



## **ERC Chapter for SGA Meeting March 2019**

- **FY 2020 SGA Ask for Sea Grant Program**
- **Sample Stakeholder Letter in Support of FY20 Sea Grant Programmatic Request**
- **116<sup>th</sup> Congressional Committees and Subcommittees Rosters**
- **FY 2020 Legislative Calendar for SGA Delegates**
- **Sea Grant Funding History**
- **December 2018 Webinar Presentation**
- **March 2019 Background Information**

**Darren Lerner, ERC Chairman**

**Prepared by Joel Widder and Meg Thompson  
Federal Science Partners**

# Sea Grant Association

## **FY 2020 Programmatic Funding Recommendation**

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is authorized by P.L. 89-688, the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966, as amended (33 USC § 1121 et seq. Sea Grant). The Sea Grant College Program Act authorizes the awarding of grants and contracts to initiate and support programs at Sea Grant colleges and other institutions for research, education, and advisory services in any field related to the conservation and development of marine resources. A joint federal, state and local investment, Sea Grant provides solutions for the issues affecting our Nation's coastal communities (including the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and communities on the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific coasts), yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

### **The Sea Grant Association (SGA) recommends Congress appropriate \$93.5 million in FY 2020 for Sea Grant – an amount equal to the total authorized in S. 129 as passed unanimously by the Senate on September 14, 2017.**

Increasing aquaculture production and reducing extreme weather impacts are both key priorities of the Department of Commerce and NOAA. Sea Grant is a leader in supporting aquaculture research and development which lead to jobs and increased domestic production of safe and sustainable seafood. Through its locally based research and extension programs, its national perspective, and its longstanding role in aquaculture, Sea Grant is ideally positioned to play an expanded role in the Commerce Department's focus on reducing the Nation's seafood trade deficit. On October 17, 2018, NOAA Sea Grant [announced](#) 22 research grants totaling \$11 million for projects around the country designed to expand sustainable U.S. ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes aquaculture. Sea Grant can also assist NOAA to implement the Weather Forecast Research and Innovation Act of 2017 by informing observations and minimizing the impacts of extreme weather and water events. Sea Grant is helping coastal communities in Texas, Puerto Rico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and other states recover from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, and Michael and prepare for future severe storms. The \$93.5 million requested for Sea Grant in FY 2020 will enable the program to support its core activities of research, extension, education, and outreach in priority areas important at the local, state, regional and national levels.

In 2016, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated **\$611 million** in economic impacts, created or supported over **7,000 jobs**, provided **33 state-level programs** with funding that assisted **494 communities** improve their resilience, helped nearly **20,000 fishers** adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices, helped restore an estimated **1.4 million acres of coastal ecosystems**, worked with about **1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners**, and supported the education and training of over **2,300 undergraduate and graduate students**. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2016 of \$74 million, which were **leveraged with matching funds**.

Sea Grant is a unique program within NOAA that sends 95% of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to address issues that are identified as critical by public and private sector constituents and coastal communities throughout the United States. Sea Grant fosters cost-effective partnerships among state universities, state and local governments, NOAA, and coastal communities and businesses, leveraging nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.

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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:  
Dr. Fredrika Moser, SGA President, 301-405-7500, [moser@mdsg.umd.edu](mailto:moser@mdsg.umd.edu)  
Dr. Darren Lerner, SGA External Relations Committee Chair, (808) 956-7031, [lerner@hawaii.edu](mailto:lerner@hawaii.edu).

# Sea Grant Association

## Details of the FY 2020 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant Program

FY 2020 Appropriations Bill:	Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill
Agency:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Account:	Operations, Research, and Facilities
Office:	Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Program:	National Sea Grant College Program
FY 2016 Funding Level:	\$73M
FY 2017 Funding Level:	\$73M
FY 2018 Final Appropriation:	\$76.5M
FY 2019 House Recommendation:	\$80M (HR 5952)
FY 2019 Senate Recommendation:	\$83M (S 3072)
FY 2019 Final Appropriation:	TBD
FY 2020 Administration Request:	TBD
<b>FY 2020 Recommendation:</b>	<b>\$93.5M – consistent with total in S129 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress)</b>
FY 2020 Report Language Request:	\$93.5 million is provided to the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. The Committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs.

## **RATIONALE FOR THE FY 2020 RECOMMENDATION OF \$93.5M**

The challenges we face in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes science and policy in the coming years differ from those of the past owing largely to the expanding coastal populations, changes in transportation and communications, technological advancements, and changing climate conditions all interacting with changing socioeconomics. Sea level rise is affecting millions of people and billions of dollars of infrastructure. Changing ocean and Great Lakes water temperatures are already causing shifts in commercial and recreational fish and shellfish populations. Ocean acidification is already affecting a wide range of ecosystem components in the ocean including shellfish and corals in the Pacific Northwest. Timing and intensity of extreme weather events are having negative impacts on coastal communities and businesses in the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts.

The effects of all of these phenomena—and others—will become more pronounced in the future. Evolving challenges such as coastal tourism; community response to flooding; integrated fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood; and others will be further affected by changing coastal conditions. Sea Grant is actively assessing and adapting its research, extension, and education capacities, not only in the biogeochemical and social sciences but also in the fields of policy and planning, to assist communities to adapt to changing circumstances.

Looking to the future for Sea Grant, there are opportunities to: significantly expand strategic partnerships with other federal, state and local offices, agencies, and private sector partners to achieve mutual goals across all issue and topic areas; expand Sea Grant's role in the future of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes through such activities as the Sea Grant Network Visioning (strategic planning) process; support implementation of the Weather Forecast Research and Innovation Act of 2017 by informing observations and minimizing the impacts of extreme weather and water events; and utilize research, extension, and education capacities of Sea Grant to increase the economic contributions of our domestic fisheries and ocean resources to reduce our seafood trade deficit with safe and sustainable domestic seafood production.

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**DRAFT STAKEHOLDER(S) LETTER  
IN SUPPORT OF SEA GRANT FUNDING FOR FY2020**

Dear Member of Congress/Senator:

As constituents and beneficiaries of our state's Sea Grant program, we are writing to ask you to request that the Appropriations Committees fund the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) at a level of \$93.5 million in fiscal year 2020 – a level consistent with the total amount proposed to be authorized in the Sea Grant authorization bill passed in the Senate unanimously in September 2017. This recommended funding level would: healthy coastal ecosystems; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; resilient communities and economies; environmental literacy and workforce development. The Sea Grant program is administered by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, which is funded in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Sea Grant is authorized and managed in accord with its enabling legislation. In that way Sea Grant supports state and local decision makers via a non-regulatory approach based on competitive, peer-reviewed, sound science and technology. Sea Grant assists state and local entities as they address challenges facing coastal communities. Sea Grant enables coastal economic interests to develop and thrive which supports the growth and development of our coastal economy.

In 2016, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated **\$611 million** in economic impacts, created or supported over **7,000 jobs**, provided **33 state-level programs** with funding that assisted **494 communities** improve their resilience, helped nearly **20,000 fishers** adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices, helped restore an estimated **1.4 million acres of coastal ecosystems**, worked with about **1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners**, and supported the education and training of over **2,300 undergraduate and graduate students**. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2016 of \$74 million, which were **leveraged with matching funds**.

***[THIS PLACE IN THE LETTER IS WHERE EACH STATE PROGRAM AND/OR THE STATE PROGRAM'S STATKEHOLDERS/SIGNATORIES SHOULD INCLUDE A SECTION WITH ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HOW THE STATE'S SEA GRANT PROGRAM HAS CONTRIBUTED, ASSISTED, SUPPORTED, ETC THE REGION'S COASTAL ECONOMY AND COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE FOR THE SPECIFIC REGION OR STATE. THIS IS THE PLACE IN THE LETTER WHERE YOU GIVE THE MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND THE SENATOR THE STORY OR STORIES THAT REMIND THEM WHY SEA GRANT IS IMPORTANT FOR THEIR AREA]***

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and coastal communities and businesses, leveraging nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.

We recognize that the Nation is facing very tight fiscal constraints and that suggests that where we have discretion, federal funding ought to go to those programs that deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. The Sea Grant program does this while also increasing our coastal communities' resiliency in a cost-effective manner. For that reason and because of the importance the Sea Grant program to the long-term health of our state, we urge you to strongly support the National Sea Grant College Program by submitting a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committee that would fund the program at \$93.5 million in fiscal year 2020. We have attached a document that should be helpful for submitting such a request to the Appropriations Committees.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

For Example:

President, Charter Boat Captains Association  
Chairman, State Port Authority  
President, Regional Shrimp Association  
President, Oyster Dealers and Growers Association  
Etc.

Attachment: FY 20 Sea Grant Funding Recommendation

# Sea Grant Association

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# Sea Grant Association

## Membership of Key Sea Grant Congressional Committees For the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020)

### House Appropriations Committee Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee

**Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY), Chair**  
**Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)**  
**Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)**  
**Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)**  
**Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)**  
**Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)**  
**Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)**

**Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Ranking**  
**Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)**  
**Rep. Steve Palazzo (R-MS)**  
**Rep. Tom Graves (R-GA)**

### Senate Appropriations Committee Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee

**Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), Chair**  
**Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)**  
**Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**  
**Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)**  
**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**  
**Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)**  
**Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)**  
**Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)**  
**Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)**

**Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Ranking**  
**Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**  
**Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**  
**Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)**  
**Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)**  
**Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)**  
**Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)**  
**Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)**

Key Sea Grant subcommittees and their members are highlighted in **bold text**.

Prepared by SGA's External Relations Committee

Dr. Darren Lerner, Chairman

February 2019

# Sea Grant Association

## Authorization Committees and Subcommittees House Natural Resources Committee

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Chair  
Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)  
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)  
Del. Gregorio Sablan (D-MP)  
Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)  
Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)  
Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)  
Rep. TJ Cox (D-CA)  
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)  
Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)  
Rep. Deb Haaland (D-NM)  
Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D-NJ)  
Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC)  
Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)  
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)  
Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO)  
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)  
Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD)  
Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)  
Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)  
Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)  
Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)  
Del. Michael San Nicolas (D-GU)

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) – Ranking Member  
Rep. Don Young (R-AK)  
Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)  
Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)  
Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)  
Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)  
Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)  
Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA)  
Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)  
Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)  
Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA)  
Del. Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS)  
Rep. Dan Webster (R-FL)  
Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY)  
Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA)  
Res. Cmsr. Jennifer Gonzalez-Colón (R-PR)  
Rep. John Curtis (R-UT)  
Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK)  
Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)

## Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

**Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Chair**  
**Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)**  
**Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)**  
**Rep. Gregorio Sablan (D-NMA)**  
**Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (D-NJ)**  
**Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)**  
**Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD)**  
**Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)**  
**Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)**  
**Rep. T. J. Cox (D-CA)**  
**Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)**  
**Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)**  
**Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC)**

**Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), Ranking**  
**Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)**  
**Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)**  
**Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)**  
**Rep. Jody B. Hice (R-GA)**  
**Del. Aumua Amata Radewagen (R-AS)**  
**Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL)**  
**Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA)**  
**Res. Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR)**  
**Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)**

Key Sea Grant subcommittees and their members are highlighted in **bold text**.

Prepared by SGA's External Relations Committee

Dr. Darren Lerner, Chairman

February 2019

# Sea Grant Association

## House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Chair  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)  
Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)  
Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA)  
Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA)  
Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX)  
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)  
Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK)  
Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)  
Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)  
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)  
Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA)  
Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)  
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)  
Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)  
Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)  
Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)  
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)

Rep. Katie Hill (D-CA)  
Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT)  
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA)  
  
Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK), Ranking Member  
Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL)  
Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)  
Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX)  
Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)  
Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ)  
Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS)  
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)  
Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC)  
Rep. Michael Cloud (R-TX)  
Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH)  
Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX-)  
Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH)  
Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL)  
Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN)

## Subcommittee on the Environment

**Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Chair**  
**Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)**  
**Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA)**  
**Rep. Paul Tonko (D-CA)**  
**Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)**  
**Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)**  
**Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT)**  
**Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)**

**Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) Ranking**  
**Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)**  
**Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH)**  
**Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN)**  
*vacancy*

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Dr. Darren Lerner, Chairman

February 2019

# Sea Grant Association

## Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chair  
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)  
Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)  
Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)  
Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)  
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)  
Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)  
Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)  
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)  
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)  
Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)  
Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)  
Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)  
Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ranking  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)  
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)  
Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)  
Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)  
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)  
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)  
Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)  
Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)  
Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

## Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather

**Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Chair**  
**Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)**  
**Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)**  
**Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)**  
**Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)**

**Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Ranking**  
**Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**  
**Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)**  
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February 2019

# Sea Grant Association

## FY 2020 Calendar of Major Events Related to SGA Advocacy Efforts Revised February 2019

### February 2019

- **SGA delegates reach out to key stakeholders and their own Congressional delegations asking their Members to submit a FY 20 Programmatic Request for the National Sea Grant College Program of \$93.5 million for the FY 2020 NOAA section of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act.**

### March 2019

- President sends FY 2020 budget request for NOAA and Sea Grant to the Congress to begin appropriations and authorization process. SGA anticipates President's Budget for FY 2020 will once again propose termination of Sea Grant program.
- **SGA delegates continue to reach out to key stakeholders and their own Congressional delegations asking their Members of Congress to submit a FY 20 Programmatic Request for the National Sea Grant College Program of \$93.5 million for the FY 2020 NOAA section of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act.**
- **SGA holds winter meeting in Washington, D.C.**
- **Late March – likely deadline for Members of Congress to submit Programmatic Requests to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science.**
- **In connection with SGA March Meeting, SGA delegates meet with state's Congressional delegations to advocate for the SGA request for a PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST of \$93.5 million for the National Sea Grant College Program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the FY 2020 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act. Leave Congressional delegations with "FY20 Sea Grant Ask" and information on Sea Grant accomplishments on a national scale and key information relative to the state program.**
- **SGA leadership meets with key staff of the House and Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittees to advocate for \$93.5 million funding level for Sea Grant. Provide information on Sea Grant accomplishments and Sea Grant role in coastal resiliency.**

# *Sea Grant Association*

- **SGA leadership meet with House and Senate staff on Sea Grant Reauthorization bill.**
- Appropriations Subcommittees continue holding hearings on the various agencies' FY 2020 budget requests with testimony by both agency officials and outside witnesses.
- Late March 2018 – House and Senate CJS deadline for Members to submit FY 2019 Programmatic Requests

## **April 2018**

- **SGA delegates continue outreach to Congressional delegations – either in Washington, D. C. or back in the state/district. Focus continues to try and convince Members of Congress, to the extent possible, to support a Programmatic Request to the House and Senate Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittees for the SGA request of \$93.5M for the FY 2019 Sea Grant program.**
- SGA leadership continue with meetings and other interactions with key Congressional staff in support FY 2020 appropriations. SGA also seeks opportunities to testify before, House and Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittees and/or House and Senate authorizing subcommittees to advocate for Sea Grant program.
- SGA submits testimony to House and Senate appropriations subcommittees in re FY 2018 Sea Grant program.
- **By the end of April at the latest, SGA delegates (and their stakeholders) complete initial round of outreach to their respective Congressional delegations.**

## **May 2018**

- House Appropriations CJS Subcommittee completes hearings and prepares to mark up FY 2020 CJS Appropriations Bill informed by the FY 2020 programmatic requests, hearings, and other advocacy efforts.

