

Sea Grant Association

FY 2027 Appropriations Programmatic Request for Sea Grant

\$120,377,565 for the National Sea Grant College Program

+ \$18,522,000 for Sea Grant Aquaculture Research

\$138,899,565 total for Sea Grant

Congress has provided funding to Sea Grant through the annual congressional appropriations process every year since 1968.

FY 2027 Request: \$120,377,565 for the **National Sea Grant College Program**, the FY 2025 amount provided by Congress in the *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-221) with inflationary increases for the last two fiscal years. Increased funding

will boost support for waterfront and maritime businesses to meet the growing demand for Sea Grant services in coastal communities and address nationwide priorities, particularly American seafood competitiveness.

\$18,522,000 for the **Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program** helps local aquaculture farmers navigate federal and state regulations and expand American seafood. Investment in America's fisheries and aquaculture programs will allow us to meet our nation's growing demand for seafood and stop the reliance on foreign sources.

FY 2027 Programmatic Request for Sea Grant Program

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 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/FY 2025 CR | \$80,000,000 / \$14,000,000 |
| FY 2026 Enacted..... | \$80,000,000 / \$14,000,000 |
| FY 2027 President's Request..... | TBD |

What Does Sea Grant Do for Your Community?

Creates and sustains local jobs and a skilled workforce

- Trains coastal workforce to meet consumer and market demands
- Supports entrepreneurs in company creation and expansion



Drives business growth and competitiveness

- Advises businesses in navigating federal and state regulations
- Provides planning services to strengthen coastal industries



Strengthens the domestic U.S. seafood supply chain

- Supports ethical, transparent sourcing to protect the integrity of U.S. seafood
- Expands and stabilizes domestic seafood markets to boost economic resilience



Prevents costly flood and storm damage

- Offers community planning tools related to inundation and erosion
- Provides technical assistance to improve coastal infrastructure and mitigation strategies

Saves lives and livelihoods from weather-related disasters

- Aids in risk assessment and conveys information on weather-related hazards
- Fills gaps in coastal and ocean data to improve weather forecasting

Commercializes innovation

- Supports pilot projects and early-stage testing
- Helps scale new technologies for marine and coastal applications
- Facilitates co-designed projects and technology transfer between research institutions and industry

Why Fund Sea Grant?

Sea Grant is High Impact, Creating Economic Value for the Nation

Sea Grant delivers nearly a nine-fold return on federal investment, creating significant economic benefits each year, including job creation, business support, and cost savings for communities and industries. In 2024, a \$94 million federal investment generated over a billion in total economic benefits.

Sea Grant's impact reaches far beyond coastal areas, strengthening the nation's seafood competitiveness, improving supply chain efficiency, and building a skilled workforce. Coastal counties—critical to the U.S. economy—face growing risks from storms, erosion, flooding, marine heat waves, and other hazards that threaten jobs and economic stability. Sea Grant programs have a strong record of helping communities manage these challenges while identifying new economic opportunities. Demand continues to grow for Sea Grant's expertise to support resilient coastal economies, which collectively generate 46% of U.S. GDP and 39% of all American jobs.

Sea Grant is Cost Efficient, Tripling the Impact of Each Federal Dollar

Local matching funds demonstrate community commitment to work that has real value

Sea Grant's federal funding requires a 50% non-federal match, driving significant investment from community partners such as industry, small businesses, nonprofits, state and local governments, and universities. In practice, Sea Grant programs generate far more than the required match: for every \$1 Congress appropriates, Sea Grant secures over \$2 additional in external funding that is invested directly in local priorities and community needs.

Across more than 25,000 partnerships nationwide—including over 5,200 with industry and businesses—Sea Grant leverages these relationships to extend the value of federal dollars without increasing federal spending. Communities only contribute matching funds when the work clearly benefits them, ensuring that Sea Grant's priorities align with the real needs of working waterfronts, small businesses, and governments at every level.

How Does Sea Grant Do It?

Sea Grant staff live and work in the communities they serve, enabling trusted relationships and local expertise that strengthen partnerships. This on-the-ground presence enables Sea Grant to co-invest, co-design, and co-deliver solutions that advance seafood competitiveness, coastal innovation, and economic growth.

Sea Grant staff live and work in 34 coastal and Great Lakes states and territories, allowing them to respond directly to community-identified and prioritized needs. They co-develop science-based tools, information, and solutions that help communities strengthen their economies, protect public health, and improve environmental resilience. This ground-up approach—linking research, business, and local partners—creates a cost-effective, high-impact, and trusted program that delivers measurable benefits nationwide.

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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America's Coasts

Almost **40%** of the population, **10%** of the land mass (excluding Alaska)

\$10 trillion in goods and services annually

54.6 million employed

\$4 trillion in wages annually

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