

# Sea Grant Association

## FY 2024 Programmatic Requests for Sea Grant

### The Sea Grant Association (SGA) has two programmatic requests for Fiscal Year 2024:

\$147,325,000 for the National Sea Grant College Program  
+ \$18,000,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

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**\$165,325,000 for the total Sea Grant Program**

### National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) Background and Request: \$147,325,000

Sea Grant’s mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. Sea Grant has had consistent bipartisan congressional support since its creation in 1966 in the *National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966* (33 USC § 1121 et seq. Sea Grant). Most recently, bipartisan support led to the five-year reauthorization, the *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-221).

Sea Grant has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension, and education for over 50 years. This unique network of 34 university-based programs awards over 90 percent of its appropriated funds to coastal states through a competitive process to address issues identified as critical by coastal communities. A joint federal, state, and local investment,

Sea Grant provides solutions for 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’s partnerships are cost effective, as the program leverages nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.

The funding request for FY 2024 is \$147,325,000. This request is based on the authorized amount for FY 2024 (\$107,325,000) and an additional \$35,000,000 to support state-based work in coastal resilience and \$5,000,000 to support state-based efforts in incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility (DEIJA) principles into their programs.

#### FY 2024 Programmatic Request for National Sea Grant College Program

FY 2024 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 2022 Final Appropriation.....	\$76,000,000
FY 2023 Final Appropriation.....	\$80,000,000
FY 2024 Administration Request .....	TBD
FY 2024 SGA Request.....	\$147,325,000

#### FY 2024 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

FY 2024 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 2022 Final Appropriation.....	\$13,500,000
FY 2023 Final Appropriation.....	\$14,000,000
FY 2024 Administration Request: .....	TBD
FY 2024 SGA Request.....	\$18,000,000

### FY 2024 Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program Request: \$18,000,000

This amount requested would expand Sea Grant’s support for local aquaculture farmers who produce sustainable seafood, reducing U.S. reliance on imports and providing a safe and nutritious source of protein.

## Justification for the Sea Grant Program Request

In 2021, the federal investment of \$88 million was leveraged with non-federal funds and resulted in an estimated \$736.6 million in economic benefits. Sea Grant helped improve hazard resilience in 227 communities; created or sustained 8,369 jobs and 1,619 businesses; enabled 12,471 fishers to adopt safe and sustainable fishing practices; helped restore or protect over 1.1 million acres of habitat; and reached over 374,483 K-12 students through Sea Grant education efforts.

Increasing capacity through each state program in the Sea Grant network will provide a measurable difference in the program's already significant impact and will enable more work around the following topics:

**Coastal Resilience:** Sea Grant has supported the resilience efforts of coastal communities since it was founded in 1966. Currently, Sea Grant is not able to meet increasing community requests for support at existing funding levels, lacking sufficient human capacity and resources to meet the growing need for technical information, assistance, facilitation, and engagement required by coastal communities. As of October, our nation has experienced 15 weather and climate billion-dollar disaster events in 2022 – those where overall damages and costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion. In 2021, 20 billion-dollar events cost a total of \$152.6 billion and resulted in over 700 deaths<sup>1</sup>. With increased funding, Sea Grant will better serve the diverse state/local planners, governments, engineers, community leaders, developers, fisheries coalitions, citizen community groups, tribes, land/property owners, businesses, non-profit organizations, and economically disadvantaged groups it supports. SGA 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.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA):** Sea Grant supports local communities—those who do the work of Sea Grant as well as those who benefit from its work—and 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. SGA is requesting funds to advance innovative initiatives to further connect to, learn with, and empower underserved and underrepresented communities 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.

## Justification for Aquaculture Research Request

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 1,000 aquaculture-related jobs and 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.

<sup>1</sup> NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2022). <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73

*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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