**Sea Grant Funding History FY2002-2019  
(In millions unless otherwise noted)**

	FY 2018						FY 2019					
	Authorized	SGA Request	Pres Request	House	Senate	Final	Authorized	SGA Request	Pres Request	House	Senate	Final
NOAA (billions)	N/A		4775	4970	5590.3							
OAR	N/A		324	448	477.7	507.5						
Sea Grant Base		80	0.0	63.0	65.0	65.0			0.0	68.5	71.0	
Marine Aquaculture			0.0	7.0	11.5	11.5			0.0	11.5	12.0	12.0
Sea Grant Total		80	0.0	70.0	76.6	76.5		85	0.0	80.0	83.0	80.0

	FY 2016						FY 2017					
	Authorized	SGA Request	Pres Request	House	Senate	Final	Authorized	SGA Request	Pres Request	House	Senate	Final
NOAA (billions)	N/A		5983	5169.3	5381.6	5,773.5			5,850.6			
OAR	N/A		507	409.7	436.0	481.9			519.7			461
Sea Grant Base		80	61.5	62.8	62.8	64.0			61.9	64.0	64.0	63.9
Marine Aquaculture			7.0	2.0	10.0	9.0			7.0	2.0	10.0	9.0
Sea Grant Total		80	68.5	64.8	72.8	73.0		80.0	68.9	66.0	74.0	72.9

	FY2014						FY2015					
	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate	Approp	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate (CJS)	Approp
NOAA (billions)			5.447	4.915	5.589	5.1						
OAR			472.4	358.5	445.2	390.6						
Sea Grant Base	91.9	72.7	72.7*	64.5	72.7**	67.3***	expired	80	63.4	64.0****	67.8*****	67.3
Program Total												
Nuisance Species/ Zebra												
Gulf of Mexico Oysters												
Oyster Disease												
Fish Extension												
Harmful Algal Blooms												
National Sea Grant Law Center												
Mobile Bay Fisheries Initiative												
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Initiative												
NOAA Ed Office-AL Outreach												
Marine Aquaculture			(4.2)	(4.5)	(6.0)	(4.5)						

\* Includes \$4.2M for marine aquaculture and \$10M for ocean mapping prize initiative

\*\*Includes \$6.0M for marine aquaculture and up to \$4M for ocean mapping prize initiative

\*\*\*Includes \$4.5M for marine aquaculture and up to \$1M for ocean mapping prize initiative

\*\*\*\*Includes \$2M for marine aquaculture

\*\*\*\*\*includes \$5M for marine aquaculture

	FY2012						FY2013					
	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate	Approp	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate (CJS)	Approp
<b>NOAA (billions)</b>			<b>5.485</b>	<b>4.533</b>	<b>5.022</b>	<b>4.894</b>			<b>5060.5</b>	<b>4961.7</b>	<b>3148.7</b>	
<b>OAR<sup>a</sup></b>			<b>212.0</b>	<b>288.7</b>	<b>362.8</b>	<b>376.5</b>			<b>403.4</b>	<b>405.0</b>	<b>414.6</b>	
<b>Sea Grant Base</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>62.0</b>	
Program Total					65.0	63.0						
Nuisance Species/ Zebra					1.2							
Gulf of Mexico Oysters												
Oyster Disease												
Fish Extension												
Harmful Algal Blooms												
National Sea Grant Law Center												
Mobile Bay Fisheries Initiative												
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Initiative												
NOAA Ed Office-AL Outreach												
Marine Aquaculture					5.0				(4.6)	(4.6)		

	FY2010						FY2011					
	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate	Approp	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate (CJS)	Approp
<b>NOAA (billions)</b>		<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.48</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>4.73759</b>		<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.544</b>	<b>5.543</b>	<b>5.546</b>	<b>\$4.588</b>
<b>OAR<sup>a</sup></b>			<b>394.2</b>	<b>426.7</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>438.8</b>						<b>445.0</b>
<b>Sea Grant Base</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>55.08</b>	<b>59.085</b>	<b>63.085</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>79.38</b>	<b>79.38</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>61.0</b>
Program Total	93.6	75.6	55.08	59.085	63.085	63.0	97.38	79.38	62.0	60	63.1	61.0
Nuisance Species/ Zebra	5				2.0	2.0	5				2.0	2.0
Gulf of Mexico Oysters												
Oyster Disease	5						5					
Fish Extension	3						3					
Harmful Algal Blooms	5						5					
National Sea Grant Law Center												
Mobile Bay Fisheries Initiative												
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Initiative												
NOAA Ed Office-AL Outreach												
Marine Aquaculture					4.8	4.8					4.5	4.8

\*Fiscal Year 2011 funding is continued at the fiscal year 2010 level under a Continuing Resolution until at least March 4, 2011.





	FY2004					FY2005					
	Authorized	President Request	House	Senate	Approp <sup>9</sup>	Authorized	SGA Request	President Request	House	Senate	Approp
<b>NOAA</b>		<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>3.7</b>			<b>3.37</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>3.94</b>
<b>OAR</b>		<b>366</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>400</b>			<b>350</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>Sea Grant Base</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>56.0<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>66.16</b>	<b>54.41</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>66.675</b>	<b>58.0</b>
Program Total	93	57.4	61.961	69.41	62.628	95.5				73.906	62.75
Nuisance Species/ Zebra	5		2.981	0.25	2.981	5.0	5.0 <sup>9</sup>			2.981	1.0
Gulf of Mexico Oysters			0.993	1.0	1.0					1.0	1.0
Oyster Disease	5		1.987		1.987	5.0	5.0 <sup>9</sup>			1.0	1.0
Fish Extension	3		1.941	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0 <sup>9</sup>			2.0	1.5
Harmful Algal Blooms	5					5.0	5.0 <sup>9</sup>				
Marine Invasive Species Program (HI)					0.25					0.25	0.25

	FY2002				FY2003				
	President Request	House	Senate	Approp	Authorized	President Request	House	Senate	Approp
<b>NOAA</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>3.26</b>		<b>3.2</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>3.15</b>
<b>OAR</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>356</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>Sea Grant Base</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>56.41</b>	<b>56.4</b>	56.41	<b>60</b>	<b>57.0 (NSF)<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>N/A - CR and Omnibus</b>	<b>57.41</b>	<b>54.41</b>
Program Total	62.4	62.41	62.4	62.41	78			63.41	60.41
Nuisance Species/Zebra	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	5			3.0	3.0
Gulf of Mexico Oysters	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0				1.0	1.0
Oyster Disease	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	5			2.0	2.0
Fish Extension					3				
Marine Invasive Species Program (HI)									
Harmful Algal Blooms					5				

<sup>a</sup> OAR levels reflect funds from the ORF account only, not PAC

<sup>b</sup> FY09 Senate bill requests \$2M to be used to establish a Gulf Coast program

<sup>c</sup> FY06 NOAA Approp includes \$200M in FY06 supplemental funds

<sup>d</sup> FY07 NOAA Approp includes \$170M in FY07 supplemental funds; also funded by way of a yearlong CR with no earmarks

<sup>e</sup> FY04 figures have not been corrected to include Congressional across the board rescission of 0.59% for all discretionary programs

<sup>f</sup> \$1.941M fish extension unfunded mandate must be subtracted from base figure

<sup>g</sup> Priority area figures not specifically stated in request because we were limited to total of \$68.4M by Congressional staff, these were pursued informally

<sup>h</sup> FY03 President's Budget requested transferring Sea Grant to NSF; provided \$57M in the NSF Budget Request

# FY 2020 Congressional Appropriations Process for Sea Grant Funding December 2018

**Dr. Darren Lerner,  
Chair, External Relations Committee**

*Presented by Joel Widder and Meg Thompson  
Federal Science Partners LLC*



# National Fisherman

Trump proposal to slash Sea Grant would hurt seafood industry nationwide



Portland Press Herald Editorial  
March 10, 2017  
**Our View: NOAA budget cuts would have high cost for Maine**

Rolling back spending on fisheries management, marine research and weather forecasting would disrupt our state's fishing industry.



## Purpose of the SGA Dec 2018 Seminar

Provide SGA Delegates and their staff with the tools and information so that they can **engage with their state's stakeholders** to ask those stakeholders to request their Congressional representatives to submit a “FY20 Programmatic Request” in support of Sea Grant funding to the House/Senate Appropriations Committees;

Provide advice and counsel to SGA Delegates and their staff on how to **work with their university's leadership** and other entities with which they report to in an effort to gain their support and advocacy for Sea Grant funding in FY 2020; and

Provide SGA Delegates and their staff with the tools and information they need so they can ALSO **engage directly with the Congressional representatives** and ask them to submit a “FY20 Programmatic Request” in support of Sea Grant funding to the House/Senate Appropriations Committees;

## With the FY 2020 Budget Caps below FY 2019, what should we expect for Sea Grant in the President's FY 2020 budget proposal?

- New NOAA officials have indicated their support for Sea Grant.
- However, SGA should be prepared for the Administration to propose to terminate Sea Grant and other extramural coastal grant programs in its FY 2020 budget proposal.
- We expect the Administration's FY2020 budget proposal to be released in early February 2019.
- House and Senate Appropriations Committees will then start hearings and Members will begin the process of developing **THEIR** programmatic requests to be submitted to the Appropriations Committees for the FY20 Appropriations bills.
- *SGA delegates and Sea Grant stakeholders should use the month of December 2018 and January 2019 to recruit key stakeholders in your state to weigh in with state Congressional delegations in January and early February in favor of Sea Grant funding for FY20.*

The  
***Programmatic Request*** – The  
Single Most  
Important  
Activity for  
getting Sea  
Grant funded in  
the FY 2020  
Congressional  
Appropriations  
Process

- ***Programmatic Requests*** – the formal submission by Members of Congress to the Appropriations Committee asking for funding for a specific Federal program.
- ***Programmatic Requests*** are typically due to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee as early as March of each year – sometimes even February!
- ***Programmatic Requests*** are used by the Appropriations Committees as they decide funding levels for programs and agencies in each appropriation bill
- ***Programmatic Requests*** are more important and more impactful than *Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs)* – though DCLs are useful.
- December 2018: SGA is providing ***Programmatic Request*** materials and guidance for State Programs and their stakeholders

## FY 2020 SGA Advocacy – Engaging Stakeholders, Universities, and Congress

- SGA delegates should use December 2018 and January 2019 to identify 3 to 5 key stakeholders (priority should be private sector or commercial entities).
- Ask those stakeholders to reach out to the state’s Congressional delegation in January 2019 to request that those Members of Congress (regardless of the committees or subcommittees they sit on) to submit a **“*programmatic request*”** to the Appropriations Committees to fund Sea Grant at \$93.5 million in FY 2020. This is the total amount in the Senate-passed Sea Grant reauthorization bill (S. 129).
- If possible, stakeholders should seek to meet with Members of Congress and staff to support this request – ideally anytime between now and early March 2019. Meeting in the district is as valuable as meeting in Washington.
- Provide stakeholders with a version of the draft stakeholder letter contained in the background materials for this seminar along with the document entitled “FY 2020 Programmatic Funding Recommendation” – also contained in background materials.
- We have included several examples of stakeholder letters SGA delegates were able to generate in prior years.

## **FY 2020 SGA Advocacy – Engaging Stakeholders, Universities, and Congress**

- **SGA delegates should use December 2018 and January 2019 to meet with your university's leadership i.e. Vice President for Research, Director of Federal Relations, Vice President for External Relations, Public Affairs, etc.**
- **Universities usually have an annual list of public policy objectives or federal funding objectives. It would be very helpful to have them support the FY 2020 SGA recommendation of \$93.5 million – the same total level as contained in the Senate passed reauthorization bill, S. 129.**
- **Provide the university's federal relations staff with the FY2020 SGA Programmatic Funding Recommendation "one pager" as well as any background and accomplishment-related materials related to your state's program.**
- **Sometimes universities are not able to take that position. An alternative suggestion would be for the university to call for "full funding for Sea Grant" on their federal agenda for FY 2020. A number of land grant universities and associations do this regularly -- i.e. APLU; Friends of NOAA; Blue Group, etc.**

## **FY 2020 SGA Advocacy – Engaging Stakeholders, Universities, and Congress**

- In January/early February 2019 SGA delegates should reach out to their state’s Congressional delegation and ask them to submit a “programmatic request” to the Appropriations Committees to fund Sea Grant at \$93.5 million in FY 2020. This is the amount in the Senate-passed Sea Grant reauthorization bill (S. 129).
- Each Member’s office has their own deadline by which constituents must submit recommendations for programmatic requests. Some deadlines as early as the first week in February. The House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees have their own deadlines for programmatic requests and they vary from year to year.
- Each Member’s office also has their own form or process for submitting programmatic requests. They may give you a form to fill out and return to them. If so, FSP can help you fill out the form so you can return it to the Member’s office ASAP.
- Members/staff are likely to support the program and programmatic request if they know how the program serves the community, provides benefits (economic and environmental) that accrue to the community, creates partnerships, assists local industries, creates or maintains jobs, and educates students in the district/state/region.

# What Reactions Can You Expect When Recommending Submittal of a Programmatic Request and What Can You Say in Response

- **We are big supporters of Sea Grant and plan to sign onto the annual Dear Colleague Letter. Is there going to be one?**
  - We appreciate your support of the program and the “Dear Colleague Letter”. We know from talking with appropriations staff, they will be looking at the programmatic requests that come in so we hope you participate in that process as well. In the past Rep Courtney and Rep Zeldin in the House have led a Dear Colleague effort. We hope they will again.
- **We are supporters of Sea Grant but we are also concerned about growing deficits and the need to hold down spending.**
  - We understand the intense pressures Congress is under to ensure scarce tax payer dollars have measurable real impacts. Sea Grant contributed over \$600 million in economic growth in our coastal communities in 2016 for the \$74 million federal investment. The fact sheet we have contains additional data on that return on investment.
- **Is the Sea Grant program authorized? Has the authorization expired?**
  - Sea Grant is authorized by Public Law 89-688, as amended. A reauthorization of appropriations has passed unanimously in the Senate a number of times – mostly recently in September 2017 as S. 129. Our funding recommendation of \$93.5M is consistent with the total amount authorized for FY20.

