

First Draft National Sea Grant College Program 2024- 2027 Strategic Plan

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2024-2027 Strategic Planning

National effort led by NSGO with input from individuals from the Board, Sea Grant programs and external stakeholders

General process:

- Concurrent but iterative between national and individual program planning
- Starting with existing 2018 - 2023 strategic plan
- Focus area leads identified in national office
- Input received via series of 11 open-to-all listening sessions, targeted engagements, email, and virtual comment card
- Assessed existing language for relevance, priority, needs for expansion, etc.

National Planning Phases

Initial Engagement and Development

- January - June for the national plan
- Concluded with an initial draft issued June 30

Review

- **Opportunity for feedback on initial draft late June-August**
- Will result in a second draft released in late August/early September

Refinement and Finalization

- Final national plan release targeted for Friday, September 30



Reminder:

What's Next for Individual Program Plans

Initial Engagement and Development

- Programs are asked to submit their initial drafts to their POs by **Monday, August 8**

Review

- POs share written comments to program directors within approximately two weeks from receipt of draft
- Drafts will be shared with NSGCP Director and Strategic Planning lead for awareness on alignment

Refinement and Finalization

- Final drafts submitted to POs by Wednesday, October 26
- POs recommend approval to NSGCP Director, who makes final approval (expected by Wednesday, December 7)
- PIER upload and website posting will continue through January 2023

What We Heard

- Support for retaining existing Focus Areas
- DEIJA should be embedded throughout the plan
 - Emphasize diversity, inclusion, equity, environmental justice, indigenous perspectives, traditional and local knowledge
 - These concepts are hard to measure and track but we should find a way to monitor our progress

Vision and Mission

- Page 2 of the draft plan pdf

Sea Grant envisions thriving coastal ecosystems and communities that are supported by an engaged public and informed decision-makers.

Sea Grant envisions diverse, thriving coastal communities and ecosystems that are supported by an engaged, environmentally-literate public and informed decision-makers.

Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment.

Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable and resilient economy founded on a healthy environment and vibrant, diverse communities.

The Environment in Which We Work, How We Work

- Pages 2-3 of the draft plan pdf
- Context and background regarding the National Sea Grant College Program
- Environment in Which We Work holds a place for future graphical content under development by our comms team
- How We Work is updated, combines information that was more dispersed previously, introduces functional areas
 - Subject to additional streamlining, addition of a sidebar element

Core Values

- Page 3 of the draft plan pdf
- Sea Grant's core values are essential and enduring tenets that influence the organization and support its mission. The core values support a culture of integrity and scientific neutrality enabling Sea Grant to serve as an trusted broker of information.

Vision – Advancing creative, innovative solutions that address emerging and chronic challenges through engagement, science and stewardship.

Collaboration – Seeking and sustaining partners with whom we leverage each other's strengths, and responsively, respectfully integrating diverse expertise and perspectives to reach shared goals.

Sustainability – Advancing environmental stewardship practices and communicating the value of the services that the coastal, watershed, ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems provide to the nation.

Accountability – Operating with integrity and transparency while maintaining quality and relevance in all functional areas, including program management.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility – Proactively engaging with the range of identities, cultures, communities and capacities present throughout our areas of work, with respect and sensitivity to each person's experiences, history and systemic challenges.

Cross-Cutting Principles

- Page 3-4 of the draft plan pdf
- These concepts provide a common foundation for all of the following Focus Areas and the work Sea Grant conducts. Recognizing these Cross-Cutting Principles enhances Sea Grant's capabilities in order to meet future national needs. In the course of implementing the 2024-2027 National Strategic Plan, Sea Grant will:
 - Cultivate and sustain partnerships by integrating the expertise and capabilities of partners from international, federal, tribal, state and local communities as well as from academia, nongovernmental organizations and industry.
 - Enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility by seeking and integrating diverse perspectives to advance cultural understanding and enable the network to pursue its vision and mission with, and for, all audiences. We will actively create mechanisms to allow all people to participate in network activities. Bringing a range of perspectives, values and tools together to find solutions that are more innovative, creative, inclusive and responsive will help us be successful in tackling problems facing coastal and Great Lakes communities.

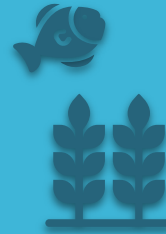
Focus Areas, Goals, Actions, Outcomes



Environmental
Literacy and
Workforce
Development



Healthy Coastal
Ecosystems



Sustainable
Fisheries
And
Aquaculture



Resilient
Communities and
Economies

Focus Area: Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Goal 1: A diverse, environmentally literate public participates in lifelong formal, nonformal and free-choice learning opportunities.

