



MAINE SEA GRANT



February 2018

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



An elementary school class gains hands-on experience in fisheries science. Credit: Catherine Schmitt, Maine Sea Grant

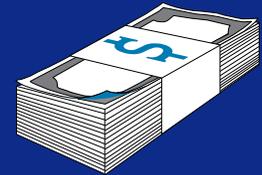
Maine Sea Grant monitoring efforts help reestablish recreational alewife fishery

The population of alewife returning to spawn in the Pennamaquan River, Maine was declining to the point that state resource managers suspended all commercial and recreational fishing in 2011. Maine Sea Grant coordinated efforts to improve fish passage and monitor the number of alewife returning to the river. The alewife population rebounded from 70,000 in 2014 to 245,000 in 2016, and so recreational fishing was reinstated. In addition, 145 students and teachers from six elementary schools were engaged in monitoring efforts to learn about the role that local stewardship can play in rebuilding alewife populations.

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\$3.6 M

Economic benefit



22,000

Conference and workshop participants

70

Undergraduate and graduate students supported



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



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Maine Sea Grant research helps soft-shell clam fishery adapt to a changing environment



Over the past 25 years, the average seawater temperature in Maine during winter months has risen steadily, facilitating an increase of the invasive green crab which preys on soft-shell clams and other commercially-important species. During this same period, clam landings decreased by nearly 75%, prompting Maine Sea Grant to fund research on soft-shell clam predation and growth with the goal of enhancing local populations. Results from extensive field research are helping the fishery adjust to warming ocean waters, with at least four clambers starting their own individual shellfish protection projects through farming.

Dr. Brian Beal plants clam seed into a mudflat while clambers Chad Coffin and Connor O’Neil cover the area with netting to protect the clams from predators.
Credit: Maine Sea Grant

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“The Marine Extension Team at Maine Sea Grant work and live in the field, connecting real people’s problems with science and vice versa. We would not be as strong as we are without this research.”

- Robin Alden, Founder, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Increasing Climate Stewardship through Citizen Science



Maine Sea Grant and UMaine Cooperative Extension developed and coordinated a citizen science monitoring program that engages citizens in observing the timing of seasonal plant and animal life cycle events. In 2016, 77 participants recorded more than 47,000 observations of the program’s indicator species to help validate climate models and understand local-scale biological changes.

Enhancing Working Waterfronts and Supporting Small Business



Since 2013, Maine Sea Grant’s “Aquaculture in Shared Waters” program has provided comprehensive training, networking, technical support and business assistance to fishermen and members of fishing families. To date, approximately 30 Aquaculture in Shared Waters students are now directly involved in aquaculture and 11 have initiated new aquaculture business enterprises.

Advancing Eel Aquaculture in America



Maine hosts a small but lucrative fishery for juvenile American eels. These eels are typically raised in the U.S. before being transported to Asian fish farms where they grow to market size. Maine Sea Grant provided program development funding to American Unagi LLC to experiment with culture methods of adult eels in an attempt to establish a market in the United States.