## In the End...

- **We expect the Administration will again propose to terminate Sea Grant and other NOAA ocean and coastal grant programs in FY 2020.**
- **Congress has rejected these proposals in the past**
- **Even so, we cannot let up on our advocacy efforts in appealing to Congress to fund Sea Grant**
- **Stakeholders are our best messenger – “beneficiaries” of Sea Grant**
- **Private sector stakeholders are the best – commercial entities, job creators, but so are local elected officials, local government entities (emergency management organizations), coastal and environmental resource management organizations, science teachers, etc.**
- **We have a chance to get “out front” on this by reaching out to stakeholders now through January and ensure they have sufficient time to make contact with Congressional offices.**
- **SGA delegates should use Dec, Jan and Feb for their outreach to stakeholders, university leadership, partners, Congressional delegation.**
- **Seek meetings with your Congressional delegations at home and/or in Washington when you are here in 2019. Bring stakeholders with you if feasible or bring copies of their letters.**

## Resources

- [Find Your House Representative by Zip Code](#)
- [Find Your Senator](#)
- [FY 2020 Sea Grant Programmatic Funding Recommendation](#)
- [FY 2020 Draft Stakeholder Letter](#)
- [Dec 2018 Webinar Background Materials](#)
- [Susan White, Chair of ERC](#)
- [Joel Widder, FSP](#)
- [Meg Thompson, FSP](#)
- [Mark Marin, FSP](#)

**EXAMPLES OF STAKEHOLDER  
LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF  
SEA GRANT**





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Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2609 U.S.A.  
218-727-8525 ■ Fax 218-727-6888  
E-Mail: [admin@duluthport.com](mailto:admin@duluthport.com) ■ [www.duluthport.com](http://www.duluthport.com)

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Funding for National Sea Grant Programs

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Port of Duluth-Superior serves as a strategic distribution hub for North America's heartland. By tonnage, we are the largest port on the Great Lakes and one of the busiest freshwater ports in the world. The Duluth Seaway Port Authority (DSPA) is a public agency with a mission of bringing business to the port, generating domestic and international trade, and advocating for maritime industry interests. The DSPA also owns and operates the Clure Public Marine Terminal, the only heavy-lift and general cargo terminal on the western end of Lake Superior. The Clure operates as an important multi-modal hub for Minnesota and mid-America (US and Canada). The shipping industry represents over \$1.5B in business revenue to the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area, as well as over 11,000 jobs and \$540M in wages.

As constituents and beneficiaries of the research, education and outreach of Minnesota Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, we encourage you to ask the appropriations committee to fund the National Sea Grant College Program at a level that maintains them as an effective scientific institution focused on delivery of enduring, science-based solutions to immediate, multi-variate problems (estimated at \$80M in FY18). The program is part of NOAA in the Department of Commerce, and funded in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

We frequently access Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant's resources: a) We rely on their staff to track scientific and technological advances, as well as policy developments that affect the maritime industry; this helps extend our staff resources. b) When we encounter technical challenges to the ongoing viability of maritime commerce, we approach Sea Grant for science-based facts and collaborative outreach that leads to practical solutions. c) Sea Grant staff serve on local and regional technical groups, such as the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Interstate Council, bringing apolitical science-based information and facts to aid in discussions and to address multivariate problems. Because they are removed from political involvement, their scientific solutions are widely accepted. Specific problems that Sea Grant's expertise has been invaluable to the Duluth-Superior Harbor and the shipping industry:

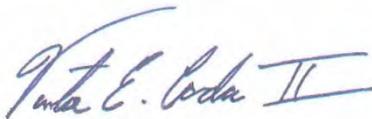
- **Accelerated fresh water corrosion:** Steel structures in our harbor are subject to an unusual accelerated fresh water corrosion process. Sea Grant convened a workshop of several of respected research scientists, which led to a multi-year research program supported by federal, state and local funds at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million. The study identified the cause of the corrosion and identified best practices for protecting new steel structures and managing the corrosion of existing structures. The program has been immensely successful in managing corrosion of the 14 miles of steel structures in the harbor at an over-all savings of about \$250 million.

- **Ballast water management:** Sea Grant worked with the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the Canadian Seaway Management Corporation, all 8 states, 2 Canadian provinces and various federal agencies of the U.S. and Canada, through the Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative, to normalize ballast water rules and treatment standard. The work resulted in the recognition by the various political divisions that their standards must be largely coordinated to ensure the continuity of Great Lakes shipping as well as effective environmental protection.
- **Beneficial re-use of dredged materials:** Sea Grant has been a key player in developing a science-based state policy position that dredged material resulting for annual dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel can be re-used in upland projects and in-water habitat restoration projects. The state agencies have used this policy to strategically move the harbor to de-listing as a Clean Water Act-designated “Area of Concern.” This policy will have saved well over \$1.8B in cleanup costs in the de-listing process.

On a national basis, Sea Grant programs in the last year alone have documented over a thousand initiatives, activities and products to help make coastal communities more successful and resilient, directly generating more than \$500 million in economic activity, and supporting social systems and water-dependent businesses impacting billions of dollars. In the Great Lakes Maritime system alone, Sea Grant has made substantial contributions to support the \$34 billion/yr. shipping and port industry through participation and leadership in a number of critical projects and research efforts.

We recognize that the nation is facing very tight fiscal constraints and federal funding ought to go to those programs that deliver against the triple-bottom-line, yielding economic, environmental, and social benefits, Sea Grant does this and should be fully funded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vanta E. Coda II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Vanta E. Coda II  
Executive Director

Cc: Minnesota Sea Grant Director Dr. John Downing  
Wisconsin Sea Grant Director Dr. James Hurley



## THE HINCKLEY COMPANY<sup>®</sup>

Since 1928

April 13, 2017

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

The Hinckley Company is America's oldest boat builder with a rich history in sail and power boats. We have been building semi-custom yachts in our yard in Southwest Harbor Maine since 1928. Each boat is hand-built for its owner to unparalleled standards of quality, craftsmanship, and beauty. In addition, The Hinckley Company leads the marine industry in advanced technologies and innovation. We have been involved in the design and construction of the best engineered and finest built boats. The Hinckley Company has long been driven by a love affair with the water; a passion we share with our owners and all those who seek to enjoy live along the coast with family and friends.

It is of great concern to us to learn of the new Administration's plan to eliminate all funding for NOAA's Sea Grant program. This will decidedly impact the survival of Sea Grant's programs and initiatives as well as Sea Grant very existence. The funds that Sea Grant receives from private and state investment only partially funds its research and programs. Without a federal commitment, the organization will not survive.

Of vital interest to The Hinckley Company and the marine industry in general is Sea Grant's concentrated effort and focus on healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient coastal communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workplace development. All are of critical importance to the health and vitality of the nation's communities and coastal resources and in turn the companies and organizations that serve them. The Hinckley Company operates facilities in five coastal states which would be significantly impacted by the loss of Sea Grant's programs.

The Hinckley Company began negotiations to purchase the Navy Land abutting their existing property to expand their business. When pollution on the Navy land became an issue, Sea Grant was instrumental in bringing together leaders from the EPA, DEM, RI Commerce, Navy, and key members of the Congressional delegation to work towards a solution that made sense for everyone.

I am requesting you reject the Administration's FY 2017 proposal to immediately cut \$30 million from NOAA's Sea Grant program as part of FY 2017 Security Supplemental Appropriation, and reject the Administration's FY 2018 proposal to defund Sea Grant and end this valuable investment in our coastal economy.

Sincerely,

Peter O'Connell  
President and Chief Executive Officer

NATIONAL  
**Aquaculture**  
ASSOCIATION

March 22, 2017

Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable José Serrano  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: National Sea Grant College Program

Dear Chairs Shelby and Culberson and Ranking Members Shaheen and Serrano:

The National Aquaculture Association (NAA) requests that funding for the National Sea Grant College Program and its associated external research be maintained as it has been in the FY 2017 budget and continuing resolution (\$73 million) as well as increased for FY 2018 (\$80 million).

The NAA is a U.S. producer-based non-profit association founded in 1991 that supports the establishment of governmental programs that further the common interest of our membership, both as individual producers and as members of the aquaculture community. We are committed to the continued growth of our industry, to working with state and federal governments to create a business climate conducive to our success, and to fostering cost-effective environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The National Sea Grant College Program provides technical assistance and applied grant funding that has strengthened and expanded aquaculture (fish, shellfish and seaweed) in the Nation's coastal communities of the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, Guam, and other territories. Sea Grant extension agents serve as an information bridge from 33 of the Nation's universities to the farmers that work to produce high quality fish and seafood for local, regional, national and international markets.

Sea Grant has been an integral and highly-valued partner in the growth of marine aquaculture production in the United States. As examples, over the last five years shellfish production acreage in the Chesapeake Bay region has grown by approximately 3,000 acres and over the same period the production of high-valued, single, deeply-cupped oysters produced using innovative off-bottom production gear has exploded with coastal residents of every Atlantic Coastal state exploring or adopting this environmentally friendly technology that removes nutrients in the form of

Shelby, Shaheen, Culberson and Serrano Letter  
March 22, 2017  
Page Two

phytoplankton from coastal waters. The Pacific Coast states are the largest producer of shellfish in the United States yielding the greatest varieties of oysters, clams, mussels and the geoduck that has been supported by research funded, in part, by Sea Grant. Notably, Washington's shellfish industry directly and indirectly employs over 3,200 people in rural areas, with an economic contribution of over \$270 million annually. In partnership with the farming community, Sea Grant is yielding jobs, income and environmental benefits critical to rural, coastal and inland communities.

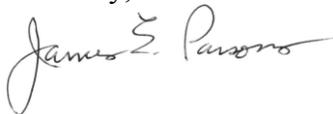
We also request that the funding levels for coastal and oceanic water quality monitoring be maintained. Weather data and analysis provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are critical for marine aquaculturists to work safely and efficiently on the water. We as farmers in the coastal or oceanic environment cannot look at water and understand or predict the changes that are occurring. NOAA provides water quality data (temperature, salinity, acidity, etc.) that is absolutely necessary for fish and shellfish farmers to respond to changing carbonate chemistry on their farms and during the production of oyster, clam or mussel seed to plant on farms. Water chemistry data is provided by the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System that is up for reauthorization during the current Congressional Session. The Integrated Ocean Observing System, which is funded within the National Ocean Service's Navigation, Observations and Positioning line item (\$144 million in FY 17), includes \$6.8 million for the national Integrated Ocean Observing System and as a separate line item \$29.5 million for the Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Observations.

Sea Grant is a unique program within NOAA that sends 95% of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to solve problems that are identified as critical by advisory groups established in each state that consist of public and private sector participants for the express purpose of providing timely guidance to program priorities and activities. The Sea Grant Association estimates that nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress is leveraged from local and state sources to support Sea Grant efforts.

Farming, whether row crop, livestock or aquaculture, is a knowledge, technology and science intensive effort. Sea Grant is critical to the success of U.S. marine aquaculturists and we would greatly appreciate your continuing support for the several NOAA programs we have described.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information or to testify to the importance of these programs.

Sincerely,



Jim Parsons  
President

cc: Margaret Barrette, Executive Director, Pacific Coast Shellfish Farmers Assn.  
Bob Rheault, Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Farmers Assn.



*Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters*

501 Sixth Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

February 23, 2017

Honorable Chris VanHollen  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator VanHollen:

As beneficiaries of Maryland Sea Grant program, we respectfully ask for your active support for the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations process. This important program serves our nation well and has directly benefitted our own efforts to promote environmental stewardship within the faith community across Maryland.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) works to engage faith leaders and their congregations in Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and education. By working through faith institutions, we have successfully helped hundreds of new audiences acquire new knowledge about watershed challenges and how each individual person has a role – and responsibility – for making a difference. Over the past four years, we have worked with 200+ congregations who have planted 13,000+ trees on their grounds, implemented stormwater reduction practices to treat over 2 million square feet of impervious surfaces on their properties and helped to install over 1,500 rainwater harvesting rain barrels and cisterns. For many of these projects, Maryland Sea Grant provided the technical assistant to these congregations.

The funding for the NSGCP supports programming in key focus areas such as promoting healthy coastal ecosystems and environmental literacy, two areas that IPC and the congregations we support have directly benefited from. Approximately 95 percent of the federal funding provided to Sea Grant leaves Washington and goes to the state programs. This spending has a significant leveraging impact, with every two federal dollars invested attracting at least an additional dollar in non-federal resources in matching funding. IPC is a small organization with limited staffing and technical capacity, and we rely on the Maryland Sea Grant program to bridge our technical capacity gaps.

Without Maryland Sea Grant, we would not have this free technical support partner to connect our motivated congregations to. For example, Catonsville Presbyterian Church would not have been able to submit their grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funding to support the design of several stormwater practices on their grounds. We also recently embarked on a two-year program called [One Water Partnership](#) whereby we will be working with 30 congregations in the Jones Falls Watershed to help them understand how to help heal the sub-watershed in which they live. By teaching them that they are part of a “watershed community,” our hope is that they develop a sense of responsibility for their own watershed – and their brothers and sisters with whom they share it. But, while inspiring a change in heart is important, the rubber meets the road when congregations see the price tag for

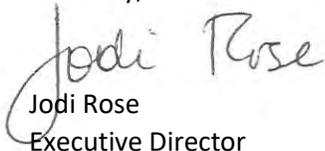
restoration projects and educational efforts. Financial and technical barriers can turn a well-intentioned dream into a non-starter.

Helping congregations overcome such barriers is critical to helping new audiences engage in meaningful and impactful environmental restoration projects – and teach their congregants how to do the same at home. Maryland Sea Grant has helped our congregations apply for thousands of dollars for restoration and educational programs, and without those funds, those congregations would not have had the capacity to lead their communities.

