

Funded Projects for Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources

Empowering Resilient Fishery Dependent Community and Economies: Seafood Processing and Value Adding Business Planning Outreach and Education

Alaska Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Quentin Fong

Federal Funding: \$186,126

This project seeks to establish a baseline financial planning and management learning module for seafood processing and value adding to complement other funded efforts. The proposed work will develop comprehensive economic and business planning models for small scale seafood processing facilities; develop and distribute seafood processing and value-adding resources in the areas of cold storage, logistics, and seafood processing equipment to inform business planning and decision making; and develop and deliver seafood business financial planning and management workshops.

Resilience Through Restoration: Developing a Sustainable Shellfish Bed Management Strategy to Support Connecticut's Shellfish Sector

Connecticut Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Tessa Getchis

Federal Funding: \$196,990

This project seeks to support the Connecticut shellfish sector in recovery from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to position it to be more resilient in the future. The proposed work will evaluate the feasibility of engaging the shellfish aquaculture industry in maintaining and enhancing the productivity of natural shellfish beds for ecological and economic benefits and quantify the relative contributions of different interventions, individually and combined, that will inform longer-term management approaches. In addition, the feasibility of a shell recycling program for long term sustainability via procurement of shell as substrate for shellfish recruitment through a demonstration project and associated socioeconomic sustainability research will be determined.

Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources in Georgia

Georgia Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Bryan Fluech

Federal Funding: \$200,000

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the state of Georgia, Georgia Sea Grant will enhance the resilience of Georgia's seafood suppliers and emerging oyster aquaculture industry through workforce development trainings focused on HACCP certification and on shellfish aquaculture operations. The project's final phase will be a pitch competition to generate and fund concepts supporting the promotion of Georgia seafood, both wild and farmed.

Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Local Food Security Through Aquaculture of Native Hawaiian Marine Finfish and Seaweed

Hawai'i Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Kai Fox

Federal Funding: \$200,000

This project seeks to establish nursery protocols using modern aquaculture technologies for the production of native juvenile marine finfish (pua) and seaweed (limu) in order to enhance production of Hawaiian fishponds. The proposed work will develop a recirculating aquaculture system located at the site of Waikalua fishpond to evaluate the production of pua (striped mullet, *Mugil cephalus*; lowfin chub, *Kyphosis vaigiensis*; and reticulated flagtail, *Kuhlia sandvicensis*) and limu (ogo, *Gracilaria coronopifolia*; cock's comb, *Halymenia formosa*; and sea lettuce, *Ulva fasciata*) while also establishing aquaculture workforce training opportunities. The project will also implement a pua and limu distribution network for fishpond managers through an established network of Hawaiian fishponds and fishpond practitioners.

Increasing Local Seafood Security and Resilience in Response to COVID-19: Best Practices and Cost Estimates for Rearing Yellow Perch in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)

Minnesota Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Amy Schrank

Federal Funding: \$134,879

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the state of Minnesota, Minnesota Sea Grant will compare methods and costs of rearing yellow perch in two different styles of indoor, biosecure production systems. They will compare fish growth, mortality rates, and production costs between systems for both fingerling and market size yellow perch. The project team will then develop and disseminate a guide and outreach materials (e.g. workshops, videos, webinar) for producers that describe best practices and cost estimates for growing yellow perch in the preferred system.

Increasing the Resilience of Oyster Farms to Disasters

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Principal Investigator: LaDon Swann

Federal Funding: \$197,613

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the states of Mississippi and Alabama, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium will create a new Oyster Farming Resilience Index that accounts for a variety of disasters and emerging needs and will facilitate the use of the "index" with members of the oyster farming community within Alabama and Mississippi to identify common vulnerabilities. The project team will then use results from the index to identify operational areas that may be lacking in institutional capacity and provide technical support to increase the resilience of the oyster farms by delivering engagement and education programs that better equip industry members in

addressing common vulnerabilities. The project will conclude with summative evaluation to assess the outcomes of the project.

