



# GEORGIA SEA GRANT



February 2018

Georgia Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Georgia.



Scientists worked with fishermen to test a new TED designed to increase the catch of jellyfish, while keeping sea turtles out. Credit: Bryan Fluech

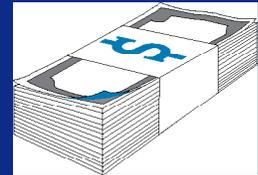
## Georgia Sea Grant research enhances jellyfish industry with specialized TED design

Georgia Sea Grant funded the development and testing of a Turtle Excluder Device (TED) to help fishermen trawling for cannonball jellyfish operate more efficiently. Cannonball jellyfish are the third largest seafood commodity by weight in Georgia. The TED required of shrimpers was not working well with jellyfish because the four-inch bar opening that prevents turtles also excluded nearly 30% of the jellyfish catch. The newly designed TED had an opening large enough to let jellyfish in to prevent a loss of catch, while remaining small enough to keep sea turtles out.

[gacoast.uga.edu](http://gacoast.uga.edu)

**\$4.9 M**

Economic benefit



**66,000**

Workshop and conference participants

**560**

Seafood professionals trained to adopt safe and sustainable harvest practices



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

## Georgia Sea Grant helps coastal communities plan for increased flooding, saves residents \$87,740 annually



The City of St Marys sought Georgia Sea Grant’s expertise to develop a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Credit: Georgia Sea Grant



The City of St. Marys in Georgia is a low-lying community on the tidal St. Marys River, making it one of the most vulnerable communities to flooding, sea-level rise and storm surges. As a result of Georgia Sea Grant’s integrated research and extension efforts, the City of St. Marys implemented a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, adopted new standard operating procedures for flood response and entered the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System, resulting in an annual savings of \$87,740 on flood insurance premiums.

[gacoast.uga.edu/research/major-projects/sea-level-rise](http://gacoast.uga.edu/research/major-projects/sea-level-rise)

**“We didn’t really know who to look to or how to start, so when Madeleine Russell (Georgia Sea Grant) brought in her expertise and provided us with other Program for Public Information examples, it really brought everything together.”**  
 - Jeff Adams, community development director for the City of St. Marys

### Advancing STEM Education



Georgia Sea Grant provides professional development training to prepare students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through research funding and internship programs. In 2016, Georgia Sea Grant provided support to 140 undergraduate and graduate students, which helped secure full-time positions as marine science educators, university researchers, and federal employees (NOAA).

### Increasing Consumer Interest in Locally Caught Seafood



Georgia Sea Grant-funded research led to increased consumer knowledge about the benefits of eating local, sustainably harvested seafood. Consumer interest in increased access to locally caught seafood documented from nearly 500 surveys and 20 in-depth interviews resulted in policy changes at local farmers’ markets in Georgia to allow the sale of seafood from Georgia waters.

### Growing Oyster Aquaculture in Georgia



Georgia Sea Grant has been growing oysters from larvae since 2015. Spat (baby oysters) are given to shellfish farmers on the Georgia coast who cultivate them to maturity with guidance from Georgia Sea Grant aquaculture extension agents. In 2017, the hatchery produced between 500,000 and 750,000 spat, with a potential harvest value of \$100,000 to \$280,000.