DRAFT National Sea Grant College Program

SEA GRANT: A NATIONAL NETWORK

Mission:

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program enhances the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a **national network** of 32 programs dedicated to serving citizens in coastal communities throughout the Nation. Administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Sea Grant is the Agency's primary university-based program dedicated to helping citizens utilize scientific information to support a vibrant economy while ensuring ecological sustainability.

THE SEA GRANT MODEL: SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICA'S COASTS

The Sea Grant model integrates **research, outreach and education**. On-the-ground experts, located in **every coastal and Great Lakes state,** translate sound scientific information into tools, products and services that benefit coastal residents and their communities every day. Sea Grant experts implement national priorities at the local level, while also identifying citizens' needs in order to inform state and national research agendas. This **two-way flow** of services and information ensures that Sea Grant solutions meet demonstrated needs, help support businesses, and enable policy-makers to make balanced, well-informed decisions.

At the heart of this model are strong **trust-based** relationships anchored by Sea Grant's unique role as an honest broker of information (**non-advocacy**). Sea Grant's **locally-based professionals** (more than 360 extension agents strong) live in, and are intimately connected to, the communities they serve. As both trusted residents and **coastal experts** charged with providing balanced and reliable science-based information, Sea Grant personnel deliver **solutions residents can use.** From working with coastal communities to make sustainable growth and development planning decisions, to helping fishermen utilize the latest gear technologies, to safeguarding the quality of our drinking water, Sea Grant is dedicated to improving the lives of U.S. citizens.

SEA GRANT PRIORITIES

Meeting the Challenge, 2009-2013, Sea Grant's national plan, establishes direction for the Sea Grant network to address critical national needs in coastal, ocean and Great Lakes environments. Three cross-cutting goals and four focus areas reflect America's most urgent needs, NOAA priorities and Sea Grant's strengths and core values. The **cross-cutting goals**: *sound scientific research,* an *informed, scientifically-literate public, inclusive decision-making* involving a wide variety of stakeholders, and relevant and timely information on *climate change* adaptation, form the underpinnings of Sea Grant's work and underlie our **four focus areas**: *Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply, Sustainable Coastal Development*, *Healthy Coastal Ecosystems*, and *Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities.*

NOAA

Sea Grant

SEA GRANT: MEETING COASTAL NEEDS IN UNPRECEDENTED WAYS, UNIQUE CAPABILITIES TO ADDRESS GROWING NEEDS

32 PROGRAMS

Powerful National Network

✓***National*** **network** (uniting professionals in every coastal and Great Lakes state)
✓Nationally-headquartered, state-based
✓National **problem-solver,** local implementation

University Partnerships & Expertise

✓Collective **academic knowledge** (network of top universities)
✓**Multi-disciplinary expertise** —utilizes university, federal, state, and local partners
✓Strong **partnerships**

Local Experts Work with Communities to Solve Pressing Coastal Issues

✓Locally situated—Sea Grant professionals work where they live
✓**Local**, place-based **knowledge and expertise**
✓**Established** presence in local communities
✓**Rapid response** to emerging problems, nimble and responsive

Trusted Source of Relevant Science and Information

✓**Non-advocacy**
✓**Trusted** resource and broker of sound-science
✓Practical **solutions to real problems**
✓Connects **relevant science with users** (from discovery to application)
✓**Empowers citizens** to make informed decisions
✓**Delivers effective change** (change agents), **demonstrated behavior-change**

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