As a constituent and a beneficiary of New York’s Sea Grant program, I am writing to ask you to please request that the Appropriations Committee fully fund the National Sea Grant College Program in both Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026.

Sea Grant has benefitted from bipartisan congressional support since its creation in 1966 and leverages at least $3 for every $1 appropriated by Congress, investing those funds directly in support of local needs. In 2023, Sea Grant’s support resulted in a 9-fold return on investment, generating $828M in economic benefits from a $94M federal investment.

Sea Grant programs, including New York Sea Grant, deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. Sea Grant does this while also increasing our coastal communities’ resiliency in a cost-effective manner and by applying funds directly in the community. Sea Grant sends 95 percent of its appropriated funds to coastal and Great Lakes states through a competitive process. For those reasons and because of the importance of Sea Grant to the long-term health of our state, we urge you to strongly support the National Sea Grant College Program by submitting a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the program in FY 2026 at the proposed levels. We further ask that you help facilitate the release of current FY 2025 funding for Sea Grant, which most state Sea Grant Programs, including New York, have not yet received.

**Fiscal Year** **2026 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant Program**

**Appropriations Bill:** Commerce, Justice, Science

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Account:** Operations, Research, and Facilities

**Office:** Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

**Program:** National Sea Grant College Program / Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

**FY 2024 Enacted:** $80M/ $14M

**FY 2025 Enacted:** $80M/ $14M

**FY 2026 SGA Request:** $116,985,000 / $18M