Maryland Sea Grant demonstrates its effectiveness as a program by delivering economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. Ongoing support for Maryland Sea Grant ensures that this free community service is available to support faith leaders so that they can continue to inspire their congregants. With 5,000 places of worship in the state of Maryland alone, this support is critical to reaching all Marylanders and teaching them the importance of caring for our watershed.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and we hope you will value the importance of this program as strongly as IPC does.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Rose  
Executive Director

**Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

Freeholder Meeting Venue:

Date: Mar 08, 2018 - 5:00 PM

Location: Hall of Records  
 Freeholder's Meeting Room  
 1 East Main St.  
 Freehold, NJ 07728

Agenda: Resolution Supporting the Continued Funding of the National Sea Grant Program in the Federal Government's Fiscal Year 2019 budget

Official Document #	Res# 2018-0220						
Meeting Date	03/08/2018						
Introduced Date	03/08/2018						
Adopted Date	03/08/2018						
Agenda Item	10						
FREEHOLDER	PRES.	ABS.	MOVE	SEC	AYE	NAY	ABST.
Scharfenberger	✓			✓	✓		
Impeveduto	✓		✓		✓		
Curley	✓				✓		
Burry	✓				✓		
Arnone	✓				✓		

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE ABOVE TO BE A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AT A MEETING HELD

*March 8, 2018*

*Maria March*  
 CLERK

ADMINISTRATOR

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL  
SEA GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2019  
BUDGET

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC), founded in 1969, is an affiliation of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment, meeting its mission through innovative research, education and extension programs that advance healthy coastal ecosystems, reinforce sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and make our communities and economies more resilient; and

WHEREAS, located on Sandy Hook, NJSGC works closely with local coastal and Bayshore communities and the marine and fishing industries in an effort to balance economic growth, development and redevelopment, with coastal resource quality, resiliency and human safety; and

WHEREAS, NJSGC has partnered with the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) on educational programs; [the Monmouth County Health Department on Clean Vessel Act programs that replaced pump-out facilities damaged by Superstorm Sandy]; and the Whale Pond Brook Association to develop a green infrastructure demonstration project; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth County Health Department has applied for and received grants from the Clean Vessel Act program that replaced pump out facilities damaged by Superstorm Sandy and annually funds a portion of the costs associated with a pump out vessel on the Navasink and Shrewsbury rivers; and,

Introduced on: March 8, 2018  
Adopted on: March 8, 2018  
Official Resolution#: 2018-0220

WHEREAS, additional successful local programs have including Ocean Fun Days, the Jersey Shore Science Symposium, Clean Marinas Program, Community Supported Fisheries, Marina Industry Enhancement, and a Boat Ramp Count and Condition Assessment; and

WHEREAS, The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders has reviewed the proposal to eliminate the National Sea Grant College Program in the Federal Government's FY 2019 Budget, which would result in the elimination of the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC), and the jobs, lab, fellowships, and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Sea Grant Program is an extremely cost-effective program, generating nearly \$622 million in economic impacts and 7000 jobs in 33 states through their FY 2016 Congressional appropriate of \$73 million; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monmouth has requested grants for the replacement of the twenty-one (21) year old pump out vessel, and the pump out vessel has pumped over 500,000 gallons from over 15,000 recreational vessel through 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognizes that the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium is important to the oceanic, coastal, and economic well-being of Monmouth County and the State of New Jersey and believes that the proposed closure is detrimental and unnecessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders urges the United States Congress to reinstate funding for the National Sea Grant Program,

Introduced on: March 8, 2018  
Adopted on: March 8, 2018  
Official Resolution#: 2018-0220

thereby ensuring the continued function of the NJSGC and its environmental, economic, and recreational benefits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Freeholders of Monmouth County continue to support the application for continued funding of the grant by the Monmouth County Department of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be made available to the President of the United States, the Monmouth County Congressional Delegation, the United States Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Gov. Phil Murphy, the Monmouth County State Legislative Delegation, the Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools and the Clerk of the Board of all of the counties within the State of New Jersey.

**Introduced on: March 8, 2018**  
**Adopted on: March 8, 2018**  
**Official Resolution#: 2018-0220**



March 14, 2017

Honorable Representative Andy Harris  
United States House of Representatives  
1533 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Harris:

As beneficiaries of our state's Sea Grant program, we respectfully ask for your active support for the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations process. This important program serves our nation well and has directly benefited our own efforts to promote environmental stewardship, support industry development, and expand marine education locally across Maryland.

We request your support for a programmatic request of \$80 million for the National Sea Grant program in FY2018, the same as our FY2017 request. This funding level would support effective programming and new initiatives in the key focus areas of the program's strategic plan: promoting healthy coastal ecosystems; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; resilient communities and economies; and environmental literacy and workforce development. This funding recommendation is consistent with S. 129 legislation that reauthorizes the National Sea Grant program. The Sea Grant program is administered by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, which is funded through the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Approximately 95 percent of the federal funding provided to Sea Grant leaves Washington and goes to the state programs. This spending has a significant leveraging impact, with every two federal dollars invested attracting at least an additional dollar in non-federal resources in matching funding. Funding for the national program allows Maryland Sea Grant to sponsor environmental research, education, and outreach projects. These have improved our state's coastal economy, its water quality, and its ability to address costly storm damage and have helped make its fisheries sustainable. In a recent national review, Maryland Sea Grant ranked in the top five Sea Grant programs in the country.

Here are examples of how Congress's support for Maryland Sea Grant has recently and directly helped the people we work with:

- Maryland Sea Grant Extension agents helped to develop oyster aquaculture businesses in Maryland by providing technical and financial advice and training. Forty-eight new businesses involving 95 new jobs were created in 2016. Beyond working directly with farmers, Maryland Sea Grant funded and helped organize with the

University of Maryland a public-outreach project in 2016 to educate business operators interested in developing oyster aquaculture in Maryland about best practices in this field. The project, Oyster Futures, included a day-long seminar on the Eastern Shore about successful practices in other states; it was attended by more than 100 aquaculture operators, watermen, and interested residents. (More at <https://oysterfutures.wordpress.com/>)

- Maryland Sea Grant Extension specialists helped develop a new certification program for professional landscapers whose work can help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Certificate holders have demonstrated their expertise in planning and installing effective stormwater control measures and other green infrastructure. Since the certification test was first given in late 2016, 112 landscapers have earned the certification. This program is expected to expand job skills and strengthen local landscaping businesses.
- Extension specialists helped start 5 Watershed Stewards Academies (WSAs) in Maryland since 2012. The academies provide classroom and field instruction, creating a new cadre of experienced volunteers to help clean up our waters. (more at <http://bit.ly/MDSG-watershed-stewards>). As part of this effort, the specialists worked directly with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, a coalition of diverse faith groups, to help train their members to install stormwater control projects. Faith groups have also enrolled in local WSAs.
- Maryland Sea Grant developed a new set of online instructional strategies about the American chestnut tree and the disease that decimated its population. These strategies offer school teachers innovative lesson plans and other tools to engage students in hands-on scientific experiments and project-based learning. This approach is an effective way to teach science and other STEM disciplines and is encouraged by the Next Generation Science Standards adopted in Maryland. Ten Maryland schools are using this approach to instruct more than 350 students. This effort has also led to civic tree plantings in Maryland. (More at <http://bit.ly/MDSG-American-Chestnut>)
- Sea Grant staff has trained Maryland secondary-school teachers to apply an instructional approach called Aquaculture in Action, developed by Maryland Sea Grant. Twelve teachers joined summer workshops in 2016 and learned how to help students set up recirculating large tanks in school buildings to raise and study tilapia and native fish species like white perch and striped bass. This approach has enabled students to carry out hands-on projects that teach them principles in biology, chemistry, and physics — skills that will prepare them well for college and careers. (More at <http://bit.ly/Aquaculture-in-Action>)

Maryland Sea Grant demonstrates its effectiveness as a program by delivering economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. Sea Grant programs do this while also increasing our coastal communities' resiliency in

a cost-effective manner. We have attached a one-page document that should be helpful for submitting a request to the Appropriations Committee of \$80 million for FY18.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Fredrika C. Moser, Ph.D.  
Director

Co-signed by Maryland Sea Grant External Advisory Board Members:



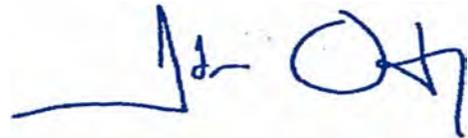
David Blazer, Director of Fisheries,  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Thomas Miller, Director, Chesapeake  
Biological Laboratory, University of  
Maryland Center for Environmental  
Science



William Matuzeski, Chair, Anacostia  
Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee;  
Former Director, Chesapeake Bay Program



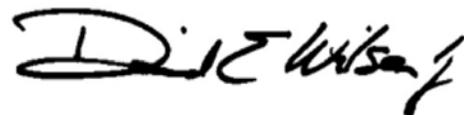
Adam Ortiz, Director, Department of the  
Environment for Prince George's County



Ann Swanson, Executive Director,  
Chesapeake Bay Commission  
Department of Natural Resources



Beth McGee, Senior Water Quality  
Scientist, Chesapeake Bay Foundation



Dave Wilson, Conservation Community  
Consulting LLC



March 12, 2018

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

**RE: National Sea Grant College Program Proposed FY2019 Funding Cuts**

Dear Representative Pallone:

I am writing on behalf of the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), a nonprofit trade organization comprised of over 300 marine related businesses that are dedicated to advancing, promoting, and protecting the recreational boating industry in NJ. We are a statewide organization representing businesses and boaters located in every district in the state.

We have recently learned that the President's **FY 2019 Budget would defund and terminate the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant)**. As constituents and beneficiaries of New Jersey Sea Grant, I respectfully request that you make a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committees to fund the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP) at a level of \$85 million in FY 2019. This level is consistent with the total amount proposed to be authorized in HR 4306 and S129 and the new FY 2019 budget agreement Congress recently passed into law. The Sea Grant Program is administered by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and is funded in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

The New Jersey Sea Grant program has provided support to the recreational boating industry through many successful programs and initiatives over the years. Some of these critical programs include the NJ Clean Marina Program, the NJ Clean Vessel Act, the Marine Industry Enhancement Program, and the Shrink Wrap Recycling Program. Sea Grant has also funded countless research projects that help improve water quality and provide needed data to fishery managers. They have provided technical support to help the industry comply with regulations as well as many other programs to support fisheries management. In addition, the education and outreach provided on outdoor recreation activities helps to support and sustain marine related businesses on a state and national level all year long. These programs and initiatives are vital to the health and growth of the recreational boating industry in New Jersey.

Boating is a significant part of New Jersey's economy. The economic impact of boating supports approximately 12,000 jobs and \$2 billion dollars in spending. Over a thousand small businesses provide the infrastructure, access, products, and services that generate revenue, provide jobs and support a way of life for thousands of residents that live in every county of the state. Recreational boating is an important pastime that allows people access to the waterways where they can spend time with their friends and family enjoying nature, fishing, dining, hunting, cruising, swimming or water sports. Access to open waters and these water-dependent uses are extremely important to the quality of life in New Jersey. It is a precious resource that must be supported, protected and most importantly, like our roadways and bridges, maintained as well.

The recreational boating industry has faced several significant challenges over the last few years with a severe economic downturn followed by Hurricane Sandy. Additionally, there is increasing demand for water access, marina and marine business closures and a growing list of challenges facing New Jersey's waterways and all the people, businesses and families that depend on them. New Jersey cannot afford to lose something that can never be rebuilt and the Sea Grant Program is a critical piece in helping to protect the recreational boating industry in NJ.

In addition to the losses to the boating industry, the end of Sea Grant in New Jersey would also result in the following:

- Nearly 25,000 New Jersey schoolchildren and 800 teachers and youth leaders scheduled for STEM education programs with New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium would be turned away;
- 55 educators, agents, specialists, and program administrators would lose the jobs they are dedicated to;
- 12 research projects that are responding to the needs of New Jersey's coast and coastal economy would not be completed. These projects support 42 scientists and 73 students at 8 different New Jersey facilities;
- Dozens of community-based projects would end or be greatly diminished. These include beach and dune projects, flood prevention and living shorelines initiatives, rain gardens and other green infrastructure projects that improve water quality and quantity, and assistance to New Jersey's growing shellfish aquaculture industry;
- Another Fort Hancock historic structure, currently maintained and used by New Jersey Sea Grant as its headquarters, would be abandoned.

I realize that federal funding must go to programs that deliver economic benefits to the United States. Sea Grant does just that in a very cost-effective manner. For that reason, and for the importance of the program to the long-term health of our marine and coastal economy, I urge you to support the National Sea Grant College Program by submitting a programmatic request to the Appropriations Committee that would fund the program at a level of \$85 million in fiscal year 2019. To follow is a document intended to be helpful for submitting such a request.

**Please do not allow this important, highly effective, and much needed program to be terminated and help ensure that the National Sea Grant College Program is funded.**

I sincerely thank you for your support of the Sea Grant Program and for your continuing attention and assistance. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 732-292-1051.

Sincerely,



Melissa Danko  
Executive Director



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[CONTACT US](#)

# FCC LETTER TO CONGRESS: WHITE HOUSE BUDGET PUTS FISHING AT RISK

March 21, 2017

by [Lisa Pike](#)

The Fishing Communities Coalition (FCC), an association of community-based, small boat commercial fishermen, today urged Congress to reject the President's proposed cuts to programs that are vital to the viability of the American commercial fishing industry and their communities.

In a letter delivered to lawmakers responsible for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) annual budget, the FCC emphasized that President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 budget request would risk recent progress in halting overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks:



## FISHING COMMUNITIES COALITION

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: NOAA FISHERIES BUDGET FY 2018

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking

As commercial fishermen whose livelihoods depend on viable, sustainable fisheries, we write to express our serious concern over the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal, which includes cuts to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) programs that are vital to the U.S. commercial fishing industry.

Members of the Fishing Communities Coalition (FCC) know firsthand that the proposed elimination of the Sea Grant program and the prospect of significant cuts to other vital NOAA fisheries programs could result in job losses throughout our industry and put entire fishing communities at risk.

Today, America imports almost 90 percent of the seafood we consume. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross has publicly stated his desire to make America a net exporter of fish and seafood products. We stand ready to work with the Administration and Congress to move on this front, but deep cuts to NOAA funding would be a giant step in the wrong direction.

In his budget request, the President has proposed to completely eliminate NOAA's successful National Sea Grant program, which works closely with our industry on research and economic development opportunities. In Alaska, Sea Grant is helping our members with workshops that help young fishermen launch their careers; on Cape Cod, Sea Grant is working with our fishermen to develop a thriving aquaculture industry; and in Maine Sea Grant is assessing the impacts of invasive species on critical shellfish stocks. For the

[WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG)

203 Maryland Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | Telephone: 202.737.1078 | Fax: 202.737.1245

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association - Alaska Marine Conservation Council - Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance - Central California Seafood Marketing Association  
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance - Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association - Maine Coast Fishermen's Association



FISHING COMMUNITIES COALITION

members of FCC, Sea Grant is an important federal partner that helps create economic development and jobs and cultivates future leaders.

Our industry packs a powerful economic punch. Commercial fishing and seafood related industries support 1.4 million jobs and generate \$153 billion in sales annually.

But fishing's value depends on a stable partnership with Washington. Under the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* (MSA), we have made remarkable progress in halting overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks. Since 2000, 40 depleted marine fish stocks have been fully rebuilt, with many others seeing measurable progress. The outstanding results of this science-based fisheries management approach have benefitted the U.S. commercial fishing industry, the nation's seafood supply chain and American consumers alike.

The NOAA Fisheries program, which constitutes less than .03 percent of the federal budget, is critical to this economic success story. The vital scientific information it gathers – including data collection, fish stock surveys, analysis and assessments – provides the stable foundation for informed fishery management.

While the Administration has yet to provide specifics on the core NOAA Fisheries budget, it has proposed a 16 percent cut to the U.S. Department of Commerce, which oversees NOAA. Ill-advised cuts to NOAA Fisheries could decimate the agency's ability to provide timely and accurate scientific data to those responsible for managing our fisheries. This would allow narrow, short-term political and financial considerations, not sound science, to drive decision-making. Such an approach would reverse the tremendous progress we have made and have disastrous consequences for the commercial fishing industry in general, and community-based fishermen in particular.

On behalf of the more than 1,000 fishermen we represent and the fishing communities they support, we ask you to reject the Administration's proposed elimination of the Sea Grant program and to provide full funding to NOAA Fisheries.

