

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 | Wastewater as an indicator of physical and mental health of a community |
| 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 |