Addressing COVID-19 Impacts by Supporting Fishermen, Seafood Industry Partners, and Food Banks

MIT Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Michael Triantafyllou
Federal Funding: \$200,000

This project seeks to continue to establish, via fish chowder, expanded alternative markets for seafood products in support of the seafood industry, which experienced substantial financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. This activity will establish partnerships with businesses, retailers, and institutions, with the goal of creating a sustainable long-term business model providing alternative markets and revenue streams for the local seafood and fishing industry and communities that depend on them.

Enhancing the Market for New York Farmed and Fished Seafood

New York Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Michael Ciaramella
Federal Funding: \$200,000

This project seeks to actively engage local consumers across Long Island and New York City with interactive opportunities to learn about local seafood, and assist retail outlets with increasing demand for New York farmed and fished products. It will also expand on efforts to engage all sectors of the seafood industry to facilitate active networking and collaboration to build a more cohesive network of seafood professionals in the state. Engagement activities and events will take place at farmers markets, farm stands, seafood retail outlets and event spaces across southeastern New York.

Leveraging Direct-to-Consumer Marketing & Tourism to Diversify Income Streams for Seafood Producers

North Carolina Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Jane Harrison
Federal Funding: \$193,988

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the state of North Carolina, North Carolina Sea Grant will develop and enhance direct-to-consumer marketing strategies to offset ongoing weakness in the seafood sector, and leverage tourism to increase public awareness of and demand for North Carolina seafood. The project will expand the presence and use of the Visit North Carolina Farm App and expand awareness of the North Carolina Oyster Trail, a marketing program that educates the public about the culinary options and ecosystem benefits of sustainable shellfish mariculture. This project will assist Trail members in developing successful tourism ventures and evaluate the Trail's contribution to increasing direct sales and revenues for mariculture producers. Overall,

this project will provide marketing assistance, training and network building for North Carolina commercial fishers and marine aquaculture producers who are conducting direct marketing through tourism.

Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources

Virginia Sea Grant; Principal Investigator: Jonathan vanSenten

Federal Funding: \$200,000

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the state of Virginia, Virginia Sea Grant will assess the current status and needs of the Virginia aquaculture industry, assess the impacts and effectiveness of the deliverables and activities carried out under the 2020 funded project, continue to support direct-to-consumer marketing activities initiated in 2020, conduct additional training for industry on marketing activities, and develop and support the implementation of a resilience assessment toolkit for industry.

West Coast Response to COVID-19 Impacts on the Seafood Industry

Washington Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Russell Callender

Federal Funding: \$599,988

This project seeks to enhance seafood availability throughout the U.S. West Coast by developing marketing resources and infrastructure and conducting associated trainings for West Coast seafood providers and handlers; improve seafood access by increasing public knowledge; increase utilization of (and support for) seafood through a public awareness campaign; and strengthen the stability of the seafood system through evaluation, modification and sharing of project efforts.

Implementing Strategies to Help Build Resilient Commercial Food-Fish Industries in Wisconsin in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wisconsin Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Sharon Moen

Federal Funding: \$186,533

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in the state of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Sea Grant will conduct a literature review, feasibility study and needs assessment to inform plans to create the Great Lakes' first-ever commercial fishing/processing apprenticeship program. The project team will assist Wisconsin's food-fish aquaculture businesses, cooperatives and nonprofits in expanding public acceptance of their products and their ability to operate successfully by conducting education and outreach to grow public awareness about Wisconsin's commercial food-fish industries and expand aquaculture literacy in Wisconsin.

Partnerships to Support Seafood-Related Businesses and Educate Seafood Consumers

Woods Hole Sea Grant, Principal Investigator: Stephanie Murphy

Federal Funding: \$199,945

To address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources in Massachusetts, Woods Hole Sea Grant will establish two partnership-based programs focused on increasing consumer awareness and acceptance of seafood products. The first program, in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, will leverage their Seafood Marketing Program, employing a pitch-style competition to solicit proposals for ideas to promote Massachusetts seafood. The second program will create a website and kiosk exhibit that builds awareness of the environmental and health benefits of local shellfish farming and consumption with project partners from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and deliverables will include a 3-5 minute video about the cultural importance of shellfish farming and harvesting to indigenous communities.