ACTION: Create and implement educational resources and opportunities that are diverse, equitable, inclusive, just and accessible for formal, nonformal and free-choice learners to explore multiple ways of learning and knowing and to develop their curiosity and learning abilities throughout their lives.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- ★ Individuals consider themselves environmentally literate lifelong learners who utilize knowledge to support, build and restore healthy natural and human communities.

ACTION: Develop, provide and assess research, curricula, tools and other resources for teachers, students and lifelong learners to support personal choice, participatory decision-making and community planning processes.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Teachers, students and lifelong learners have current information and innovative tools that meet or exceed relevant standards and practices.
- ★ People know and can act on issues that impact their lives, communities and environments.
- ★ Community members use their knowledge to remove barriers and act for personal and social resilience and adaptation to changing economic, environmental and social conditions.



Focus Area: Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Goal 1 continued

ACTION: Strengthen the ability of individuals, organizations and communities to acquire, synthesize and use knowledge in an environmentally literate way.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Individuals, organizations and communities create innovative opportunities, businesses and communities that respect diverse ways of knowing and learning, address systemic problems in equitable and just ways, and integrate traditional and novel cultures.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes communities are sustainable, healthy, diverse centers of tradition, innovation and prosperity.



Focus Area: Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Goal 2: A diverse, skilled and environmentally literate workforce that is engaged and able to build prosperous lives and livelihoods in a changing world while addressing critical local, regional and national needs through traditional and innovative careers.

ACTION: Identify and remove barriers to accessing training and learning opportunities so that the nation's diverse population is connected to and prepared for the range of career paths that support the needs of coastal and Great Lakes communities.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- ★ All members of a community are enabled to explore and pursue the variety of occupations that are essential to sustain coastal and Great Lakes communities, economies and ecosystems.

ACTION: Increase opportunities for students at all levels (P-12, undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and technical and vocational) to gain knowledge and experience addressing issues that are important to our ocean, coasts and Great Lakes and their respective watersheds.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Sea Grant student opportunities provide increased literacy, experience and preparedness in critical disciplines, skills and issues.
- ★ Students from all backgrounds and with diverse needs are thoughtfully and intentionally supported in and have access to formal and experiential learning, training and research experiences.



Focus Area: Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Goal 2 continued

ACTION: Prepare a responsive and diverse workforce to advance and benefit from sectors that support the needs of coastal communities and ecosystems and to adapt and thrive in changing conditions.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- ★ Employment in coastal, Great Lakes and watershed communities expands and diversifies. The existing and future workforce is able to adapt and thrive in changing environmental, social and economic conditions.



Focus Area: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems



Goal 1: Coastal and Great Lakes habitats, ecosystems and the services they provide are protected, enhanced and/or restored.

ACTION: Co-develop, improve and share knowledge, decision-support tools, technologies and approaches to protect and restore ecosystems.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Communities have greater awareness and understanding of ecosystem functions and the services they provide.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes ecosystem science and conservation needs are identified and prioritized through diverse stakeholder participation.
- ★ Evidence-based science, traditional and local knowledge and innovative solutions inform and improve the management and conservation of coastal habitats.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem functions and services are restored and sustained.
- ★ Collaborative and inclusive planning and decision-making leads to enhanced stewardship and community benefits, especially for the most vulnerable.

Focus Area: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems



Goal 2: Land, water, and living resources are managed by applying science, tools and services to sustain resilient coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

ACTION: Support a science- and management-driven framework that integrates research, observations, monitoring and modeling and that includes stakeholder engagement and traditional and local knowledge to provide a scientific basis for informed decision-making.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Inclusive collaborations with diverse stakeholders and partners support planning, research and innovative solutions to address coastal and Great Lakes resource management needs, especially for vulnerable communities.
- ★ Community science initiatives are utilized and contribute to improving our knowledge with respect to stewardship of ecosystems and their contributions to coastal and Great Lakes communities and economies.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes communities and resource managers have access to and use science, data, tools and training to be effective in planning and decision-making processes.
- ★ Resource managers understand the risks, options, tradeoffs and impacts of their decisions.

Focus Area: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems



Goal 2 continued

ACTION: Identify and advance successful strategies that enhance resilient ecosystems and watersheds in the context of changing conditions, including environmental variability and climate change.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Communities share, access, understand and use information regarding projected changes and related impacts within ecosystems.
- ★ Communities can apply knowledge from case studies, training and tools to improve their ability to plan, prepare and adapt to environmental variability and climate change.

Focus Area: Sustainable Fisheries And Aquaculture

Goal 1: Domestic fisheries, aquaculture and other coastal and freshwater natural resources supply food, jobs and economic and cultural benefits.

