Announcing the
2020 American Lobster Initiative Projects

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

The funded research will address critical gaps in knowledge about how American lobster is being impacted by environmental change in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and southern New England. The focus of this research is based on specific language in Sea Grant's fiscal year 2020 appropriations language.

In fiscal year 2019, the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) launched the American Lobster Initiative to support two connected efforts, a national research competition and a Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program. The extension program, designed to work with communities, is a four-year program that links lobster research with stakeholders who need and can use the results--the lobster fishing industry, resource managers, and others across the region. The American Lobster Initiative was informed by listening sessions with regional fishing industry stakeholders, state and federal fisheries managers, and university, state and federal fisheries researchers.

The American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) is one of the most iconic modern American fisheries, and total U.S. landings of lobster are facing uncertainty after years of increasing landings. The landing value of the American lobster fishery was estimated at $626.7 million in 2019 and represents one of the largest and most valuable fisheries along the Atlantic coast (Souce: NOAA Fisheries). In a 2018 report, lobster was the highest valued species group in the nation.