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203 Maryland Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | Telephone: 202.737.1078 | Fax: 202.737.1245

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association - Alaska Marine Conservation Council - Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance - Central California Seafood Processing Association - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance - Half Moon Bay Sustainable Marketing Association - Maine Coast Fishermen's Association



## FISHING COMMUNITIES COALITION

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken  
Executive Director  
Alaska Longline Fishermen's  
Association

Shannon Carroll  
Fisheries Policy Director  
Alaska Marine Conservation  
Council

John Pappalardo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cape Cod Commercial  
Fishermen's Alliance

Rob Seitz  
Vice President  
Central California Seafood  
Marketing Association

Eric Brazer  
Deputy Director  
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish  
Shareholders' Alliance

Lisa Damrosch  
Executive Director  
Half Moon Bay Groundfish  
Marketing Association

Ben Martens  
Executive Director  
Maine Coast Fishermen's  
Association



[WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.FISHINGCOMMUNITIESCOALITION.ORG)

203 Maryland Avenue NE | Washington, DC 20002 | Telephone: 202.737.1078 | Fax: 202.737.1245

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association - Alaska Marine Conservation Council - Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance - Central California Seafood Marketing Association - Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance - Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association - Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

♥ 0 Likes   ↻ Share

Newer / Older

## FISHING COMMUNITIES COALITION

203 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002

phone: [202.737.1078](tel:202.737.1078)

fax: [202.737.1245](tel:202.737.1245)

\*photos by Collin Howell and Harmony Wayner.

**EXAMPLES OF  
DIFFERENT CONGRESSIONAL  
PROGRAMMATIC  
REQUEST FORMS**





**709 Hart Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**  
**Phone: (202) 224-5653**

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# Appropriations Request

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## Your Contact Information

**Name:**

Dr. James Hurley

**Home Phone:**

608-262-0905

**Email:**

jphurley@wisc.edu

---

## Organization Information

**Organization Name**

University of Wisconsin Sea Grant

**Organization Head**

James Hurley

**Address**

1975 Willow Dr., Madison WI 53706-1177

---

## Organization's Contact/Rep In DC

**Representative Name:**

Mr. Widder

**Email**

jwidder@federalsciencepartners.com

**Phone**

202-215-7500

**Address:**

Federal Science Partners 1201 New York Ave NW; Suite 400, Washington DC 20005

---

## Appropriations Request

**In Which Appropriations Bill Is This Federal Program Funded?**

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

---

## General Information

### **Wisconsin County(Or Counties) Benefited:**

all coastal counties and communities along the Great Lakes

### **Describe the problem or issue to be addressed through this request. Please include as many details as possible, and explain why the problem cannot be addressed without the appropriation**

Seeking a programmatic request for the National Sea Grant College Program of \$85 million in lieu of the President's request which is to terminate the Sea Grant program. Funding the program at \$85 million is consistent with the total amount proposed in the Sea Grant Reauthorization Bill which passed via unanimous consent -- See S.129 as passed in the Senate.

### **Describe the project or program, what it will do and why it is necessary. Describe the services and products that will be provided and the reasons for your request.**

The Sea Grant College Program Act authorizes the awarding of grants and contracts to initiate and support programs at Sea Grant colleges and other institutions for research, education, and advisory services in any field related to the conservation and development of marine resources. A joint federal, state and local investment, Sea Grant provides solutions for the issues affecting our Nation's coastal communities (including the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and communities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts), yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits. Sea Grant embodies Administration priorities that emphasize economic security, public-private partnerships, and work force development. For the United States to be more responsive to the sustainable economic development potential of its coastal states, strengthen domestic aquaculture, improve the safety of the nation's communities, and balance the economic and environmental challenges the country's coastal regions face, the Sea Grant Association is recommending federal funding of \$85 million for Sea Grant in FY2019. These funds will engage in research and engagement programs in support of economically resilient communities, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, healthy coastal ecosystems, and environmental literacy and workforce development. The recommended amount is consistent with the total funding proposed to be authorized in S. 129 and H.R. 4306.

### **Describe the economic impact of this effort. Impact may be expressed by the total number of jobs created or maintained directly and indirectly. If you include job numbers, please list the type of jobs and where they are located. Requests may yield economic impacts other than job creation or maintenance. For these, please provide specific and supported estimates of impact.**

In 2016, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$611 million in economic impacts, created or sustained over 7,000 jobs, provided 33 state-level programs with funding that assisted 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices, worked with about 1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners, and supported the education and training of over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2016 of \$73 million, which is leveraged with matching funds provided by states, universities, and other sources.

### **Please include all such partners with whom you will be working or from whom you have requested additional funding for your program or project.**

All 33 State Sea Grant Programs are working with their Congressional delegations and stakeholders to generate support for funding the Sea Grant program at \$85 million in FY 2019

---

## Funding Information

<b>Federal Agency</b>	<b>Federal account, program or activity</b>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Operations, Research, and Facilities

**What is the project/program funding level in the President's FY19 budget request?**  
0

**Amount of funding you are requesting above the FY19 budget request:**  
\$85,000,000

**Amount of total funding for the program, i.e. the FY19 budget request amount plus the amount you are requesting above the FY19 budget request**  
\$85,000,000

**Provide requested language and indicate whether it is bill language, report language or both.**

The Committee is providing \$85 million for the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. The Committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs.

**Provide previously enacted funding levels (Year | PBR | HAC | SAC | APPROP CONF)**

2018		0		\$70,000,000		\$76,600,000		TBD
2017		\$68,900,000		\$66,000,000		\$74,000,000		\$72,900,000
2016		\$68,500,000		\$64,800,000		\$72,800,000		\$73,000,000

**Provide a brief explanation justifying the request**

More than half of the United States population lives in coastal counties which generate 58% (\$8.3 trillion) of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). In 2016, Americans, on average, ate 15 pounds of fish and shellfish per person – 4.8 billion pounds altogether – making the U.S. second in the world in total seafood consumption. The United States is the leading global importer of fish and fishery products, with 91% of the seafood we eat originating abroad – half of which is from aquaculture. Driven by imports, the U.S. seafood trade deficit has grown to over \$14 billion annually. Tourism is a major economic driver in coastal states contributing over 2.2 million jobs and generating over \$51 billion in wages. Sea Grant is at the forefront of research, education and training programs to enhance the economic and environmental benefits of the tourism industry. The U.S. has jurisdiction over 3.4 million square miles of coastal ocean – an expanse greater than the land area of all 50 states combined. This is a dynamic area, with biologically diverse offshore habitats that provide a wealth of natural resources and economic opportunities, while at the same time exposing human and biological communities to coastal hazards such as storms and hurricanes, shifting shorelines, outbreaks of harmful algal blooms, and water-borne disease. Sea Grant researchers and educators address all of these issues. Sea Grant's response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico

Deepwater Horizon oil spill; Superstorm Sandy in 2012; Toledo, Ohio's drinking water crisis in 2014; and this past year's Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria provide further evidence that, in addition to pro-actively addressing issues, Sea Grant is nimble and can quickly assist coastal communities and businesses after disasters. Indeed, Sea Grant is a key partner in developing sufficient capabilities to sustain ocean-based economies; assist the seafood sector of local economies; diversify our energy sources; protect critical ocean and coastal infrastructure and related natural resources; and train the next generation of scientists, managers, and stakeholders – all necessary components of a more resilient ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes enterprise. **Sea Grant Makes a Difference** –For over 50 years, Sea Grant has been at the forefront of creating economic opportunities, enhancing food and water security, and reducing risks from natural hazards and extreme events facing coastal communities through research and outreach efforts. Sea Grant is user- driven and university-based, and fully engaged with regional, state, and local organizations. With \$85 million in federal funding, Sea Grant will leverage significant state and local support, continue to increase the economic development and resiliency of coastal communities, and help sustain the health and productivity of the ecosystems on which they depend.

**Representative Frank A. LoBiondo (NJ-02)**  
**FY 2019 Programmatic and Language Appropriations Requests**

Please review the clause 9(e) of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House regarding earmarks prior to submitting your request. No requests for an earmark will be considered or supported by Representative Frank A. LoBiondo.

Requesting Organization:

<b>D.C. Contact</b>	<b>Local Contact</b>
National Sea Grant College Program 1315 East West highway, SSMC3 Silver Spring, MD 20910 301-734-1066 Fax Number  E-Mail Address	Claire Antonucci New Jersey Sea Grant 22 Magruder Road Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 732-872-1300 ext. 22 732-872-9573  cantonucci@njseagrant.org

**All Requests**

<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Account</b>
---------------------	---------------	----------------

1. For Defense requests include line number (e.g., RDTE, A line 30):
2. This is request
3. in this# **Priority** of **Total Submitted** submitted to this office.
4. This is request # **Priority** of **Total Submitted** bill.
5. Are you making this request to other offices? **Select**  
If yes, please attach a list of offices receiving this request

(Do I list just my NJ contacts?)

## Programmatic Funding Requests

1. Amount Requested:	\$85M
2. Amount included in FY2019 President's Budget:	\$0
3. Amount Increase/Decrease over FY2019 President's Budget:	\$85M
4. Percent Increase/Decrease over FY2019 President's Budget:	\$
5. FY2018 Appropriated:	\$ Continuing Resolution?
6. Amount Increase/Decrease over FY2018:	\$
7. Percent Increase/Decrease over FY2018:	\$

### 8. Brief description of program of what the program does and justification for request:

For over 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension and education. Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is authorized by P.L. 89-688, the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966, as amended (33 USC § 1121 et seq. Sea Grant). The Sea Grant College Program Act authorizes the awarding of grants and contracts to initiate and support programs at Sea Grant colleges and other institutions for research, education, and advisory services in any field related to the conservation and development of marine resources. A joint federal, state and local investment, Sea Grant provides solutions for the issues affecting our Nation's coastal communities (including the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and communities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts), yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits. Sea Grant embodies Administration priorities that emphasize economic security, public-private partnerships, and work force development.

Sea Grant is a unique program within NOAA that sends 95% of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to address issues that are identified as critical by public and private sector constituents and coastal communities throughout the United States. Sea Grant fosters cost-effective partnerships among state universities, state and local governments, NOAA, and coastal communities and businesses, leveraging nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.

In 2016, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$611 million in economic impacts, created or sustained over 7,000 jobs, provided 33 state-level programs with funding that assisted 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices, worked with about 1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners, and supported the education and training of over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2016 of \$73 million, which is leveraged with matching funds provided by states, universities, and other sources.

**9. How does this program impact South Jersey and/or New Jersey?**

I will prepare

**Report or Bill Language Requests**

10. The language being requested should be included in the: Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriation Bill

11. Language being requested:

\$85.0 million is provided to the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. The committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs.

**12. Description and justification for language request:**

<Limited to 2000 characters>

13. Has this language been included in previous Fiscal Years? If so, please provide reference information below.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
FY					

**Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations  
Programmatic & Language Request Form  
Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart**

**Instructions**

- 1) Only programmatic and report language requests will be considered. Earmark requests, as defined by clause 9(e) of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House, will **not** be considered.
- 2) Deadlines:
  - a. **The deadline for ALL requests is March 5, 2018.** Please contact our office if you plan to submit a request after the deadline, but we cannot guarantee it will be reviewed.
- 3) All questions on the form must be completed
- 4) All requests must be submitted via e-mail
  - a. Completed forms must be submitted to Chris Sweet via email:  
[Chris.Sweet@mail.house.gov](mailto:Chris.Sweet@mail.house.gov)
  - b. Please format the subject line of your e-mail as follows: FY2019 Appropriations Request – Subcommittee Name (Example: FY2019 Appropriations Request – Interior)
  - c. Please include a letter on your entity’s official letterhead asking for the request
  - d. Please include a draft letter to the relevant Appropriations Subcommittee
- 5) All submitted forms are subject to public disclosure

## **Organization Information**

Organization Name: Florida Sea Grant

Street Address: **Building 803, McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611**

Phone Number: **352-392-5870**

Website: <https://www.flseagrant.org/>

Type of Entity (non-profit, university, government, etc): **University**

Co-sponsoring Organizations (for requests that have multiple sponsors):

## **Contact Information**

Point of contact at your organization who our staff may contact regarding this request

Name: **Dr. Karl Havens**

Name of Entity: **Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida**

Phone Number: **352-392-5870**

E-mail Address: **khavens@ufl.edu**

DC based point of contact, if applicable

Name: **Joel Widder**

Organization/Firm: **Federal Science Partners**

Number: **202-215-7500**

E-mail Address: [jwidder@federalsciencepartners.com](mailto:jwidder@federalsciencepartners.com)

## **Request Details**

- 1) Please give a short title to your request: **\$85 million programmatic request for Sea Grant program**
- 2) Please list the priority of this request (If your organization is submitting more than one request, please list the priority of this request): **1**
- 3) Request type (language or programmatic): **programmatic**
- 4) Please describe the problem or issue your request will address: **President's budget proposes to terminate Sea Grant in FY19. Seeking funding to maintain Sea Grant program**
- 5) Please describe the goals, results, and/or expected outcome of the request: **In FY 2016 the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$611 million in economic impacts, created or sustained over 7,000 jobs, provided 33 state-level programs with funding that assisted 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices, worked with about 1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners, and supported the education and training of over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in**

**FY2016 of \$73 million, which is leveraged with matching funds provided by states, universities, and other sources. Funding Sea Grant at \$85 million will build on these quantifiable accomplishments**

- 6) Description of Language or Programmatic request (500 *characters*): **\$85.0 million is provided to the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. The Committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs.**
  
- 7) Programmatic Request Only:
  - a. Subcommittee (ex: Commerce, Justice, Science): **Commerce-Justice-Science**
  - b. Agency (ex: Commerce Department): **DOC/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
  - c. Account (ex: Bureau of the Census): **Operations, Research, and Facilities**
  - d. Amount included in President’s FY 19 Budget (if available): **0**
  
  - e. Amount included in President’s FY 18 Budget: **0**
  - f. Current enacted funding level for FY17: **\$73 million**
  - g. Funding level in FY18 House bill: \$70 million
  - h. Funding level in FY18 Omnibus/CR (if available): **CR as of 2/16/18**
  - i. Amount you are requesting: **\$85 million – consistent with total amount authorized in S129 and HR4306**
  
- 8) Language Request Only: **N/A**
  - a. Subcommittee (ex: Commerce, Justice, Science):
  - b. Agency (ex: Commerce Department):
  - c. Account (ex: Bureau of the Census):
  - d. Is language request for the Bill or the Report:
  - e. Exact requested language:
  - f. Has this or similar language been included in previous bills/reports? If so, what bills/reports and year(s)?
  
- 9) For State / Foreign Operations Requests ONLY, please describe how this request is in the national security interest of the U.S.:
  
- 10) Please list the other House members you are submitting your request to: Karl – need you to add info here**
  
- 11) Please list the other Senators you are submitting your request to: Senator Rubio and Senator Nelson

**Public Disclosure Section**

Information included in this section may be used to assist the Office of Congressman Diaz-Balart fully explain the requests to interested parties.

