

# A SMART INVESTMENT *in our* COASTAL ECONOMY

Sea Grant is a federal-state partnership that turns science into action to ensure our coastal communities remain engines of economic growth in a rapidly changing world. Our nation's economic health is inextricably linked to the stability and prosperity of our coastal communities.

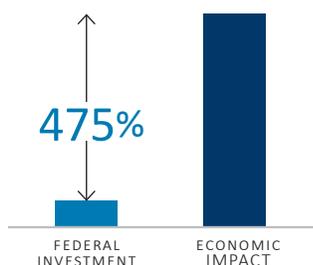


50 years of putting science to work for  
America's coastal communities

In 2016, Sea Grant celebrates 50 years of using research, outreach, and education to positively impact coastal communities. Sea Grant's work encompasses diverse issues relevant to local, regional, and national priorities, such as healthy coastal ecosystems, resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For every two federal dollars, Sea Grant leverages another dollar from state and local entities. In 2015, the Sea Grant program, which was funded at \$67.3 million, delivered:



**\$320 million** in economic impact, a 475 percent return on federal investment of \$67.3 million in 2015



**33**

University-based Sea Grant programs in every coastal and Great Lakes state, plus Puerto Rico and Guam

More than

**3,000**

scientists, engineers, educators, students and outreach experts

**350**

Sea Grant extension agents live and work in coastal communities to provide local and subject matter expertise

**1,100**

Graduate students have participated in the John A Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program since 1979

**450**

Peer-reviewed scientific journal articles published annually

**5,000**

businesses created or retained annually

**11,300 jobs**

created or retained annually

# FIVE DECADES *of* MEANINGFUL IMPACTS

## 1963

Dr. Althehan Spilhaus presents the idea of “sea grant colleges” during his keynote address to the American Fisheries Society

## 1966

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs The National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966

## 1971

Four universities are the first to achieve Sea Grant College status: Oregon State University, University of Rhode Island, Texas A & M University, and University of Washington

## 1979

The Sea Grant Intern Program is initiated and later named the John A Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program in 1987

## 1996

Sea Grant directors start the Sea Grant Association, a non-profit support group of Sea Grant

## 1998

Sea Grant celebrates its 30th anniversary with 26 university-based programs

## 1999

Sea Grant and NOAA Fisheries established a Graduate Fellowship Program in population dynamics and marine resource economics

## 2002

Sea Grant Law Center is founded

## 2016

Sea Grant celebrates 50 years!

### SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Maryland Sea Grant played an integral role in a 2008 bi-state agreement aimed at helping the blue crab population recover from dangerously low levels in the 2000s. Since the agreement, stocks have recovered and peaked at over 750 million crabs in 2012.

### HEALTHY COASTAL HABITATS

In addition to ongoing research to understand impacts of aquatic invasive species, Wisconsin Sea Grant conducts seasonal boat landing conversations with Great Lakes boaters to raise awareness about aquatic invasive species and their impacts on lakes and streams. Best practices are clean, drain, dry and never move. Over 10,000 boaters are contacted and over 5,000 boats are inspected each summer. The effort is effective; no invasive quagga mussels have been found in inland lakes as of the last reporting period.

### ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium developed two smartphone apps in partnership with NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service to identify and promote responsible viewing of dolphins and facilitate the reporting of stranded animals to the network. As a result of the positive impact the apps are having, NOAA is currently expanding the apps for use in other regions.

### RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Georgia Sea Grant led a community effort with residents and city officials to develop a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan for Tybee Island, a barrier island community that sits six feet above sea level and faces coastal flooding and erosion challenges. Local officials are now implementing the plan, which has led to a 15% reduction in insurance premiums, 1600 acres in designated open space, and an expected savings of \$3M in flood control benefits.

### AQUACULTURE SOLUTIONS

California Sea Grant is conducting biological research as well as research on social constraints associated with aquaculture. Recent biological research efforts include successful spawning of purple-hinge rock scallop broodstock and rearing fertilized eggs through their larval cycle, resulting in the production of scallop seed ready for growout. A study by California Sea Grant to understand social constraints associated with aquaculture recently informed NOAA NMFS on solutions and policy to grow the aquaculture industry.

National Sea Grant College Program  
[seagrant.noaa.gov](http://seagrant.noaa.gov)