

Sea Grant Association

FY 2022 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) recommends Congress appropriate \$107.9 million in FY 2022 for the National Sea Grant College Program and \$15 million for Sea Grant Aquaculture. The SGA recommendation of \$107.9 million for the NSGCP includes \$25 million for the [Sea Grant Resilient Coasts Initiative](#).

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. Sea Grant is a unique university-based program within NOAA that awards over 90% of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to address issues identified as critical by 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. The total amount recommended by the SGA (\$122.9 million) is consistent with the *total* proposed to be authorized for Sea Grant in the 116th Congress in [S. 910](#) and [S. 1730](#) for FY 2022.

[In 2019](#), the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$412 million in economic benefits; created or supported 10,400 jobs; created or sustained 998 businesses; provided 34 state-level programs with funding that assisted 263 communities improve their resilience; helped nearly 13,000 people adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices; helped restore or protect an estimated 1.8 million acres of habitat; worked with over 1000 industry and private sector, local, state and regional partners; and supported the education and training of nearly 2000 undergraduate and graduate students.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FY 2022 PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST FOR SEA GRANT

Over 126 million residents — 40% of the population of the United States — live in coastal counties. These counties employ 56 million people, resulting in \$3.4 trillion in wages annually, and produce more than \$8.3 trillion in goods and services. Weather- and climate-related hazards impacting these communities have increased at an alarming rate. The total cost of all U.S. billion-dollar disasters over just the last 5 years (2015-2019) exceeds \$525 billion. Weather and climate risks are deeply connected to threats to critical infrastructure, water and food supplies, social instability, unemployment, and governance challenges. Most recently, we are seeing these types of interdependencies play out as the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant economic crisis have clearly exacerbated impacts to coastal communities, particularly under resourced communities and communities of color.

The increasing physical and economic damages, social justice implications, and personal despair have tested our level of preparedness to deal with and respond to major weather and climate threats. Hurricanes, typhoons and tsunamis are compounded by other challenges including coastal inundation (due to rising sea levels and land subsidence), increasing storm intensity, uneven enforcement of building codes, lack of adequate zoning ordinances, poor planning and construction, continued development in high risk areas, and the inexperience of coastal dwellers to prepare for and

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For more information, please visit www.sga.seagrant.org or contact:

Dr. Susan White, SGA President, (919) 515-2455, swhite3@ncsu.edu

Dr. Fredrika Moser, SGA Past President, (301) 405-7500, moser@mdsg.umd.edu

Dr. Darren Lerner, SGA External Relations Committee Chair, (808) 956-7031, lerner@hawaii.edu

Dr. Shelby Walker, SGA External Relations Committee Vice Chair, (541) 737-6200, shelby.walker@oregonstate.edu

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recover from these events. The frequency of “sunny day” flooding alone has doubled since 2000 in the United States. Exacerbated by sea level rise, these events overwhelm sewage treatment plants and public utilities, disrupt transportation corridors, reduce property values of homes and businesses, and threaten public health. Fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes have resulted in millions of dollars of damages and economic impacts. In addition, many regions may be at increased risk of anthropogenic disasters such as oil or chemical spills that could occur alone or be exacerbated by other hazardous events.

The resilience of our communities — the very safety, security and survival of their residents — depends on how well prepared they are for these threats. Community-level preparedness includes a number of considerations, from how individuals prepare to where and how critical infrastructure and buildings are constructed. Resilient communities have residents, businesses and infrastructure that are positioned to reduce the impacts of risks to their lives and property. This allows people to return to their homes and businesses more quickly after an event than in communities that are not as prepared. Resilient communities also have thriving living shorelines and coastal resources such as mangroves, oyster reefs, barrier dunes, salt marshes, and other natural infrastructure that buffer waves and coastal storms and protect the shoreline from erosion during storms. Only through knowledge, understanding, preparation and partnerships will coastal communities be able to address the hazards that are uniquely concentrated in these coastal counties.

Sea Grant is a network of research, education and outreach professionals who work in partnership with universities, communities and stakeholders. The program’s goal is to enhance the use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. Sea Grant is uniquely poised to help coastal and Great Lakes communities become more resilient through its activities that strengthen the ability of communities to effectively prepare and plan for environmental and economic challenges. The program has a proven track record of doing this at local, state, regional and national levels. With increased capacity, Sea Grant can be the nation’s “go to” program with the resources needed to help all of our coastal and Great Lakes communities become more resilient. The program will protect lives, sustain critical infrastructure, protect and restore critical natural resources, enhance economic opportunity and recovery from the COVID pandemic, and support more rapid economic recovery after events. Sea Grant is a demonstrated leader in developing locally relevant solutions to build coastal community resilience. Sea Grant’s strength lies in its ability to work effectively at the local government and community level with tailored information, guidance and support. To meet these growing demands, additional resources are requested consistent with pending legislation of the 116th Congress.

FY 2022 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

FY 2022 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
Program:	Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2019 Final Appropriation:	\$68M for the National Sea Grant Program and \$12M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2020 Final Appropriation:	\$74M for the National Sea Grant Program and \$13M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2021 Administration Request:	\$0
FY 2021 House:	\$71M for the National Sea Grant Program and \$13M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY2021 Senate:	\$76M for the National Sea Grant program and \$13.5M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2021 Final Appropriation:	TBD
FY 2022 Programmatic Request:	\$107.9M for the National Sea Grant Program and \$15M for Sea Grant Aquaculture

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