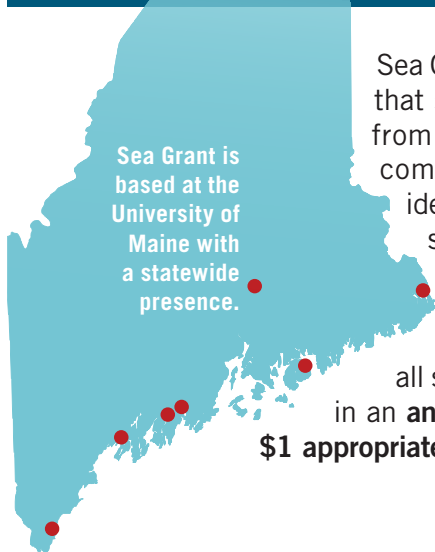


# Impacts of Sea Grant investment in Maine's coastal communities



Sea Grant is based at the University of Maine with a statewide presence.

Sea Grant is a unique federal-state program that sends 95% of its appropriated funds from NOAA to coastal states through a competitive process to solve problems identified as critical by public and private sector constituents. Efficient, cost-effective partnerships between NOAA, the University of Maine, coastal communities, and businesses — who all share in the costs of solutions — result in an **annual leveraging of nearly \$3 for every \$1 appropriated by Congress.**

**\$4,000,000**  
Leveraged funds

**\$1,200,000**  
Federal funds

FY15

## In the last four years, Maine Sea Grant activities

- generated an estimated **\$22 million in economic impacts**
- created or sustained **300+ businesses** and **130 jobs**
- provided **200 communities with technical assistance** on challenging issues including working waterfront preservation, coastal infrastructure, and fishing industry diversification.

## Some highlights from our work:

The very first Sea Grant was awarded in Maine for oyster aquaculture in 1971. Oysters are now a \$4 million industry with more than 80 producers. In 2015, **8 new oyster and clam aquaculture businesses** were incorporated as a result of training programs for fishermen interested in diversifying their incomes.



“Aquaculture has been identified as a very big area for economic development in Maine, and Sea Grant is critical to that effort.”— Bill Mook, Mook Sea Farms

“With Sea Grant, there’s this repository of knowledge and extension staff. Sea Grant was essential to the birth of the seaweed aquaculture industry in Maine.”— Paul Dobbins, Ocean Approved



Sea Grant resources and staff capacity have helped grow Maine’s sea vegetable industry, from starting the first commercial kelp farm in the U.S. in Casco Bay, to providing technical assistance to wild harvest companies, and supporting **7 new seaweed farms** along the coast in the last four years.

Sea Grant works routinely with federal and state agencies to improve sustainability of the American lobster fishery. For example, a study of lobster monitoring methods enabled the Department of Marine Resources to eliminate an ineffective program, saving the state \$100,000 annually.

U.S. and Canadian fisheries agencies use Sea Grant science to assess the population status of lobster and anticipate future changes in the fishery. Thousands of lobstermen have received training in business development as a result of Sea Grant activities.



“Sea Grant investment in applied research has contributed directly to lobster management in Maine and New England.”— Carl Wilson, Bureau of Marine Science Director, Maine DMR