ACTION: Promote and support harvest and processing techniques that lead to safe, sustainable, high-quality food as well as economic, social and ecosystem benefits.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes residents and U.S. seafood consumers understand the benefits of domestically-produced seafood, both wild and farmed, for individual and environmental health.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes resource industries employ technologies and reinforce strategies to ensure safe and sustainable seafood and products.
- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes resource industries employ strategies that balance economic, community, cultural and conservation goals.

ACTION: Support development of a trained and diverse workforce and enhance technology transfer in a manner that recognizes a variety of methodologies and approaches, including those based on traditional and local knowledge.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Increased understanding and technological solutions aid management and production.
- ★ Stakeholder engagement and partnerships enable the industry to adapt and acquire innovative technologies.



Focus Area: Sustainable Fisheries And Aquaculture

Goal 2: Natural resources are sustainably managed to support fishing communities and industries, including commercial, recreational, subsistence fisheries and aquaculture.

ACTION: Ensure the best available science, services and tools are available to and trusted by resource managers, the fishing and aquaculture communities and consumers.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Commercial and recreational fishers and aquaculturists are knowledgeable about efficient, sustainable and responsible tools, techniques and uses of coastal and freshwater resources.
- ★ Resource managers and fishing and aquaculture communities have access to and share diverse knowledge and tools to increase their capability to adapt to changing resource management needs, including those driven by climate change.
- ★ Consumers understand the health and sustainability benefits of domestically produced seafood and use that knowledge to inform their seafood purchasing decisions.



Focus Area: Resilient Communities and Economies



Goal 1: Coastal and Great Lakes communities have the capability and resources to prepare for and adapt to extreme and chronic weather and coastal hazards, climate change, economic disruptions and other threats to community health and well-being.

ACTION: Improve and expand exchanges of knowledge to better identify the diverse needs of communities and to increase the public's understanding of changing conditions and related impacts.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Scientific understanding, including traditional and local knowledge, provides foundational information, and all community members understand the impacts of changing conditions and coastal hazards and have the capability to prepare, respond and adapt.
- ★ Community leaders improve their understanding of changing conditions and coastal hazards and their capability to implement mitigation and adaptive strategies.

Focus Area: Resilient Communities and Economies

Goal 1 continued

ACTION: Work with communities to advance collaborative comprehensive planning, actionable science, and adaptive management strategies.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- ★ Inclusive collaborations with diverse stakeholders and partners support mitigation and adaptation efforts built on knowledge from and responsive to the needs of all, especially the most vulnerable.

ACTION: Work with communities to explore and support diversification, strengthening, sustainability and social equity within coastal economic sectors and the blue economy.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Coastal and Great Lakes communities have access to and share knowledge, tools, services and technologies to adapt and grow resilient economies.
- ★ Leaders in coastal and Great Lakes economic sectors understand how they can become more resilient through diversification including expanded renewable, regenerative, and clean practices.



Focus Area: Resilient Communities and Economies

Goal 2: Water resources are enhanced, sustained and protected to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities and economies that depend on them.

ACTION: Use engagement and information exchange to advance the understanding of how actions impact water quality, quantity and availability.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- ★ Community members understand watershed and coastal functions and the ecosystem services they provide, understand how their actions will impact water resources, and are able to make informed decisions.

ACTION: Collaborate with diverse partners and stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable, to advance plans and management practices for protecting and managing water resources.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- ★ Communities work with knowledge networks to share and access science, data, tools and services to anticipate changes in water resources, to protect and sustain water resources, and to make informed decisions.
- ★ Communities have diverse, sustainable economies and industries that support existing and emerging water resource needs.



Appendices

- Appendix A: Definitions
- Appendix B: Performance Measures and Metrics
 - Still very much under development for select changes
 - Marine debris
 - Education
 - DEIJA
 - Sea Grant Collection Publications & Documents

First draft includes a table for transparency and convenience; final draft anticipated to be a list of the PMMs known at the time of finalization (refer to 2018-2023 for style)

Appendix B: PMMs

- Table of PMMs divided into several categories
- Feedback from listening sessions, public comments & engagement with network groups taken into consideration
- NSGO has not made any final changes or updates
- Our intent is to be transparent as possible as we work together to have a conversation assessing what is still essential and needed
- Now is a good time to reassess what we are collecting

Recap: Next Steps

- Opportunity for feedback on initial national draft late June-August
- Programs submit their initial drafts to their POs by **Monday, August 8**
- Second draft national plan expected to be issued before Sea Grant Week

Thank you

Questions?

Comments/questions welcome at [oar.sg](https://oar.noaa.gov)

feedback@noaa.gov

or use our

[virtual comment card](#)