- 1) Project Description. Please provide a few sentences on how this programmatic/language request will help your organization, community, Florida, and/or the nation (Max 150 words): **Funding the national Sea Grant program will enable Florida Sea Grant to – Karl need you to add info here too.**
  
- 2) Appropriate Use. Please explain in a few sentences why any federal resources used to carry out this programmatic/language request would be an appropriate, constitutional use of taxpayer resources (Max 150 words): **The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is authorized by P.L. 89-688, the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966, as amended (33 USC § 1121 et seq. Sea Grant). The Sea Grant College Program Act authorizes the awarding of grants and contracts to initiate and support programs at Sea Grant colleges and other institutions for research, education, and advisory services in any field related to the conservation and development of marine resources. A joint federal, state and local investment, Sea Grant provides solutions for the issues affecting our Nation’s coastal communities (including the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and communities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts), yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits. Sea Grant embodies Administration priorities that emphasize economic security, public-private partnerships, and work force development.**

**EXAMPLES OF  
DIFFERENT CONGRESSIONAL  
LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

Chairman John Culberson  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member José Serrano  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge your support for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program—a program critically important to shoreline states throughout the country.

Across the nation, thirty-three universities participate in the National Sea Grant Program—a federal-state partnership which provides critical services to a wide range of constituents in every coastal and Great Lakes state, and U.S. territories. Sea Grant contributes to making coastal communities more resilient while also aiding our aquaculture industries in navigating federal and state regulations. In this sense, Sea Grant serves as the coastal, marine-based equivalent of Agriculture Extension programs.

With imported seafood making up 90% of American seafood consumption, our nation should be focusing on programs to expand and improve our domestic aquaculture industry. Sea Grant is a program that does just that—helping fishermen and shellfish farmers navigate a complex patchwork of state and federal coastal zone management regulations through technical assistance. Sea Grant works with local producers to grow and sustain their business models while connecting them to local resources to share best practices.

The economic impact of the Sea Grant Program highlights the benefit of this federal investment. According to the 2016 performance metrics of the program, Sea Grant contributed to creating and sustaining 20,770 jobs and 2,903 businesses. On top of business and job creation, Sea Grant logged a staggering 265,602 volunteer hours in 2016. Further, the program contributed to \$575 million in economic impact—nearly half of our nation's \$1.2 billion aquaculture economy.

The National Sea Grant Program is a known job creator that is highly leveraged to maximize the effectiveness of federal investment. This program serves as the primary resource for our coastal small businesses and fishing communities. We urge you to continue your support for this important program.

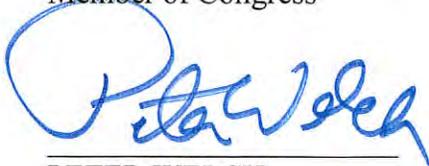
Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



LEE M. ZELDIN  
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



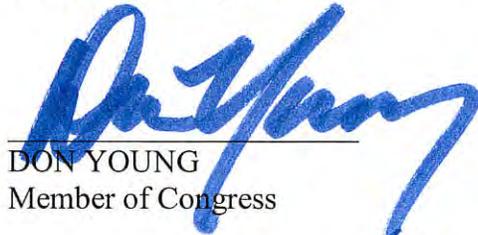
PATRICK MEEHAN  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY J. WALZ  
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress



AL GREEN  
Member of Congress



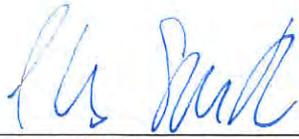
ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



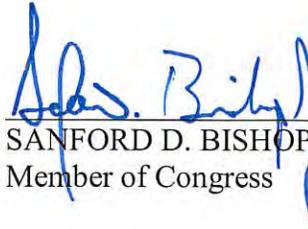
RICHARD M. NOLAN  
Member of Congress



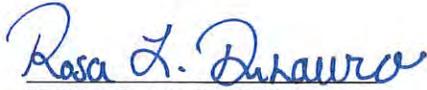
BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.  
Member of Congress



ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress



FRANK A. LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



SUZAN K. DELBENE  
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH  
Member of Congress



ROBERT E. LATTA  
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress



PAUL D. TONKO  
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress

*Kathy Castor*

KATHY CASTOR  
Member of Congress

*Bob Wittman*

ROBERT J. WITTMAN  
Member of Congress

*Jerrold Nadler*

JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

*Peter DeFazio*

PETER A. DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

*W. H. A.*

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

*Bill Posey*

BILL POSEY  
Member of Congress

*Chellie*

CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress

*Eliah E. Cummings*

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress

*Ileana Ros-Lehtinen*

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress

*Tom Marino*

TOM MARINO  
Member of Congress

*David N. Cicilline*

DAVID N. CICILLINE  
Member of Congress

*Gwen Moore*

GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress

*Keith Ellison*

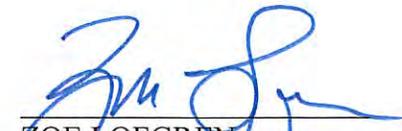
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress

*Adam Smith*

ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Lee*

BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress



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ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress



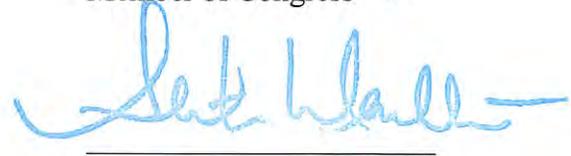
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CARLOS CURBELO  
Member of Congress



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JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress



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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



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MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
Member of Congress



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DARREN SOTO  
Member of Congress



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TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress



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DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.  
Member of Congress



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JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress



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RON KIND  
Member of Congress



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ANTHONY G. BROWN  
Member of Congress



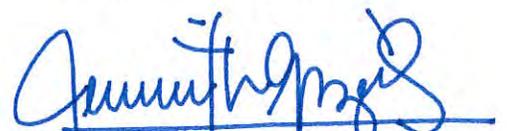
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KATHLEEN M. RICE  
Member of Congress



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RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress



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JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN  
Member of Congress



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JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress



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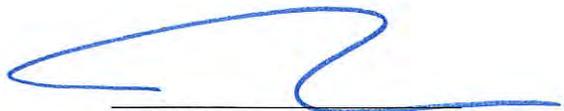
JOHN J. FASO  
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress



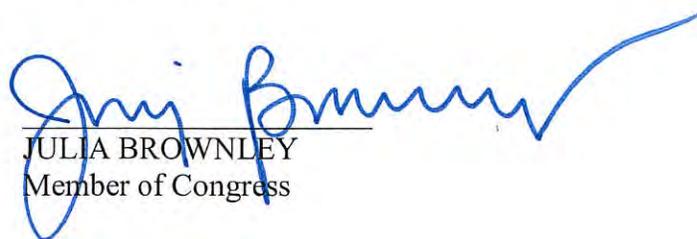
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY  
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER  
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS  
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress



SCOTT H. PETERS  
Member of Congress



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER  
Member of Congress



BRUCE POLIQUIN  
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



JAMES A. HIMES  
Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY  
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress



DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress



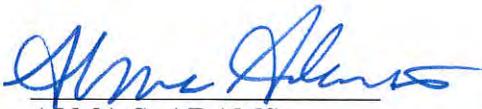
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL  
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY  
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS  
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
Member of Congress



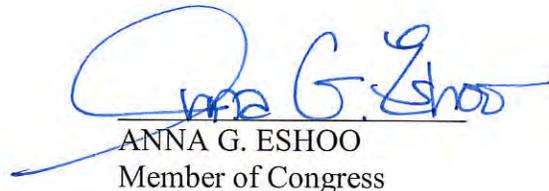
JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU  
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress



A. DONALD MCEACHIN  
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress

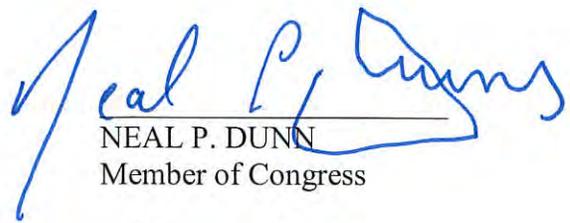


CEDRIC L. RICHMOND  
Member of Congress



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COLLEEN HANABUSA  
Member of Congress



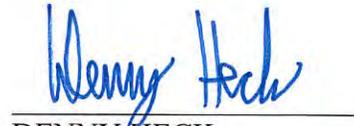
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NEAL P. DUNN  
Member of Congress



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DAVID ROUZER  
Member of Congress



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DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



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CHARLIE CRIST  
Member of Congress



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JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress



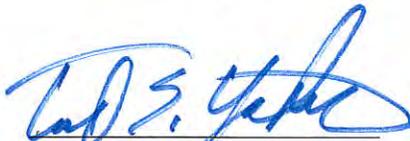
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EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER  
Member of Congress



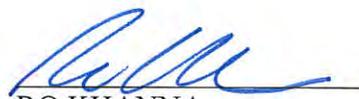
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JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III  
Member of Congress



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TED S. YOHO  
Member of Congress



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RO KHANNA  
Member of Congress



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BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress



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G. K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress



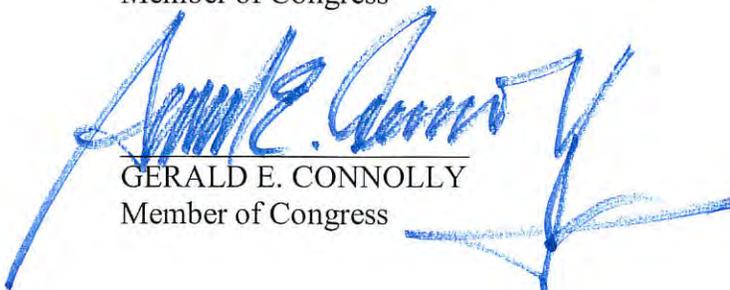
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WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



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NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN  
Member of Congress



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GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2018

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As you work to complete your final Fiscal Year 2019 budget, we urge you to fund the National Sea Grant College Program at no less than current levels. The National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-local partnership that funds 33 university-based research, extension, and education centers. These centers are results-driven and provide vital resources to local businesses and communities in our states.

Sea Grant's work supporting waterfront and maritime businesses speaks for itself. The federal investment in Sea Grant centers yields \$611 million in economic benefit, an 825% return on federal investment. This economic impact includes creating and sustaining 1,300 local businesses and 7,100 jobs.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, Sea Grant helped 19,900 fishers adopt sustainable fishing practices and trained 2,002 people in safe seafood handling methods.<sup>2</sup>

Sea Grant staff also assist communities with projects to become more resilient and preserve coastline habitat. In 2016, Sea Grant staff helped 300 communities improve coastal resiliency, aided 494 communities in adopting sustainable development practices, and supported 4,600 resource managers in using ecosystem-based management strategies. They also helped preserve or protect 1,400,000 acres of wildlife habitat.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, Sea Grant is helping to educate the next generation of freshwater and marine scientists. Last year, Sea Grant programs reached 781,000 K-12 students and in 2016 Sea Grant supported over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>"A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". Sea Grant. December 2017.

<http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>

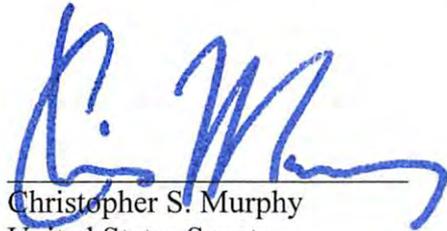
<sup>2</sup>"Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture". Sea Grant. <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Our-Work/SFA>

<sup>3</sup>"A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". Sea Grant. <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>"A Smart Investment in our coastal Economy". <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Handouts/2018-Seagrant-Factsheet-Dec2017-Final-Accessible.pdf>

Sea Grant is vital to local businesses and an important part of preserving coastal communities for generations to come. We encourage you to provide robust support for the program in your final Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

Sincerely,



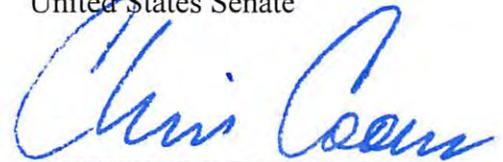
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate



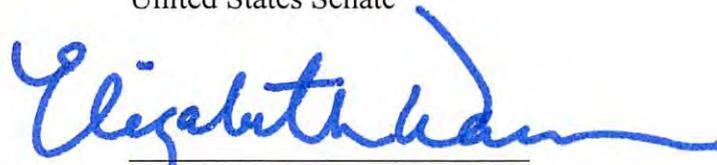
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senate



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate



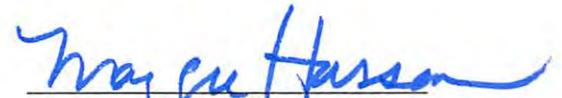
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate



Jack Reed  
United States Senate



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senate



Tina Smith  
United States Senate



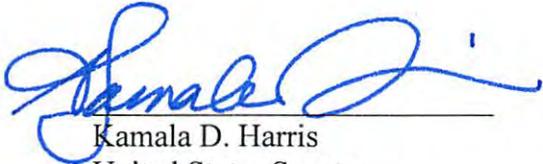
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate



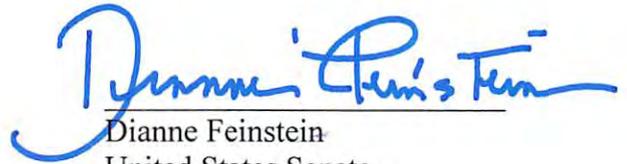
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate



Ron Wyden  
United States Senate



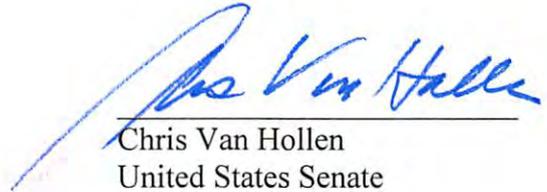
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate



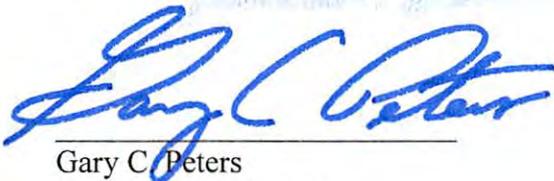
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate



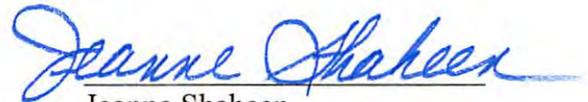
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senate



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate

**Subject:** FW: e-DearColleague: Support NOAA's Wet Programs! (Updated w/ Current Signers)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 3:44:17 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** LaFountain, Peter  
**To:** mboian@americanrivers.org, Shannon Yee, Roth Rebecca, gwilliams@coastalstates.org, shouton@pewtrusts.org, Susan White, Jim Hurley, Newell, Martha, Addie Haughey, Quintrell Josie, jwidder@federalsciencepartners.com  
**CC:** Newell, Martha

Just wanted to pass along the Dear Colleague to you all... along with current signers.

