

# Sea Grant Association

## FY 2023 PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST FOR SEA GRANT

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) requests Congress appropriate \$140 million in FY 2023 for the National Sea Grant College Program and \$18 million for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research. The SGA request includes the following areas of emphasis:

- **Resilience:** increase coastal resilience activities across all State programs via the [Sea Grant Resilient Coasts Initiative](#).
- **Diversity:** work with partners to advance innovative initiatives to further connect to, learn with, and empower underserved and communities of color.
- **Aquaculture:** research, education, and workforce development.

The National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966, as amended (33 USC § 1121 et seq. Sea Grant) 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.

### WHAT DID SEA GRANT DELIVER FOR THE NATION IN 2020?

[In 2020](#), the Sea Grant program helped generate an estimated \$520 million in economic benefits; created or supported 11,000 jobs; created or sustained 1332 businesses; provided 34 state-level programs with funding that assisted 285 communities improve their resilience; helped over 11,000 people adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices; helped restore or protect an estimated 4.2 million acres of habitat; and supported the education and training of nearly 2000 undergraduate and graduate students.

### JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FY 2023 PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST FOR SEA GRANT

**Coastal Resilience:** Sea Grant has a 50-year track record supporting the resilience of coastal communities however, Sea Grant has not been able to keep up with the increasing demand for its services. Sea Grant currently lacks sufficient human capacity and resources to meet the increasing need for technical information, assistance, facilitation, and engagement for supporting coastal communities. The types of constituencies Sea Grant will better serve with

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this initiative are diverse and include state/local planners and governments, engineers, church leaders, developers, fisheries coalitions, citizen community groups, tribes, land/property owners, businesses, non-profit organizations, and economically disadvantaged groups. *Sea Grant's Resilient Coasts Initiative*

The Sea Grant Association is requesting funds for:

- Capacity building to support recruitment of additional resilience Extension, communication or education staff in each state Sea Grant program and to support a state-based national Sea Grant resilience coordinator.
- Research, engagement, decision support, implementation to be directly allocated to state Sea Grant programs to support research, training, technical assistance, and coordination to help address community resilience needs at the state and local levels.

**Racial Equity:** One of the most important investments that Sea Grant makes is in people -- those who do the work of Sea Grant as well as those who benefit from its work. Sea Grant DEIJA Vision. The program has long-standing and trusted relationships with local, tribal, and indigenous communities that depend on the coastal and marine environment for livelihood, sustenance, and culture. The Sea Grant Association is requesting funds to advance innovative initiatives to further connect to, learn with, and empower underserved and communities of color by:

- Supporting research, training, mentorship, and fellowship opportunities supporting underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Ensuring that its workforce is representative of the diversity of people whom the program serves by hosting trainings to provide its workforce with knowledge, skills, and tools to create inclusive and welcoming environments.

**Sustainable Aquaculture:** The 2019 U.S. seafood trade deficit in 2019 was \$16.9 Billion. Sea Grant's \$13 million investment in FY 2020 resulted in over \$80 million in economic impact, creating or sustaining over 1000 aquaculture related jobs, and the creation or sustainment of over 400 aquaculture related businesses. Sea Grant conducts research and provides technical assistance and outreach to aquaculture producers, resource managers, scientists, and consumers to ensure the safety and quality of sustainably cultured seafood products. Sea Grant also provides aquaculture literacy programs for the next generation of farmed seafood producers through K-12 education. Sea Grant's Aquaculture 10-year Vision

The Sea Grant Association is requesting funds to:

- Support an expanded Sea Grant aquaculture program that will further enable farmers to produce sustainable seafood that can compete with imports and provide a safe and nutritious source of protein for consumers.

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**Essential Partnerships:** The immense challenges facing our coastal communities are much too large for any one organization to be able to solve alone. Partnerships at every level – local, state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental – are essential to supporting the vision of resilient communities. Sea Grant is well-known for its capacity to build and sustain partnerships, particularly with our fellow NOAA-supported programs. Together, these programs provide a comprehensive suite of services needed to make our coastal communities and economies more resilient.

## FY 2023 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

FY 2023 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 Final Appropriation:	\$75M for the National Sea Grant program and \$13M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2022 Admin Request:	\$115.7M for the National Sea Grant program and \$13.1M for Sea Grant Aquaculture
FY 2022 Final Appropriation:	TBD
<b>FY 2023 Programmatic Request:</b>	<b>\$140M for the National Sea Grant Program and \$18M for Sea Grant Aquaculture</b>