



# A SMART INVESTMENT IN OUR COASTAL ECONOMY

Winter 2023

For over 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension and education.

**1,619**   
businesses created or sustained

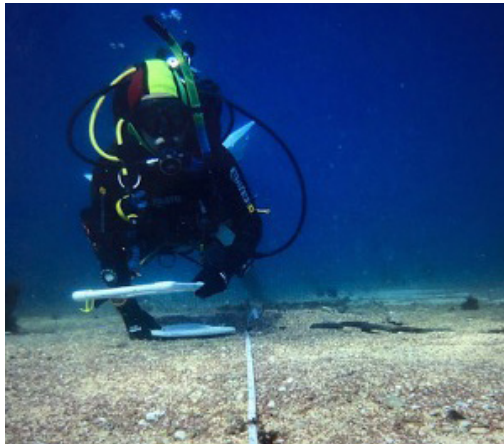
**8,369**  
jobs created or sustained

## EXTENSION RESEARCH EDUCATION

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

In 2021, a federal investment in Sea Grant of \$87 million resulted in

**\$572.6M**  
ECONOMIC  
BENEFIT



Metrics are direct results of Sea Grant work between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 as reported by Sea Grant programs in Summer 2022. Economic benefit = market and non-market value of Sea Grant's work.

**34**  
University-based programs

**1,123,042**  
Acres of habitat restored or protected

**206,036**  
Volunteer hours

**684**  
Communities implemented sustainable practices

**833,327**  
people engaged in educational programs



**853** SEA GRANT  
EXTENSION AGENTS\*

are stationed in communities across the country to advance understanding of coastal and fisheries science for communities and economies that are more resilient.

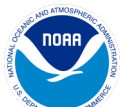


Photo credits: California Sea Grant, Oregon Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant  
\*Extension agents refers to total number of Sea Grant-affiliated extension agents. Sea Grant extension full-time equivalents = 217.



## Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

# 12,471

People modified practices based on knowledge of fisheries sustainability and seafood safety gained in Sea Grant activities

Sea Grant's work on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture includes: advancing aquaculture through research and informing regulation, sustaining wild fisheries through research to test new catch strategies, training young fishermen and aquaculture professionals, and listening and responding to needs of fishing communities such as Alaska Sea Grant's Food from the Sea program to help new entrants for Alaska's commercial seafood harvesting and growing industry sectors start and conduct successful businesses.

# 1,505

Seafood HACCP safety certifications as a result of Sea Grant training

[seagrant.noaa.gov](http://seagrant.noaa.gov)

Sea Grant's work on healthy coastal ecosystems includes: research to understand ecosystem change and test new recovery techniques, identifying and testing new methods to mitigate water pollution sources, guidance and expertise on planning and management, and monitoring and habitat restoration efforts, such as Georgia Sea Grant's "Trawl to Trash" program to construct stow bags from recycled shrimp nets, which will be used by recreational boaters and fishermen for cleanups.



## Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

# 6,431

Resource managers used ecosystem-based approaches to management as a result of Sea Grant's work

Sea Grant's work on resilient communities and economies includes: long-term community planning, climate and ecological research, social science research to communicate more effectively, increasing access to existing tools, disaster recovery, helping communities identify needs and solutions such as Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium's Living Shorelines Program which seeks out and evaluates alternatives to hardened shorelines for environmental and economic benefits.



## Resilient Communities and Economies

# 684

 Communities improved resilience

Sea Grant's work to advance environmental literacy and workforce development includes: fellowship opportunities, on-the-job training, support for undergraduate and graduate research, experiential education programs, educational tourism programs, and teacher training workshops, such as the Shipboard Science workshop which provides teachers with hands-on Great Lakes science experience aboard a research vessel. The workshop is organized by seven Sea Grant programs and supported by several partners.



## Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development

# 2,330

Undergraduate and graduate students supported