

Selected Projects: FY2020 “Support of Network Visioning Plan Implementation”

Engaging Citizens to Monitor and Document Shoreline Flooding and Erosion in the Northeast

The Northeast Region Sea Grant Programs (Woods Hole New York, Rhode Island; as well as MIT, Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire) are partnering on a project that will establish a Learning Network to facilitate peer-to-peer learning around best practices and lessons learned from current citizen monitoring and outreach efforts related to shoreline flooding and erosion throughout the Northeast region. The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of Sea Grant programs within the Northeast Region to both mentor and learn from each other by sharing best practices; as well as for Sea Grant, at large, to increase its capacity as a leader in the field of citizen science and extension, as applied to monitoring flooding and changing shorelines. Research and Extension programs within the Sea Grant programs will better understand how to make informed decisions about which tool(s) to employ to meet program needs and objectives, communicate, and foster program transfer to other places. And finally, a pilot or expansion of citizen monitoring and outreach efforts related to shoreline flooding and erosion will be executed based on input from the Learning Network.

Coastal Tourism Vision Plan II

Georgia, South Carolina, Oregon, and Hawaii Sea Grant programs are collaborating on a project to strengthen the national Sea Grant network’s ability to effectively deliver and assess tourism extension programming across its network, as well as respond to critical issues facing coastal tourism communities by continuing to implement strategies outlined in the 2018-2028 Coastal Tourism Vision Plan. Specifically this project will (i) convene a facilitated in-person meeting to identify and discuss the challenges associated with the industry’s recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and to build capacity in Sea Grant programs to respond by assessing and adjusting current programming, (ii) pilot test the expansion of the Guide and Outdoor Recreation Professionals (GORP) training program by developing online training courses with state-specific content for three Sea Grant programs, (iii) assist in the organization of a community-focused sustainable tourism conference in Hawaii that will be used as a case study to explore the challenges and opportunities of managing tourism with a focus on sustainable recovery in the post-COVID environment and, (iv) support the 2021 National Extension Tourism Conference to continue building the relationship among Sea and Land Grant institutions working in tourism and promote the sharing of best practices among extension professionals working in tourism.

Enhancing and Sustaining Sea Grant’s Community Engaged Internship Program: CEI 2.0

On behalf of the broader Sea Grant network, Georgia Sea Grant is leading an effort to expand and continue the Community Engaged Internship (CEI) program for undergraduates, which aims to broaden participation in marine, coastal and ocean sciences by providing training and mentorship to early stage university and community college students from under-resourced, underrepresented and/or indigenous and tribal communities. This funding will be used in part to support 18 students who will be recruited in year 2022 to participate in Cohort 2 of the CEI program. Students participating in CEI 2.0 will be provided with structured mentoring by groups of three mentors, each of whom will be required to complete mentoring training. Sea Grant programs will be invited to nominate up to two (2) students for CEI 2.0 stipends. This project will: (a) leverage partnerships with minority serving institutions and professional organizations to recruit a cohort of at least eighteen undergraduate students from under-resourced,

underrepresented and/or indigenous communities, (b) provide process-based facilitation training on mentoring to Sea Grant professionals, (c) provide competency-based mentorship training to mentors, (d) provide financial support to participating students, (e) engage students in societally and culturally relevant research, education, outreach and/or communication projects, (f) provide high-caliber mentorship and access to professional networks, and (g) provide students with a set of non-science competencies that enhance communication, intercultural awareness, transdisciplinary collaboration, and career-readiness.

Connecting West Coast Fisheries, Seafood, and Aquaculture Extension to Support a Resilient Seafood Industry

Alaska Sea Grant is leading an effort to develop the West Coast Integrated Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood (IFAS) Alliance, which will convene region-wide working groups, as well as an in-person workshop of IFAS representatives from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California Sea Grant programs to address the needs of the seafood industry. This project will (i) establish the West Coast IFAS alliance through strengthened regional coordination and collaborative relationships, (ii) create targeted products, resources and/or tools for the West Coast Sea Grant programs and their stakeholders to support a resilient seafood industry coast wide, and (iii) develop expanded skills, knowledge and understanding among West Coast Sea Grant program staff related to both project specific and shared topics such as seafood technology, alternative marketing/distribution strategies, and cost-benefit analysis.