

# Sea Grant Association

## **FY 2020 Programmatic Funding Recommendation** **Updated February 28, 2019 to Include Final FY 2019 Appropriations Actions**

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 2017, the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated **\$579 million** in economic impacts, created or supported over **12,500 jobs**, provided **33 state-level programs** with funding that assisted **462 communities** improve their resilience, helped nearly **17,700 fishers** adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices, helped restore an estimated **700,000 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 **1,800 undergraduate and graduate students**. The Sea Grant program achieved this with a Congressional appropriation in FY2017 of \$72.5 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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For more information, please visit [www.sga.seagrant.org](http://www.sga.seagrant.org) or contact:  
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## 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
FY 2019 Senate Recommendation:	\$83M
FY 2019 Final Appropriation:	\$80M of which \$12M is for marine aquaculture
FY 2020 Administration Request:	0
<b>FY 2020 SGA Request :</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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