

Sea Grant

MONTHLY

January/February 2024

Sea Grant Develops Five-Year Aquaculture Investment Plan



Year-over-year, Sea Grant is committed to supporting aquaculture development across the nation, as a means of enhancing economic resilience and nutritional security in American communities. Sea Grant recently developed a five-year Aquaculture Investment Plan to guide its efforts in supporting aquaculture research, extension and education. This plan was developed to allow for consistent, reliable and recurring aquaculture funding opportunities.

[See the investment plan](#)

Sea Grant Law Center Launches U.S. Marine Aquaculture Policy Dashboard

The National Sea Grant Law Center and partners launched an online dashboard of state policy data for U.S. marine aquaculture. The [State Marine Aquaculture Policy Dashboard](#) improves accessibility to marine aquaculture policy data, enabling policymakers, industry managers, farmers, and researchers to navigate U.S. marine aquaculture policies with

confidence and ease.

[Join an overview of the dashboard on Feb. 27](#)

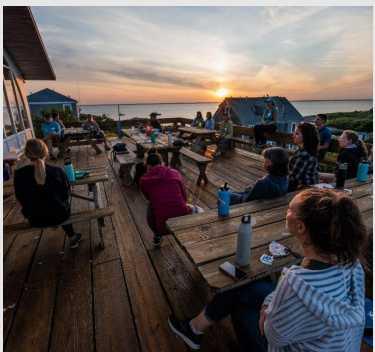


Sea Grant Advances Resilient Coastal Communities with \$4 Million in Support

Helping coastal and Great Lakes communities prepare for the challenges of a changing climate is a priority for Sea Grant. Sea Grant awarded \$4 million in fiscal year 2023 funds to its grant-based programs in support of this priority, with the support of Congress. The funded projects will further collaborative engagement across the U.S. to increase resilience.



[Read about all of the funded projects](#)



Reviewers Needed for Historic Competitive Investments

Sea Grant seeks individuals with expertise in climate resilience, workforce development, marine debris, community coalition building, and more to review proposals for competitive investments supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act: the Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative, Marine Debris Challenge Competition and Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions. Non-federal reviewers may be eligible to receive honoraria.

[Learn more and express your interest](#)

Recognizing National Mentoring Month

In January, Sea Grant recognized mentors and mentorship across the network as part of National Mentoring Month. Sea Grant mentors help inspire fellows and interns in a wide range of fields. [Learn how in #ThankYourMentor Day highlights.](#)

[In a paper supported by California Sea Grant](#), read about five pillars, including mentorship, for supporting early career ocean professionals and engaging the next generation of ocean leaders.



Recognizing Black History Month

February marks Black History Month. Celebrate with Sea Grant by [connecting with](#)



organizations that highlight Black excellence in the marine and aquatic sciences and by learning about Black scientists making a difference in the marine and aquatic sciences!

Sea Grant By the Numbers Showcases Significant Returns on Federal Investment

Sea Grant recently released its latest By the Numbers factsheet, which shares the impacts of Sea Grant programs' collective work. In 2022, a federal investment in the Sea Grant of \$89.5 million resulted in an economic benefit of \$802.3 million. Additionally, Sea Grant's efforts supported the protection of 2,120,592 acres of habitat, the creation of 9,569 jobs, and the engagement of 970,976 people in education programs.

[See the complete factsheet](#)

Sea Grant A SMART INVESTMENT IN OUR COASTAL ECONOMY

For over 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension and education.

IN 2022, A FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN SEA GRANT OF \$89.5 MILLION RESULTED IN **\$802.3 MILLION** ECONOMIC BENEFIT*

Sea Grant's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan addresses the following four focus areas:

- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture** includes advancing aquaculture through research and informing regulation, sustaining wild fisheries through research to test new catch strategies, training young fisheries and aquaculture professionals, and listening and responding to the needs of fishing communities.
- Healthy coastal ecosystems** includes research to understand ecosystem change and test new recovery techniques, identifying and testing new methods to mitigate water pollution sources, guidance and expertise on planning and management, and habitat monitoring and restoration efforts.
- Resilient communities and economies** includes long-term community planning, climate and ecological research, social science research to communicate more effectively, increasing access to existing tools, disaster recovery, and helping communities identify needs and solutions.
- Advanced environmental literacy and workforce development** includes helping opportunities, on-the-job training, support for undergraduate and graduate research, experiential education programs, educational tourism programs, and teacher training workshops.

*The 2022 federal investment supports Sea Grant Core and Aquaculture Appropriations. Metrics are shared based on Sea Grant work between 2017-2022 and are not intended to be used for comparison. Metrics are based on the 2022 fiscal year. Metrics are based on the 2022 fiscal year. Metrics are based on the 2022 fiscal year. Metrics are based on the 2022 fiscal year.



NOAA Education Annual Report Highlights Sea Grant Achievements

NOAA reaches learners in every life stage, across a breadth of topics. In the 2023 NOAA Education Annual Report, learn how Sea Grant furthers NOAA Education goals. The report includes highlights of work supported by Delaware, Hawai'i, Michigan, MIT, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and USC Sea Grant programs and more.

[Check out the Sea Grant Highlights](#)

[Read the full NOAA Education Report](#)

Upcoming Sea Grant-led Invasive Species Language Workshop

Are you a science communicator or invasive species researcher interested in the use of messaging and metaphors for communicating about invasion biology? Then join Michigan, Oregon and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs for the "Invasive Species Language Workshop," which will be held online and in-person on Feb. 27-28. A virtual half-day of webinar presentations will be followed by a full-day workshop in Washington, D.C., where attendees will draft guidelines and research priorities for inclusive communication and naming conventions.

