

# Sea Grant Association

## FY 2026 Appropriations Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

\$116,985,000 for the National Sea Grant College Program

+ \$18,000,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

**\$134,985,000 total for the Sea Grant Program**

For the **National Sea Grant College Program**, we request \$116,985,000. This is a 5% increase over the FY 2025 authorization in the [National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020](#) (P.L. 116-221). This 5% increase adjusts for inflation and would allow increases to each program to continue investing directly in their coastal communities and economies.

For the **Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program**, we request \$18,000,000. This will provide support to local aquaculture farmers to continue developing sustainable marine and Great Lakes aquaculture businesses to supply healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.

### FY 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 .....	\$80,000,000 / \$14,000,000
FY 2025 Enacted .....	\$80,000,000 / \$14,000,000
FY 2026 SGA Request .....	\$116,985,000/\$18,000,000

COMMUNITIES  
ASK FOR HELP

SEA GRANT  
RESPONDS

RESEARCH REVEALS  
OPPORTUNITIES

In 2023, Sea Grant's answering of local calls for support resulted in a 9-fold return on investment (ROI), generating \$828 million in economic benefits from a \$94 million federal investment.<sup>1</sup> A similar ROI on our FY 2026 request would equal over \$1 billion in economic benefits.

<sup>1</sup> The 2023 federal investment represents Sea Grant Core and Aquaculture Appropriations for work between Feb 1, 2023, and Jan 31, 2024.

## Sea Grant Sustains Thriving Coastal Economies and Communities

Economically safe fishing + Healthy resources  
Support for teachers and students + Coastal safety + Clean waters  
Growing seafood supply + Efficient shipping and marine transport  
Protection from coastal damage



## What is the Sea Grant Program?

Sea Grant is a community-based federal partnership that sustains thriving coastal economies and resilient communities. By living and working in the communities they serve, Sea Grant staff respond to local needs—from challenges threatening small businesses to contaminants affecting community health—with science-based solutions. A joint federal, state, and local investment, Sea Grant works in 34 states and territories in the Great Lakes; Gulf Coast; and on the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific coasts and islands—yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits. Since its inception in 1966, Sea Grant has benefited from bipartisan congressional support.



## America's Coasts

Almost **40%** of the population, **10%** of the land mass (excluding Alaska)

**\$10 trillion** in goods and services annually

**54.6 million** employed

**\$4 trillion** in wages annually

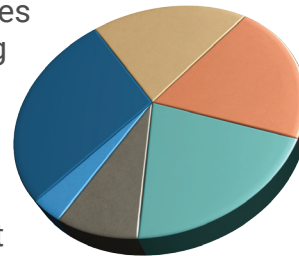
## Why Fund Sea Grant?

Sea Grant supports coastal counties, which contribute 46% of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and 39% of jobs in the country. If coastal counties were their own country, they would rank third in the world in GDP, surpassed only by the entirety of the United States and China. Economic prosperity and job production are vulnerable in these counties as they face increasing threats from storms, sea level rise, marine heat waves, and other coastal hazards. **Sea Grant programs are uniquely qualified to help communities address these challenges—as evidenced by the growing demand for their work—and are a necessary part of ensuring a strong economy.**

### Sea Grant partnerships strengthen local businesses, schools, government agencies, and more.

Sea Grant staff live and work in the communities they serve, working alongside and supporting thousands of partners across sectors. Of the more than 25,000 partnerships maintained around the country, Sea Grant has more than 7,000 government partners and more than 5,200 industry and business partners who benefit from this relationship. **This heavy emphasis on partnerships means Sea Grant leverages nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress and invests those funds directly in support of local needs.**

### Sea Grant Program Partners



- Government – 29%
- Industry and business – 20%
- Academic Institutions – 20%
- NGOs – 19%
- Other – 8%
- Sea Grant Programs – 4%

### Sea Grant creates jobs, supports responsible fisheries, and protects habitat. In 2023, this includes

**1,601**

businesses created or sustained

**9,569**

jobs created or sustained

**24,288**

seafood industry personnel adopted responsible fishery practices based on knowledge gained from Sea Grant

**2,120,592**

acres of habitat restored or protected

**Increased funding for the National Sea Grant College Program** will boost capacity to meet the growing demand in coastal communities.

**Increased funding for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research** will support developing sustainable marine and Great Lakes aquaculture to address the \$120.3 billion U.S. seafood trade deficit.

*The Sea Grant Association (SGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the Sea Grant Program concept. SGA's regular members are the academic institutions that participate in the National Sea Grant College Program. The SGA advocates for greater understanding, use, and conservation of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources.*

For more information, please visit [www.sga.seagrant.org](http://www.sga.seagrant.org) or contact:

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