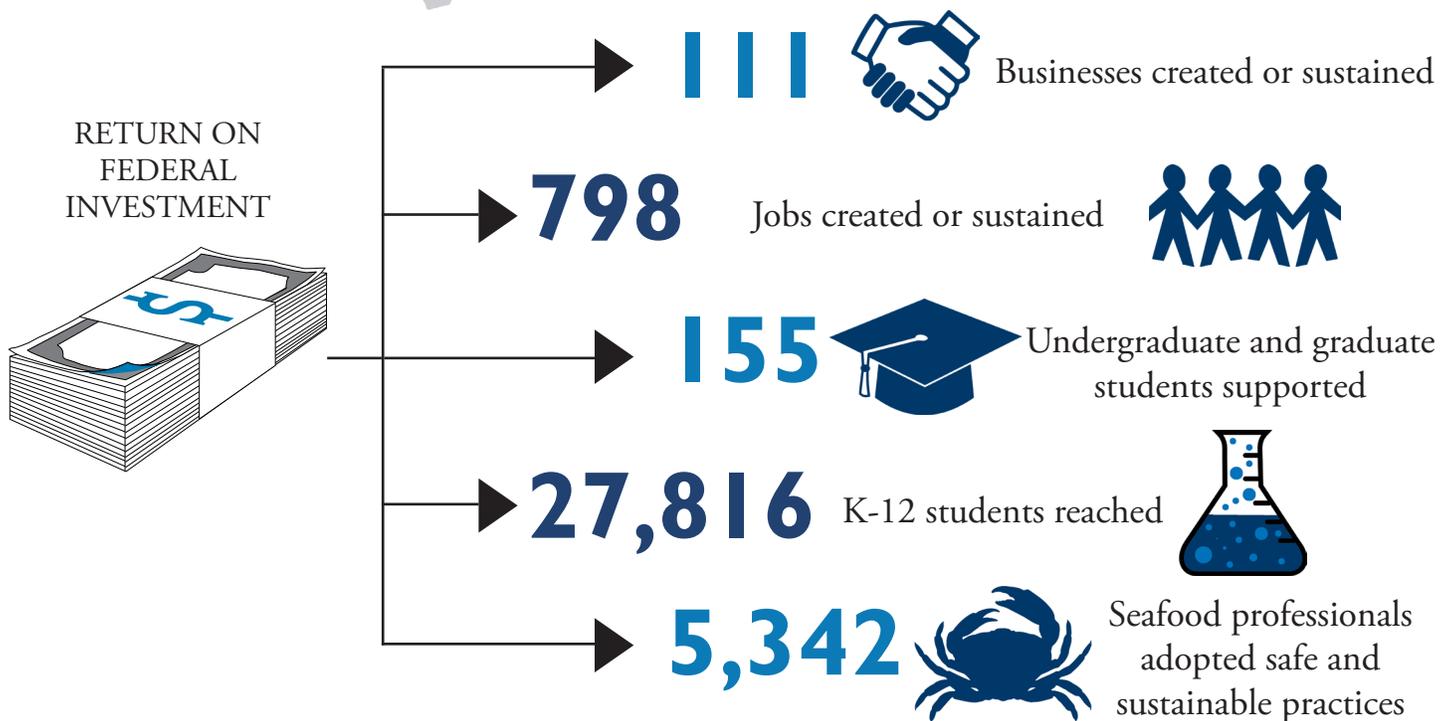


# OHIO SEA GRANT

**\$28.1 M**  
economic impact in 2015

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



## Ohio Sea Grant protects public health by ensuring access to safe drinking water

**“Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab have been invested in studying harmful algal blooms and related issues since the beginning, and will continue to do so until the problem is resolved once again.”**

- Dr. Christopher Winslow,  
Ohio Sea Grant director

In 2014, a harmful algal bloom left 500,000 residents in Toledo without drinking water. Ohio Sea Grant was one of the first to respond, performing testing for water treatment plants and supporting city officials managing the problem. Today, Ohio Sea Grant researchers are developing new ways to keep algal toxins out of drinking water, from early warning systems when blooms approach water intakes to new treatment methods that save cities money. A Sea Grant workshop on algal blooms has trained 227 people over the past five years, including a water treatment plant operator in Norwalk, who identified a harmful algal bloom in their reservoir and averted what could have been a serious problem.

[ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/issues/habs](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/issues/habs)



Ohio Sea Grant monitors water quality in Lake Erie. Credit: Ohio Sea Grant

**“We have learned new information about the lake and the quality of our water and fishery thanks to Ohio Sea Grant. We appreciate all of the work it does to educate the public about these important environmental issues. A lot of people rely on that data and information, and they come to the lake and fish accordingly.”**

- Dave Spangler,

Vice President of the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

## **Sea Grant trains emerging leaders to sustain an \$11 billion tourism industry**

Tourism is an \$11 billion industry along Lake Erie, making it a top economic driver in coastal communities. Travel industry leaders influence policy decisions and make strategic decisions to foster growth, protect coastal resources and influence change. Yet, tourism industry members reported a lack of confidence and access to information as a reason for not engaging in leadership opportunities.

Ohio Sea Grant partnered with the Ohio Travel Association on a leadership program for emerging tourism leaders. Participants included travel industry members, elected officials, state agency employees, suppliers, and economic development officials. The goal of the program was to create greater collaboration between groups to better understand the interdependence of tourism with the economy, environment and culture of communities. [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/issues](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/issues)

## **Ohio Sea Grant assists coastal communities in plans for business retention and growth**

Ohio Sea Grant partnered with Ohio State University Extension to lead a business retention and expansion program to help coastal communities assess current development needs and form an economic development strategy. Extension agents surveyed businesses in Oregon and Fremont, OH to identify plans and concerns regarding job retention and creation to aid business expansion.

From 2014-2015, surveys indicated that the retail and service sectors in Oregon, OH plan to retain up to 857 full-time jobs, and the industrial sector in Fremont, OH plans to retain up to 260 full-time jobs. Surveys also reported plans to create up to 38 new full-time jobs between the two cities, which is estimated to produce about \$1.3 million in personal income for the local economy. Ohio Sea Grant will continue to work with these cities to retain and expand current business operations. [u.osu.edu/extensioncd/tag/business-retention-expansion](http://u.osu.edu/extensioncd/tag/business-retention-expansion)



### Contact information

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