**From:** e-Dear Colleague  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2018 3:41 PM  
**To:** LaFountain, Peter  
**Subject:** e-DearColleague: Support NOAA's Wet Programs! (Updated w/ Current Signers)

## Support NOAA's Wet Programs! (Updated w/ Current Signers)

Sending Office: Honorable James R. Langevin  
Sent By: [Peter.LaFountain@mail.house.gov](mailto:Peter.LaFountain@mail.house.gov)

Request for  
Signature(s)

### Support NOAA's Wet Programs!

*Join the Langevin-Young FY19 comprehensive support letter for NOAA's maritime programs*

Current FY19 Signers: Beyer, Bonamici, Brownley, Cicilline, Courtney, Danny Davis, DeSaulnier, Ellison, Frankel, Grijalva, Lipinski, Lofgren, McGovern, McNerney, Nadler, Norton, Payne, Rush, Sablan, Schrader, Shea-Porter, Speier, Vela, Welch

**Endorsed by: Sea Grant Association, American Rivers, National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, IOOS Association, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, Coastal States Organization**

**Sign-On Deadline: COB Tuesday, March 13**

Please join us in supporting the science-based work of NOAA, particularly its "wet side" pertaining to our oceans, coasts, Great Lakes, and maritime industry. NOAA's work is a vital part of the Department of Commerce. Its research mission boosts our economy and advances the cause of American scientific knowledge.

Joining this letter shows strong support for the broad range of maritime missions undertaken by NOAA. These programs include: National Ocean Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; Mission Support: Procurement, Acquisition, and

Construction; and other discretionary accounts.

NOAA's maritime mission creates jobs; and supports the private sector through data-driven research and partnerships. NOAA protects our valuable coastal and marine resources, and it deserves Congress's full support.

To sign-on, contact Peter La Fountain ([Peter.LaFountain@mail.house.gov](mailto:Peter.LaFountain@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Jim Langevin, or Martha Newell ([Martha.Newell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Martha.Newell@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Don Young.

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James R. Langevin

Member of Congress

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Don Young

Member of Congress

March 16, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-310 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing to request that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) oceans, coastal, and Great Lakes programs continue to receive robust funding in the FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The science-based work of NOAA is extensive and varied, including weather observations and space data systems. In this letter, we call your attention to the work done by the "wet side" of

NOAA. We request that you carefully look at the overall level of NOAA program funding and ensure that these programs receive an equitable proportion of the agency's funding.

Many of us represent coastal districts with direct benefits from the ocean and coastal observing, science, and management programs under NOAA's "wet side". These programs collect and disseminate environmental intelligence in many ways. They address storms, flooding, commercial port congestion, navigation hazards, shoreline erosion, and pollution. Additionally, they support weather forecasting, marine and aquatic operations, climate monitoring, and ecosystem tracking. The federal investment here is essential, not replicable outside of NOAA.

Additionally, extreme weather events have pummeled the United States in recent years, providing a stark reminder that our coastal areas are especially vulnerable to such hazards. This illustrates why adequate funding for NOAA programs is necessary to protect coastal habitats, provide services to translate science for resource users, and otherwise support coastal communities.

Investing in NOAA's "wet side" also supports the expansive ocean economy. In 2013, maritime economic activities such as shipping, marine construction, energy development, commercial fishing, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism contributed \$360 billion to the national economy and supported 3 million jobs. NOAA's ocean science and management programs serve as the foundation for these economic sectors.

Our economy depends on a healthy ocean, and a healthy ocean depends on strong investments in these NOAA "wet programs." As you craft your FY 2019 appropriations bill, we respectfully request that the following programs be prioritized with the robust funding necessary to capably fulfill their missions:

## **National Ocean Service (NOS)**

### **Marine Debris Program – \$10M**

The Marine Debris Program conducts reduction, prevention, and research activities, and supports grants, partnerships, and contracts to address marine debris. Marine debris, particularly plastic waste pollution, has become one of the most widespread pollution problems facing the world's oceans and waterways. It has serious effects on the marine environment, causing impacts from wildlife entanglement, ingestion and ghostfishing. It can also have economic impacts by contributing to navigational hazards and vessel damage. More research is needed in these critical areas to support data-driven policy solutions to prevent plastic from entering the environment.

To evaluate, track, and clean up debris, we request at least \$10 million in funding, as part of the Coastal Science, Assessment, and Response and Restoration budget line.

### **Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) – \$44.4M**

IOOS is a national network of 11 regional observing systems, led by NOAA's National Ocean Service. IOOS provides the ability to understand what happens above and below the surface. Its observations inform maritime stakeholders, and its operations coordinate data sharing among the national IOOS network. IOOS utilizes cutting edge observation technology that supports navigation, environmental protection, fisheries management, and other offshore uses.

- ***Regional Observations – \$37.7M***

The Regional IOOS line funds several distinct activities, including competitive base funding for the regional systems, operation of the high frequency radar surface currents mapping system, a glider fleet, and technology innovation grants.

IOOS provides the nation with enhanced coastal and Great Lakes observing and forecasting capabilities. Regional systems, working with NOAA and other Federal agencies, address specific needs of stakeholders, including maritime commerce, fisheries, offshore energy, public health, ocean acidification, and preparation for extreme weather events. IOOS data are available in near-real time, as well as retrospectively, and support a variety of missions.

Real-time applications of the data include tracking oil spills, assisting in search and rescue, ensuring safe and efficient marine operations, monitoring nutrient pollution that can help predict harmful algal blooms, and assessing the fate and transport of land runoff and offshore discharges. Long-term data sets inform our understanding of regional climate impacts and the effectiveness of management decisions.

- ***Navigation, Observations and Positioning - \$6.7 M***

The national IOOS Program Office oversees the integration and coordination of data from the 17 Federal agencies and 11 regional systems to ensure seamless access to information in an efficient and effective manner.

### **National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) – \$27M**

We are requesting \$27 million for National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) operations, to meet the basic requirements of operating the growing number of reserve sites and the products the program delivers.

The proposed \$3.5M increase will support a national graduate research program that will place a students focused on topical, locally relevant research projects at each Reserve. It also will protect Congress's investment in Reserves so they continue to produce sound science that helps communities, businesses, and educators understand and address challenges related to coastal hazards, water quality, water resource allocation, and commercial and recreational fishing and hunting.

NERRS impacts wetlands management in numerous states. These coastal reserves are essential to maintaining balanced habitats and protecting our way of life in these parts of the country. Moreover, the educational benefits through NERRS of these programs provide benefits many times over in helping future generations better understand coastal ecology.

By protecting estuaries and coasts, NERRS reduces community vulnerability to hazards, supports the nation's coastal economy, and provides robust, credible scientific research.

### **Coastal Management Grants – \$95M**

We request \$95 million in total for the Coastal Management Grants programs, encompassing the Coastal Zone Management Grants and Regional Coastal Resilience Grants. This request begins to restore funding of these programs to levels necessary to maintain the state coastal programs.

For FY2019, the 34 states with Coastal Zone Management Programs have identified technical assistance, planning, and implementation support for communities to address coastal hazards as a priority. We request \$75 million be allocated for this program in order for states to reasonably make progress on this issue in the near term. With coastal storms, high water levels in the Great Lakes, tsunami preparedness, and a host of other issues facing coastal states and communities, it is imperative that the National CZM Program be funded at a level to help all states pursue solutions and mitigate risk from coastal hazards.

In particular, we request that \$20 million be allocated to the *Regional Coastal Resilience Grants* program. This program provides competitive grants to address risks of weather events, hazards, and changing ocean conditions to regions and local communities, in order to protect livelihoods, economies, and habitats. These grants will help states, communities, and other stakeholders

produce on-the-ground results that benefit both the economy and the environment, including cutting edge science and tools like maps and surveys.

### **Coastal Zone Management and Services – \$53.8M**

We request \$53.8 million for Coastal Zone Management and Services, which is the administrator of national programs that manage and conserve ocean and coastal resources, including the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. Coastal Zone Management and Services are critical components of NOAA's on-the-ground activities and ensure consistency and collaboration through state, local and federal activities.

### **Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas: Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) – \$57M**

America's National Marine Sanctuary System conserves some of the Nation's most critical natural, historic and cultural resources, preserves more than 300 shipwrecks and our nation's maritime heritage, and promotes public access for exploration and world-class outdoor recreation, education, and enjoyment for future generations. Sanctuaries generate \$8 billion annually in local economies, and support numerous jobs and businesses in the fishing, tourism, recreation, and scientific research sectors.

We request an investment of \$57 million to drive visitation and growth, increase community engagement, conduct cooperative research, and enable sanctuaries to respond to the groundswell of communities nationwide seeking to expand sites or propose and designate new ones.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

#### **Fisheries Data, Collections, Surveys and Assessments – \$164.7M**

We request robust funding for the Fisheries Data, Collections, Surveys and Assessments budget line. This includes the following critical programs:

- ***Cooperative Research***

Cooperative research enables commercial and recreational fishermen to become involved in collecting fundamental fisheries information to support the development and evaluation of management options. Industry and other stakeholders can partner with NMFS and university scientists in all phases of the research program – planning the survey, conducting research, analyzing data, and communicating results. This will improve the quality of stock assessments with biological and physical observations that are unavailable through other NMFS resources.

Current cooperative research activities complement existing NMFS monitoring programs nationwide by providing access to platforms (recreational and commercial fishing vessels) widely distributed over a variety of habitats simultaneously, including areas not accessible to NOAA vessels. The information collected through cooperative research programs assists scientists and managers by supplementing the data currently collected through federal research programs. This information improves the information base for single species, multi-species, and ecosystem assessment models and ultimately improves the evaluation of stock status and the management of fishery resources.

- ***Expand Annual Stock Assessments***

Stock assessments are an essential part of responsible and productive fishery management. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), fishery managers set annual catch limits to maximize long-term sustainable output. Appropriate catch limits can only be set when the health of a fish stock is determined through a stock assessment. In the absence of

good data, annual catch limits must be set at highly restrictive levels to account for uncertainty. Many fisheries are currently considered data-poor.

NMFS funds stock assessments primarily through the Expand Annual Stock Assessments (EASA) and Survey and Monitoring budget lines. Strong funding for EASA will enable NMFS to expand implementation of the Next Generation Stock Assessments (NGSAs) which incorporates ecosystem factors affecting key stocks, using advanced technologies to better inform fishery management. This funding will allow NOAA to strengthen its stock assessment capacity in each region.

- ***Fishery Information Networks***

The key data programs for the nation are funded through the Fishery Information Networks. These include the commercial fishery data program for the West Coast (PACFIN); the commercial fishery data program for the North Pacific (AKFIN); and the recreational fishery data program (RECFIN). These are joint federal-state programs designed to collect, assimilate, and distribute baseline fisheries data. The information is used by the North Pacific and Pacific Fishery management councils, NOAA Fisheries, the West Coast States, and the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission to manage annual fishing seasons.

- ***Survey and Monitoring Projects***

These are long-term stock assessments used to manage fisheries throughout the nation. For the West Coast, these include West Coast groundfish; the Alaska crab fisheries; Alaska Pollock and groundfish, rockfish, halibut, and sablefish. Both the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council rely upon these surveys to determine annual catch limits and monitor the health of these stocks.

### **Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions – \$34.3M**

The Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) are the workhorses of the Federal regulatory process for marine fisheries. Each RFMC is working to revise fishery management plans under its jurisdiction to end overfishing and rebuild fish stocks. This line item also funds the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Fisheries Management Act, a fisheries management program directed at interjurisdictional fisheries on the East Coast and administered by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

### **Enforcement – \$70.9M**

In recent years, NOAA has invested increasing resources to detect and deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and enforce import restrictions on illegally harvested and improperly-documented seafood. Global losses attributable to IUU fishing are estimated to be between \$10.0 and \$23.0 billion annually, weakening profitability for legally caught seafood, fueling illegal trafficking operations, and undermining food security in the developing world.

This request supports the Action Plan for Implementing the IUU Task Force recommendations. The plan identifies actions that will strengthen enforcement; create and expand partnerships with state and local governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations; and create a risk-based traceability program to track seafood from harvest to point of entry into U.S. commerce. Actions include the use of existing traceability mechanisms to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud, as well as the operational standards related to collecting, verifying, and securing those data.

### **Observers and Training – \$45.1M**

Fisheries observer programs are proven, unbiased, and valuable sources of information on our nation's fisheries, and help combat IUU. The scientific data collected by observer programs provide critical inputs for population assessments of threatened and endangered species such as sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, the data are also vital and for effective management of fish

stocks. Observers monitor fishing activities for 53 fisheries across all five NMFS regions, and collect data on fishing practices, vessel and gear characteristics, fishing locations and times, environmental conditions within fishing grounds, catch and bycatch, and fisherman socio-economic status.

### **Habitat Conservation and Restoration – \$68.4M**

These programs support efforts to protect and restore coastal and marine habitats, to rebuild commercial and recreational fisheries, recover species, and improve the resiliency of coastal communities. Habitat loss and degradation directly threaten the sustainability of our nation's fisheries and the communities that depend on a healthy coast. Funding for habitat restoration, including through the Community-Based Restoration Program (CBRP), directly confronts these challenges. Through public-private collaboration with states, localities, citizens' organizations, businesses, and colleges and universities, CBRP accomplishes on-the-ground projects to restore the nation's coastal, marine, and migratory fish habitats.

### **Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants – \$3M**

These grants support the monitoring and assessment programs of the States and Interstate Commissions, as well as funding for research to gauge the health of commercially and recreationally important fish stocks. The IJFA is a matching grant program. Funds received by states are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This is a successful example of an effective and affordable federal-state partnership, designed specifically for the management of nearshore fisheries with interjurisdictional boundaries. These funds are also used to combat the spread of marine invasive species.

### **Salmon Management Activities – \$33.2M**

This account supports many important salmon management activities on the West Coast and Alaska. These activities include the operation and maintenance of the Mitchell Act hatcheries; the mark and coded wire tag programs; the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Chinook Salmon Agreement; and ongoing work to establish a genetic stock identification database.

Salmon management in the West is at a critical juncture. It is imperative we maintain these core programs. This funding will help meet obligations faced by the Pacific Salmon Commission as well as growing demands on the Mitchell Act hatchery system to meet production goals while implementing hatchery reforms.

### **ESA Salmon – \$69.6M**

This program strives to recover and sustain all threatened and endangered salmon populations to maintain healthy ecosystems. We urge that this program be funded at \$63.4 million to Pacific Salmon and \$6.2 million to Atlantic Salmon for FY 2019.

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**

#### **National Sea Grant College Program – \$85M**

\$85 million is requested for the National Sea Grant College Program for research, education, extension, and outreach activities. Our only national research outreach and education program addressing environmental issues in communities, the National Sea Grant College Program leverages federal dollars to support smart economic growth. Sea Grant is fundamental to preparing communities for major coastal catastrophes like hurricanes and oil spills, preserving working waterfronts and coastal heritage, and advancing tourism that is vital to our coastal economies.

