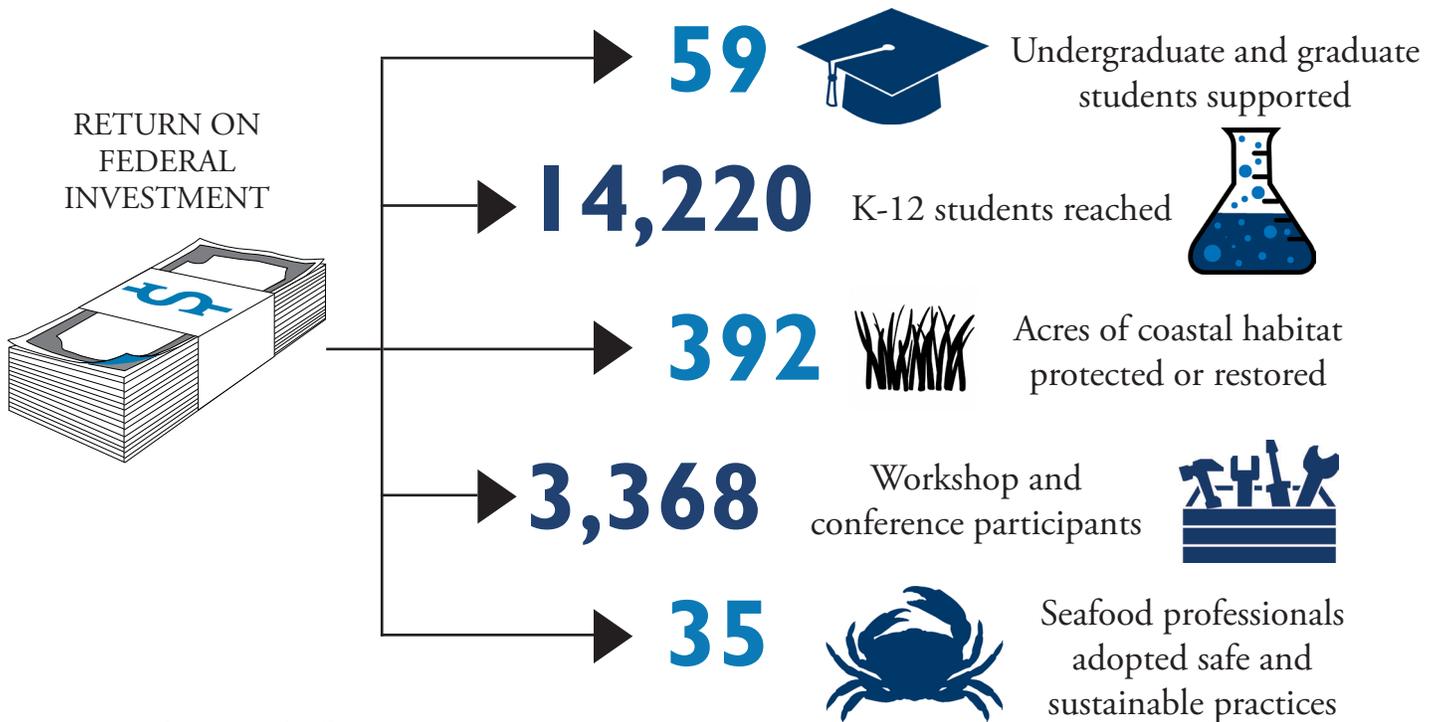


PUERTO RICO SEA GRANT



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

Sea Grant partnership informs communities on coastal hazards

“We hope to help NOAA collaborators be more efficient and increase community resilience through educational efforts on coastal hazards.”

- Ruperto Chaparro,
Puerto Rico Sea Grant Director

Puerto Rico has 2.3 million people living in its 44 coastal municipalities that are at risk of storm surge, rip currents, hurricanes, sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding. Puerto Rico Sea Grant, in collaboration with the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS) and National Weather Service Forecast Office in San Juan, developed an interactive website that provides real-time data on rip current risk to inform beachgoers, lifeguards and emergency managers about hazards in the surf zone and help save lives.

seagrantpr.org/outreach-program/coastal-hazards



“Sea Grant Puerto Rico has been the catalyst for several critical projects over the years to reduce ocean drowning and improve water safety. We’ve been inspired to collaborate with them.”

- B. Chris Brewster,
Liaison Officer, U.S. Lifesaving Association

Sea Grant helped launch lifeguard program to protect beachgoers. Credit: Ruperto Chaparro

Sea Grant helps launch lifeguard program, saves lives

Puerto Rico Sea Grant has identified more than 30 deaths per year from drowning incidents on Puerto Rican beaches over the last 20 years, with the majority of deaths at beaches close to economic and tourist centers.

In collaboration with the La Concha and St. Regis hotels (where three tourists died in 2014), Puerto Rico Sea Grant invited representatives from the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) to establish a lifeguard program to reduce drowning incidents at local beaches. Since the St. Regis Hotel adopted a lifeguard program and improved their safety measures, no drowning incidents have occurred in the region.

seagrantpr.org/outreach-program/project-for-aquatic-safety-in-puerto-rico

Sea Grant develops curricular guides for teachers to shape future marine conservation

Puerto Rico has a great need to teach students about the importance of conserving coastal and marine resources. The Puerto Rico educational system lacks curricular materials to assist educators in their efforts to integrate these topics into their classrooms.

Puerto Rico Sea Grant designed two educational guides about the mangrove and seagrass bed ecosystems. The guides are aligned with Federal and Puerto Rico Department of Education standards and provide the flexibility to adapt for a variety of grade levels. Puerto Rican schools have integrated the educational guides in their classrooms as part of their Science curriculum.

seagrantpr.org/es/educacion/programa-de-educacion-en-upr-mayaguez/materiales-curriculares



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