



MICHIGAN SEA GRANT



February 2018

Michigan Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is a cooperative program between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.



Michigan coastal communities participate in visioning exercises to develop strategies to improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their harbors. Credit: Todd Marsee, Michigan Sea Grant

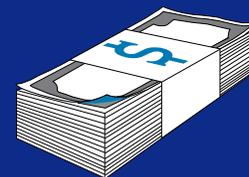
Michigan Sea Grant works to sustain Michigan's small harbor communities

Michigan Sea Grant funded a research team to identify and address barriers to the sustainability of small harbor communities along Michigan coasts. In 2016, Michigan Sea Grant collaborated with state partners and researchers to facilitate community visioning sessions for several coastal communities, in addition to helping develop a guidebook and 20-year plans that focused on the long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability of each community's harbor. Two coastal communities tested the guidebook as a proof-of-concept application in 2016.

michiganseagrant.org

\$7.4 M

Economic benefit



11,000

K-12 students reached

150

Jobs created or sustained



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



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Michigan Sea Grant birding project draws tourists to Lake Huron shores



A green heron was spotted on the Lake St. Clair Metropark Marsh walk. Credit: Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea Grant helped create an interactive online birding trail and informational website to encourage winter tourism along the shores of Lake Huron in the Upper Peninsula. The North Huron Birding Trail has generated thousands of unique views since it debuted in 2016. The interactive map and website direct birders to local birding hotspots, describe areas unique to the eastern Upper Peninsula and help people understand the importance of shoreline habitat for bird migration and breeding.

northhuronbirding.com

“The North Huron Birding Trail has provided an important boost to low-season tourism and has helped people to recognize that land conservation is not only good business, it’s good for business.”

- Thomas C. Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Understanding the Effects of Aquatic Invasive Species



Michigan Sea Grant supported research to understand the effects of aquatic invasive species on nearshore communities. In 2016, researchers reported that invasive dreissenid mussels may facilitate the establishment, spread and potential impacts of other invasive species that live close to shore. The success of these invasive species can have major impacts on native species and the Lake Michigan food web.

Informing Water Resource Management



In 2016, Michigan Sea Grant and partners developed and piloted a Water School curriculum to help elected officials and community leaders better understand water resource issues. This training encourages decision makers to make improved public-policy decisions related to water resources throughout Michigan and helps protect, enhance and restore critical resources and ecosystems.

Reducing Drowning Incidents across the Great Lakes



Since 2010, approximately 215 drowning or near-drowning incidents have occurred as a result of dangerous currents in the Great Lakes. Michigan Sea Grant provided beach safety equipment and custom beach safety signage to Michigan and Great Lakes coastal communities. Through these efforts, more than 50 beach safety equipment stations have been established across the Great Lakes.