The National Sea Grant College Program also administers the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, which has a legacy of providing a unique educational experience to students who have

an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great lakes resources and the national policy decisions that affect them. This indispensable fellowship matches graduate students with host offices in the legislative and executive branch of government, and empowers the fellows to translate their marine science expertise to inform legislation, policy, and management.

In 2016, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$611 million in economic impacts, created or sustained over 7,000 jobs, provided 33 state-level programs with funding that provided 494 communities with technical assistance on sustainable development practices, worked with about 1,300 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners, and supported the education and training of over 2,300 undergraduate and graduate students. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2016 of \$73 million, which was leveraged with matching funds provided by states, universities, and other sources.

### **Integrated Ocean Acidification Program – \$21.8M**

It is imperative that we understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment as a consequence of continued acidification of the oceans and Great Lakes, so that we may conserve and manage marine organisms and ecosystems in response to these changes. The Integrated Ocean Acidification Program researches and monitors the effects of changing ocean chemistry on economically and ecologically important ecosystems and species. Negative impacts to shellfish fisheries have already been observed, and are resulting in losses to the fishermen and farmers that rely on these animals.

Increased federal funding support for this program is critical to allow NOAA to keep existing programs running. The negative consequences of ocean acidification on marine life are just beginning to be understood. This funding will allow continued assessment of acidification effects on commercial and recreational marine species, allowing NOAA to take concrete actions to more effectively tackle the economic and local implications of ocean acidification, and prepare future strategies to protect our nation's key ocean and coastal economies.

### **Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC)**

#### **NERRS (PAC) – \$1.7M**

We request \$1.7 million for National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction for land conservation and facilities to maintain, upgrade, and construct reserve facilities and acquire priority lands. This competitive funding program is matched by state funds and has resulted not only in the preservation of critical coastal lands, but also an increase in construction jobs. For example, NERRS creates more than 60 jobs for each \$1 million of federal construction (PAC) money spent. In addition, NERRS leveraged investments of more than \$114 million to purchase over 30,000 acres of coastal property over the last 13 years.

#### **Marine Sanctuaries Construction: Procurement, Acquisition, Construction (PAC) – \$8.5M**

Every dollar of public investment in sanctuaries stimulates a greater return on investment for our communities. Sanctuaries generate \$8 billion annually and support numerous jobs and businesses in the fishing, tourism, recreation, and scientific research sectors. Sanctuary visitor centers, vessels, and facilities are key assets for communities. They stimulate public-private partnerships on emerging technologies, cutting edge science, and hands-on education. They also attract millions of visitors to the coasts each year.

We request \$8.5 million to replace vessels needed for mission-critical operations, address a backlog of needs for sanctuary visitor centers, and make progress on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **Mission Support**

### **NOAA Education Program (B-WET and ELG) – \$20M**

We respectfully urge the funding of \$20 million for the Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) and Environmental Literacy Grant programs (ELGs). Both programs enable students to learn about our ocean environment and instill lifelong commitment to the importance of ocean stewardship. Experiential learning outside the classroom is essential in engaging students in their local ocean environment.

B-WET provides local environmental education for K-12 students and professional development for educators through Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). MWEEs are multi-stage activities that include learning both outdoors and in the classroom, and aim to increase understanding and stewardship of watersheds and related ocean, coastal, riverine, estuarine, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

The ELGs provide funding for national-scale education projects to increase environmental stewardship and informed decision-making for public and K-12 audiences. According to NOAA, in 2015 the program helped more than 100 science education institutions, 200,000 youth and adult learners, and 2,000 formal and informal educators.

### **Other Accounts (Discretionary)**

#### **National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund – \$10M**

Established by Congress in the FY16 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund will provide grants to support projects that enhance the understanding, resiliency, and restoration of the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. The Fund is administered by NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and supports a national competitive grant program as well as grants to coastal states. Through the Fund, present and future generations will benefit from the full range of economic, ecological, cultural, nutritional, security, and recreational services these resources can provide.

#### **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund – \$65M**

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in FY 2000 to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmonids and their habitats. The PCSRF awards proposals on a competitive basis to promote the recovery and sustainability of wild salmon and steelhead stocks in the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, and Idaho.

Continued support for PCSRF at this level is necessary to continue significant progress in protecting and restoring this important species of fish, which is critical to the economic and ecological well-being of the Pacific Northwest.

In conclusion, these NOAA activities support critical initiatives such as ocean conservation, protection, research, exploration, and education. They also facilitate America's trade and commerce, promote leisure and recreation, and put healthy, sustainable seafood on our tables.

Healthy oceans sustain life. We urge you to fund ocean and coastal programs in a manner befitting their economic role sustaining millions of American lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

/s/

## Related Legislative Issues

**Selected legislative information:** Appropriations, Environment

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e-Dear Colleague version 2.0

 [Contact eDC Support](#)

**TIPS, LESSONS  
LEARNED, AND EXAMPLES OF  
“LEAVE BEHINDS”  
FROM  
OTHER SEA GRANT PROGRAMS**



## Tips for Meeting with Congressional Delegation

Here are some tips for our meetings with our Congressional delegation, or a member of their staff. Remember, you are their constituents and you matter a lot to them. They will listen intently to what you have to say and take it into consideration.

1. Recognize the Congressman may not be available to meet with us. However, the staff, though sometimes young, are smart and very helpful. They can be considered as a surrogate for the Congressman. The attached schedule provides the time, location and staff member we are meeting with for the four visits we have on Capitol Hill. We will begin at the Senate side of the Capitol in the morning and finish in the afternoon on the House side.
2. 5 min: The point of the visit for Maryland Sea Grant is to: 1) Thank them for their continuing strong support for the National Sea Grant College (NSGC) program and how it is especially needed now when the program has again been eliminated by the Administration; 2) Thank all of you for making these visits with me; 3) Ask the Congressman to reinstate the NSGC support a \$85 million programmatic request in support of the National Sea Grant College program at a level of; 4) Give the staffer our briefing materials that highlight our recent activities and note the two aquaculture roundtable meetings we held; 5) Remind them that the H2B visa challenges are a hardship for the crabbing community and they need to hear from them on this issue.
3. Then, I will turn it over to each of you to talk with them. You will have 5 min each and you may want to include in your message:
  1. An introduction of yourself and your business
  2. Thank the representative for their support
  3. Discuss the value of your business to Maryland
  4. How Sea Grant is a valuable partner and support for our funding helps you and others in the oyster business and therefore you are asking the Congressman to fully fund the Sea Grant program so it can continue to provide the technical assistance to help them with their businesses, sustain the oyster population and grow sustainable aquaculture in Maryland.
  5. support the work of Matt Parker, workshops like we ran the last few months, the remote setting work, it is really up to you what you want to shout out
  6. What are the challenges your business faces and how can the Senator or Congressman work with them to help solve some of these challenges for them.
4. It is also good to consider inviting the Congressman, or the staff, to come and visit an oyster farm or spend a day touring different facilities. It is important to build and maintain a relationship with the Congressional representatives .MD Sea Grant can assist with a tour if that is helpful sometime in the summer.
5. Building a relationship with the Congressional office is important.

### FCM TO DO:

- Set up a call for this weekend or Monday to get them to think about what they want to say and is needed.
- Send detailed schedule and these tips COB
- Meet at Senate Hart lobby at 9 am to discuss before going to the offices.

## Appendix 1

### Virginia Sea Grant Delegate Strategy Master Communications File

#### Messages:

- Positive tone – no attacks
- Bullets on the positive impact VASG has on Virginia and a district; particularly important are impacts and achievements surrounding jobs, economic development.
- See attached templates for programmatic requests, and messages of support – tailor these for VA.
  - Dear Colleague letter is circulating for Congressional delegates to sign – but that has less impact. Fine to have representatives sign on, but don't do this in lieu of a programmatic request.
- Messages can come from Director and extension staff (co-sign ask), ask that they cc VASG director on their message to Congress.

#### ***Mechanisms:***

##### More Effective Strategies

- Face-to-face visits, including district offices which are easier to do. Fine to walk in to district offices without an appointment, note you are a constituent and want your opinion noted. Hand-deliver a letter.
- Phone calls
- Emails and emails with attached letters; Faxed letters – individualized, tailored. NOT a template.
- Letter to editors/opinion pieces – promote a steady submission

##### Less effective, strategies to avoid.

- Petitions, standard templates and post cards

#### ***Ground-rules***

- Be careful on social media accounts – no links between VASG and negative/attacking statements.
- Federally-funded VASG staff and sub-awardees cannot directly contact elected officials or their staff on work-time or using work emails. But they can contact stakeholders and share information about VASG's impact and our ask of Congress.
- Staff and sub-awardees can contact elected officials and staff on their personal emails; they should identify themselves as a resident of a particular district. Do not complain about losing job; rather focus on positive benefits that VASG provides Virginia and specific places.

**Info needs/currently being gathered:**

- District-by-District compilation of VASG projects and impacts (particularly job, economic development impacts)
- Economic Impact Study of VASG – have contacted Terrance Rephann, UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.
- List of all partners in annual reporting, by sector – private, public, NGO. ID individual contacts. As resources, consider:
  - Annual report reviews
  - Lisa: Primary: restaurants, chefs; Second wave – teachers,
  - Anne Smith: Private marinas
  - Bob: FRG – blue catfish, George Tice; Welk
  - Karen: Aquaculture industry; Kim Huskey
  - Paula Jasinski: Self; VA watermen’s association
  - Michael Schwarz/VT: Seafood processing plants; Finfish aquaculture (leverage Mike Jahncke and Dan Kauffman?)
  - Susanna Musick: Charter boats
  - Dave Rudders – FYI reach out to Bill Dupaul: Scallop (Bill DuPaul’s legacy)
  - Michelle Covi and Troy Hartley: Engineering firms
  - Elizabeth Andrews?
  - Tom Murray – maritime trade industry
  - Bill DuPaul – scallop industry
  - Mike Jahncke – seafood processors
  - Dan Kauffman – aquaculture, seafood.

**Operations Center Activities: track, monitor impact, coordinate**

March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept-Dec
	4 <sup>th</sup> – House approp Deadline  April 28: CR ends	Late: Presidents Budget	House and Senate Markups  Senate appropriations deadline TBD		Recess	Conference Committee
Private sector stakeholders		Likely zeroed out SG	Private, public, NGO and univ sector			

University govt affairs			Ramp up letters to editors		
<p><b>EXPECTATIONS</b> – be patient. Will see more bad news (Pres budget) before there will be good news (conference committee report). Don't get discouraged.</p>					

***Immediate actions to be taken***

- Ian: Communication Center
  - Media monitoring – press coverage, opinion pages, social media coverage
  - Q about social media – friend links, avoiding attacks and negative tone
  - Media and press strategy -- messages
  - Develop district-tailored one-pagers – By the Numbers and Smart Investment flyers.
  - Copy-edit Director's draft messages to stakeholders
  - Revise sample programmatic requests; produce sample letter to editor.
- Sam: Annual Reporting operations; flag and feed to operations ctr:
  - Impacts, accomplishments
  - Job and economic development #s
- Troy:
  - Inform stakeholders of our plans and asks of them
    - Private sector
    - Knauss
    - University – Grad Fellows, Advisors
    - GRF Professional Mentors
    - Public, NGO stakeholders
    - REAC
  - Prepare VASG Programmatic Request – in response to requests from Wittman and Kaine staff.
  - Maintain communication with Hill staffers, District staffers.
  - Reach out to University govt affairs staff from all partner institutions, share SG's ask and outreach material.
- Sabine
  - Support operations center

***Tracking – monitoring. Be the Hub of the VASG response.***

- Stage submissions to Congress – constant flow over entire duration, with biggest waves before key events (i.e., House and Senate appropriations deadlines)
- Track all communication and outreach contacts

### Impact Talking Points

\$40K Virginia Sea Grant investment led to \$120M HUD grant that is spending \$115M with local engineering and architectural firms to implement an advanced flooding resilience design project in Hampton Roads, developed by a Virginia Sea Grant team of ecologists, architects, and engineers. This reflects a **3,000X return on the investment**.

\$5M of the HUD award is growing a business and entrepreneurship incubator program that Virginia Sea Grant is leveraging in a **public-private partnership with engineering and architectural firms** to co-fund workforce development fellowships, looking to spur innovation in resilience and flooding products, services and approaches, and build businesses and workforce from those innovations and in the emerging water and flooding management economy.

Sea Grant research and extension has supported the R&D and technology transfer in the growing **shellfish aquaculture industry** in Virginia (\$48M annual industry), including tackling the greatest barrier to increased production today—hatchery production—through a multi-university collaborative research project with private hatcheries. This is funded with Sea Grant research and extension dollars.

Launched the **Virginia Watermen's Heritage Tours** business model by supporting the market analysis, business plan development, and consumer outreach for the Virginia Watermen's Association. We have made their businesses more viable by diversifying their income streams, while maintaining their cultural heritage and keeping watermen on the water.

Mobilizing university capacity to partner with community clients to tackle intractable **economic and community development in rural coastal communities**, e.g., developed a comprehensive reuse plan for a waterfront property under the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority. Based upon the reuse plan, the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission secured Virginia Coastal Zone Management funding to protect the coastal landscape and minimized wetlands impact with rain gardens and a public pier.

Virginia Sea Grant works with municipalities and private marinas to identify opportunities through the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. The program brings federal dollars to bear on projects that **expand capacity in Virginia's recreational boating industry**. Virginia businesses have been awarded in excess of \$1.6 million in federal dollars, matched by \$800,000 in local funds during the program's first three years of operation.

## **MARYLAND SEA GRANT MATERIALS FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS**

### ***March 2017 – Package to Congressional Office Included:***

- SGA ask letter
- MDSG ask letter with external advisory board member signatures
- Various constituent letters of support, written directly to Congressional delegation (Senators and their representative) and copies for me to take to the Hill
- Maryland Sea Grant 2 pager infographic with metrics
- Our MDSG signature magazine *Chesapeake Quarterly*
- Other materials we have developed or collaborated with constituents to create

### ***April 2017 follow up meeting with MD Delegation – Package to Congressional Office Included:***

- MDSG Annual Report brochure
- NSGO one pagers
- Copy of the original ask letter to each Congressional office

### ***Other materials***

- Emailed a letter to about 100 stakeholders about our funding and what would potentially happen to our ability to serve our constituents if we were to lose our funding.
- Sent similar letter regarding what will happen if we lose our funding as part of a “Thank you” email to our Congressional delegation for their support

### ***Other Actions***

- Brought stakeholders to the hill on visits (Landscape professionals, Watershed Stewards, Faith-based organizations)
- Responded to requests from staffers for information
- Provided extensive information (40 pages?) with program budget summaries, research project summaries and impacts and accomplishments all from 2014-2015. (This can be useful to demonstrate the work that is being done)
- Always send follow up thank you emails and establish stronger email correspondence ties with staffers

### ***Variation on materials and actions developed by Virginia Sea Grant***