[Learn more and register here](#)



Fisherman Makes Dramatic Rescue With Knowledge

From Connecticut Sea Grant Training

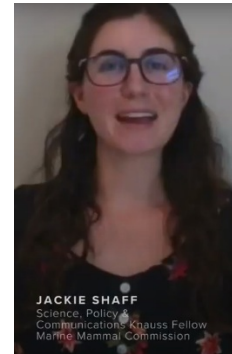


Commercial fisherman John Genther was recently awarded a Meritorious Public Service Award from the U.S. Coast Guard after rescuing a man from the water and getting him the emergency care he needed. Genther applied what he had learned in a voluntary first aid and CPR course for fishermen hosted by Connecticut Sea Grant. While Connecticut Sea Grant has sponsored fishermen safety training classes for many years, the first aid and CPR class was new in 2023.

[Continue reading](#)

On the Knauss Blog: An Introduction to the Marine Mammal Commission

Knauss fellows have the unique opportunity to work in federal positions focused on the national policy surrounding ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. 2023 Knauss Fellow from Washington Sea Grant, Jackie Shaff, shares an overview of the Marine Mammal Commission and the important work they do to bridge science and policy for the protection and conservation of marine mammals for generations to come.



[See the video on the Knauss Blog](#)

In Pictures: Knauss Fellowship Winter Gatherings

In recent weeks, Sea Grant congratulated the 2023 Knauss Fellows during their graduation ceremony from the fellowship and welcomed the 2024 Knauss Fellows with a four-day-long orientation. Check out photos from the D.C.-based festivities!



2023 Knauss Fellows at Graduation



Orientation activities

Funding and Career Opportunities

[Sea Grant Career Opportunities](#) Sea Grant has several job openings across the country, including Aquaculture Extension Specialist with California Sea Grant, Great Lakes K-12 Education Specialist with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Communications Associate with Minnesota Sea Grant, Extension Program Assistant with Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and Program Manager for Community Engagement and Professional Development with Wisconsin Sea Grant.

Opportunities and Updates from Partners

[NOAA Announces New High-Resolution Land Cover Data](#) NOAA announced the availability of new, high-resolution land cover data — used to document key geographic and landscape features covering Earth's surface — for coastal communities across the country. This new data can be used to improve planning for sea level rise, protect communities from flooding, inform wetland restoration projects and enable other activities to build climate resilience.

[Explore New NOAA Interactive Virtual Training Module to Build Risk Communication Capabilities](#)

A new self-guided training, “Preparing for Effective Risk Communication,” provides the steps to develop a risk communication strategy focused on, and designed to meet the needs of, a specific audience. Go at your own pace to learn how to listen more effectively, share information appropriately, and build relationships for improved conversations about hazards. Tips are also provided for those moments when we are put on the spot with a difficult question.

[U.S. Department of Energy Marine Energy University Foundational R&D](#) The U.S. Department of Energy’s Water Power Technologies Office and Wind Energy Technologies Office has released a \$14.5 million funding opportunity for pioneering research in marine and ocean renewable energy at U.S. colleges and universities. The funding opportunity will fund projects across four topic areas, which includes up to \$1.5 million for projects that advance potential synergies between offshore wind and/or marine energy and aquaculture development. Concept papers are due by February 20, 2024.

[National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call](#) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates to participate in the next National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call taking place on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 from 2 pm to 4 pm ET. These calls are free and open to the public. The purpose of these calls is to inform the community and other stakeholders about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates.

[Public Listening Sessions for the Future of Aquaculture at NOAA Fisheries](#) NOAA Office of Aquaculture is holding public listening sessions where growers, workers, researchers, coastal community members, and the general public can share their views on the future of aquaculture at NOAA Fisheries. These listening sessions will happen across the country and will provide opportunities for national, regional, in-person, and virtual listening sessions from February through March 2024.

[Ocean Decade Vision 2030 White Paper Review](#) Looking for a way to be involved in the UN Ocean Decade and help shape the visioning process? Take part in the review of the 10 White Papers, one per Ocean Decade Challenge, now through February 22, 2024.

[FEMA Climate Resilience Funding](#) FEMA is making \$1.8 billion available for two grant programs designed to help communities increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change, including increasingly frequent and extreme weather events. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) annual grant program is making \$1 billion available for projects that protect people and infrastructure from natural hazards and the effects of climate change. The Flood Mitigation Assistance program is making \$800 million available for projects that mitigate flood risks facing homes and communities across the nation. Applications must be submitted by February 29, 2024.

[2024 eeBLUE Aquaculture Literacy Mini-Grants Program](#) These mini-grants will provide informal

learning institutions (e.g., aquariums), aquaculture industry (e.g., shellfish, finfish, and seaweed farmers), and NOAA partners with support for the co-development of innovative educational experiences that explore aquaculture topics. Project proposals should be submitted directly to eeBLUE@naaee.org by March 15, 2024.

[NOAA Ocean Acidification Program](#) in partnership with the Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program is soliciting proposals to optimize sampling strategies that improve carbonate chemistry observing systems co-developed with an observing data product end user that can inform real-time data delivery and forecasting of ocean acidification relevant parameters. Full applications must be received by March 17, 2024.

[Power at Sea Prize Funding Opportunity](#) The American-Made Power at Sea Prize seeks new, innovative, and feasible marine energy concepts that can fulfill Powering the Blue Economy initiatives—including supporting offshore industries, science, and security activities, and meeting the energy and water needs of coastal and rural island communities. The submission deadline for the concept phase is July 26, 2024.

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