

September 10, 2019

### Sea Grant awards \$2 million to advance understanding of American lobster, support industry



Sea Grant announces \$2 million in federal funding to support the Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative to address scientific and stakeholder needs associated with this important fishery.

In FY 2019, the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) launched the American Lobster Initiative to support two efforts, a national research competition focus on basic science on the species and a Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program to support a four-year program designed to work with communities to link lobster research with the industry, resource managers, and other stakeholders across the region, who need and can use the results. The research and extension competitions were informed by listening sessions with regional fishing industry stakeholders, state and federal fisheries managers, and university, state and federal fisheries researchers.

The funded research will address critical gaps in knowledge about how American lobster is being impacted by environmental change. The focus of this research is based on specific language in Sea Grant's FY2019 Appropriations.

The regional extension program will work to meet emerging needs among American lobster stakeholders and link lobster research with the industry.

The American lobster is one of the most iconic modern American fisheries, and total U.S. landings of lobster have steadily increased over the past 35 years. Today, the landing value of the American lobster fishery is estimated at about \$666.7 million, one of the largest and most valuable fisheries on the Atlantic coast. In a [2016 report](#), the American lobster was the most valuable species landed per pound in the nation.

[Read the announcement, including a list of funded research projects and a description of the regional extension program](#)

Photo: Mike Ross, UNH Photographic Services for New Hampshire Sea Grant

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