

# Sea Grant Association

*A request to continue to increase the economic development and resiliency of our coastal communities through Sea Grant research and outreach activities*

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.

## Details of the FY 2019 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

FY 2019 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 Administration Request:	\$0
FY 2018 Funding Level:	Continuing Resolution
FY 2019 Administration Request:	TBD
<b>FY 2019 SGA Recommendation:</b>	<b>\$85M – consistent with levels in S129/HR4306</b>
FY 2019 Report Language Request:	\$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.

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.

## RATIONALE FOR THE SGA REQUEST

**Coastal Communities are Vital to the Nation's Prosperity** – 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.**

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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:  
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