

Sea Grant Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic Nationally and Locally

A Coordinated National Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has consumed the country's, and the world's, attention this year. As with other disasters and challenges, Sea Grant has remained nimble and worked quickly to provide rapid response actions to the coastal and Great Lakes communities it serves.

At the national level and in consultation with our partners, Sea Grant redirected \$3.4 million in FY2020 federal funding to support rapid response efforts. These efforts include 34 projects, each funded at \$100,000 (see reverse side). Of the \$3.4 million, \$2.48 million was specifically focused to support the U.S. aquaculture industry.

Sea Grant programs across the country proposed innovative strategies to utilize the rapid response funds in ways that will have direct and immediate impacts for coastal and Great Lakes communities.

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Activities supported by Sea Grant's \$3.4 million national investment include:

- **Enhancing access to aquaculture products for consumers via CSA style direct sales efforts, seafood "trails" to highlight local producers, and localized farm to table programs;**
 - **Conducting rapid and long-term needs assessments among producers, drafting recommendations for action, and communicating the needs and potential solutions to decision makers; and**
 - **Providing marketing resources and conducting needs assessments for tourism and charter businesses.**
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Tailored Actions at the Local Level

In addition to the newly proposed and supported activities mentioned above, individual Sea Grant programs have adapted existing work in targeted ways to support coastal and Great Lakes communities.

In coordination with stakeholders, Sea Grant programs have enriched online material to support the seafood and aquaculture industries and serve educators and parents, facilitated virtual coordination and meetings to ensure continued effective functioning not only of the individual programs but also the full network, and enhanced systems to collect and share best-management practices. Communication has been strengthened and coastal constituents are being served.

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) has provided Capitol Hill briefings, Coastal Communities' Resilience Challenges in a COVID Environment, on June 4 and July 29, 2020. Sea Grant programs are in the midst of crafting future requests for proposals to address the challenges posed by COVID-19. Programs are finding ways to continue supporting research, to protect the investment that has already been made despite limited or cancelled data collection operations.

Nationally-funded Sea Grant COVID-19 Response

The following is a program by program list of Sea Grant's response to COVID-19 using the nationally-directed funding described on page one of this document. It is important to note that this is far from a complete list of Sea Grant's total response to COVID-19. Programs across the country have refocused staff and reallocated funds within their existing budgets to provide resources and assistance to various constituent communities over and above the nationally redirected \$3.4 million.

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Alaska Sea Grant	Initiate a farm-to-table movement for Alaskan shellfish and seaweed
California Sea Grant	Identify barriers to seafood supply chain and develop pilot projects to address
Connecticut Sea Grant	Rehabilitate and enhance recruitment in natural shellfish beds with oversized oysters
Delaware Sea Grant	Develop direct seafood and "drive to" tourism marketing programs
Florida Sea Grant	Purchase oversize clams and use for research and restoration efforts
Georgia Sea Grant	Develop shellfish seafood trail for marketing local seafood products
Guam Sea Grant	Support for an aquaculture extension agent to explore possibilities on Guam
Hawaii Sea Grant	Support for an aquaculture extension agent to support local outreach efforts
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant	Aquaculture map, direct sales marketing; charter fishermen assistance; home school resources
Lake Champlain Sea Grant	Aquaculture training course, direct sales marketing; tourism and home school support
National Sea Grant Law Center	Research, reports on COVID relief for aquaculture, fisheries, other areas of work
Louisiana Sea Grant	Direct sales marketing for aquaculture and wild-caught seafood
Maine Sea Grant	Direct sales marketing for aquaculture and wild-caught seafood
Maryland Sea Grant	Aquaculture consumer survey; high school education program adaptation
Michigan Sea Grant	Conduct and share needs assessment for fishing industry
Minnesota Sea Grant	Direct sales marketing, aquaculture industry needs assessment
Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant	Research to assess ecosystem services provided by aquacultured oysters
MIT Sea Grant	Establish local aquaculture stakeholder advisory committee
New Hampshire Sea Grant	Purchase aquacultured oysters for restoration efforts
New Jersey Sea Grant	Public education for safe beachgoing; purchase aquaculture product for restoration
New York Sea Grant	Taskforce to develop direct sales marketing program; tourism marketing support
North Carolina Sea Grant	Aquaculture direct marketing support, needs assessment; resilience needs assessment
Ohio Sea Grant	Assessment of effects of COVID on U.S. aquaculture industry; business impact survey
Oregon Sea Grant	Aquaculture direct sales marketing support; business impacts survey
Pennsylvania Sea Grant	Assess effects of COVID on beneficial water reuse and compost quality
Puerto Rico Sea Grant	Enhanced Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) outreach and education programming
Rhode Island Sea Grant	Aquaculture needs assessment and response plan; purchase thermometers for fishing industry
South Carolina Sea Grant	Market assessment for direct sales of oysters; marketing support for nature-based tourism
Texas Sea Grant	Launch aquaculture website designed to support new businesses
USC Sea Grant	Support small vessels serving school children with safety protocols and supplies
Virginia Sea Grant	Direct sales marketing and conduct consumer preference survey
Washington Sea Grant	Demonstration project on safe seafood handling and processing
Wisconsin Sea Grant	Support for outreach specialist to work on local seafood marketing program
Woods Hole Sea Grant	Support oyster industry with product purchases; local marketing; needs assessment