



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



Oysters from the Choptank Oyster Company in Cambridge, MD. Credit: Michael W. Fincham, Maryland Sea Grant

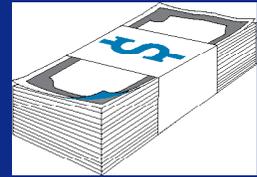
Maryland Sea Grant helps entrepreneurs secure financing for oyster growing operations

In 2016, Maryland Sea Grant helped oyster aquaculture businesses secure nearly \$250,000 in low-interest loans from the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO). To date, Maryland Sea Grant has contributed direct assistance to 35 applications to MARBIDCO, which approved more than \$3.9 million since 2011 to support the Maryland oyster aquaculture industry. Growing operations supported by loans are now producing market-size oysters.

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\$7.4 M

Economic benefit



3,500

Workshop and conference participants

25

Businesses created or sustained



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



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Maryland Sea Grant helps communities obtain \$3.8 million to improve Chesapeake Bay water quality



Maryland Sea Grant extension specialist Amanda Rockler teaches small scale stormwater practices at Howard Community College with the READY (Restoring the Environment And Developing Youth) Program. Credit: Maryland Sea Grant

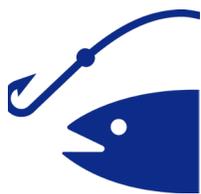
- Urban stormwater runoff is a major source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland Sea Grant helped local governments secure \$3.8 million to support installing rain gardens, building bioswales, planting trees and removing impervious surfaces. These practices help reduce harmful amounts of nutrients and sediments from disrupting the Chesapeake Bay ecology. Further, Maryland Sea Grant and partners developed a landscape certification program, training 113 landscapers to build, install, and maintain stormwater management practices.

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“They [Maryland Sea Grant] were able to give us so much as a community to deal with environmental issues of runoff and erosion... You are surely an asset to us, our county and our state.”

- Phil Rider, Carderock Springs Citizens Association

Understanding the Menhaden Fishery



The commercial menhaden fishery is the largest on the U.S. East Coast. In 2016, Maryland and Virginia’s combined menhaden catch was worth over \$26 million. Maryland Sea Grant-funded scientists and an extension economist provided key socioeconomic and stock assessment research findings to inform the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on management of the fishery.

Preparing for Climate Change on Maryland’s Eastern Shore



Maryland Sea Grant-funded researchers and extension specialists are working with six small communities on Deal Island on Maryland’s Eastern Shore to help them adapt to climate change. Collaborative learning with communities and local government helped secure state funding to build a living shoreline to reduce erosion rates due to sea level rise and subsidence.

Exploring the Role of Seagrass in Improved Water Quality



Maryland Sea Grant-funded research explored how the Susquehanna Flats, a large bed of submerged aquatic vegetation located just below the Conowingo Dam, can control excess nutrients and sediments coming over the dam that can degrade the estuary’s water quality. Research findings inform water quality models and standards.