

Sea Grant Association

FY 2025 Appropriations Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) has one appropriations programmatic funding request with two line items for Fiscal Year 2025:

\$145,700,000 for the National Sea Grant College Program

+ \$18,000,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

\$163,700,000 total for the Sea Grant Program

The SGA FY 2025 programmatic funding request is not an increase over our FY 2024 request. Though local costs and needs are increasing, SGA recognizes the federal fiscal caps in law that only increase federal discretionary spending by less than 1 percent in FY 2025.

FY 2025 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant Program

Appropriations Bill	Commerce, Justice, Science Agency.....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Account	Operations, Research, and Facilities Office.....	Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Program.....
		National Sea Grant College Program / Sea Grant Aquaculture Research
FY 2024 Enacted.....		\$80,000,000/\$14,000,000
FY 2025 President's Budget Request...		\$72,392,000/\$0
FY 2025 SGA Request		\$145,700,000 / \$18,000,000

For the **National Sea Grant College Program**, SGA requests \$145,700,000. This includes the amount authorized in law by the *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-221) (\$111.7 million) and an additional \$34 million to provide each program with an increase of \$1 million to invest directly in their coastal communities and economies. Increasing funding for Sea Grant will allow the national network of 34 programs to respond to constituent priorities at the local level.

For **Sea Grant Aquaculture Research**, SGA requests \$18 million to continue the development of sustainable marine and Great Lakes aquaculture businesses.

Sea Grant leverages nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress and invests those funds directly in support of local needs.

What is the Sea Grant Program? *With a mission to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy, a healthy environment, and resilient communities, Sea Grant has benefitted from bipartisan congressional support since its creation in 1966. Sea Grant funds peer-reviewed research and provides science-based expertise and education that responds to local needs. A joint federal, state, and local investment, Sea Grant works in the Great Lakes; Gulf of Mexico; and on the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific coasts and islands—yielding quantifiable economic, social, and environmental benefits.*

Justifications

Sea Grant College Program Increase (\$145,700,000)

- 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 to address constituent priorities.
- As an on-the-ground partner, Sea Grant works directly with constituents to ensure a sustainable economy and environment on our coasts.
- The 2022 federal appropriation of \$89.5 million was leveraged with non-federal funds and resulted in \$802.3 million in economic benefits.
- In 2022, Sea Grant created or sustained 9,569 jobs and 1,601 small businesses, helped restore or protect over 2.1 million acres of habitat, engaged 970,976 people in education, and helped 24,288 seafood industry personnel adopt responsible fishery practices.

Aquaculture Research Increase (\$18 million)

- The 2019 U.S. seafood trade deficit was \$16.9 billion. Sea Grant's \$13 million investment in 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, university and technical training, and education programs.
- An increase for the Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program would increase research, education, and extension activities that train a skilled work force and support the development of new aquaculture technologies.

Sea Grant focuses its community-based work in four areas:

1. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

The United States manages millions of square miles of coastal territories that contain diverse and productive ecosystems. These ecosystems span the tropics to the Arctic to the Great Lakes and support a variety of recreational, commercial, and subsistence activities, from tourism to coastal hazard preparedness to reducing marine debris.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Seafood consumption has increased in the United States and continues to be encouraged because of its health benefits. Sea Grant is a leader in developing innovative technologies for all sectors of the seafood industry, including fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing, and consumer safety.

3. Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

Coastal communities in the United States provide vital economic, social, and recreational opportunities for millions of Americans. Due to Sea Grant support through coastal research, education, engagement, and outreach, coastal communities—including those more vulnerable to the impacts of hazards due to long-standing economic and social inequities—are now more resilient to weather and climate hazards. Sea Grant informs and helps improve planning and risk assessment, disaster preparedness and recovery, resilience design, and project implementation.

4. Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Building a workforce literate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is crucial to maintaining America's competitiveness in a rapidly changing global economy. Sea Grant provides elementary through graduate STEM literacy technical training programs that develop the next generation of coastal stewards and professionals.

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 or contact:

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