



# A SMART INVESTMENT IN OUR COASTAL ECONOMY

For over 50 years, the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension, and education.

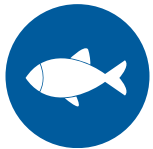


IN 2023, A FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN MAINE SEA GRANT OF \$1.5 MILLION CONTRIBUTED TO

**\$23.5 MILLION**

IN DOCUMENTED ECONOMIC BENEFITS\*

## Sea Grant's 2024–2027 Strategic Plan addresses the following four focus areas:



Sea Grant's work in **sustainable fisheries and aquaculture** includes advancing aquaculture through research and informing regulation, sustaining wild fisheries through research to test new catch strategies, training young fishermen and aquaculture professionals, and listening and responding to the needs of fishing communities.



Sea Grant's work in **healthy coastal ecosystems** includes research to understand ecosystem change and test new recovery techniques, identifying and testing new methods to mitigate water pollution sources, guidance and expertise on planning and management, and habitat monitoring and restoration efforts.



Sea Grant's work in **resilient communities and economies** includes long-term community planning, physical and ecological research, social science research to engage more effectively, increasing access to existing tools, disaster recovery, and working with communities on needs and solutions.



Sea Grant's work to advance **environmental literacy and workforce development** includes fellowship opportunities, on-the-job training, support for undergraduate and graduate research, experiential education programs, educational tourism programs, and teacher training workshops.

\*The 2023 federal investment represents Maine Sea Grant Core and Aquaculture Appropriations. Metrics are direct results of Sea Grant work between Feb 1, 2023, and Jan 31, 2024, as reported by Maine Sea Grant staff and researchers in Summer 2024. Economic benefit = market & non-market value of Sea Grant's work and the value of jobs & businesses (calculated based on standards published for Maine by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2023.)



# BY THE NUMBERS\*

Maine Sea Grant's mission is to support the responsible use and conservation of coastal resources to sustain diverse, thriving coastal communities and ecosystems.

Learn more about Maine Sea Grant's work at [seagrant.umaine.edu](http://seagrant.umaine.edu)

**20** Sea Grant staff hosted and jointly supported by the University of Maine live and work along Maine's 3,500-mile coastline, providing a valuable local resource for sharing information and solving problems.

More than **700** established partnerships with businesses, researchers, community organizations, and municipal, state, regional, federal, and tribal partners help to leverage resources and expertise, increasing the impacts of investments in the Maine Sea Grant Program.



## In 2023, our documented impacts included:

**332** businesses created or supported  
**and**  
**565** jobs created or supported

**52** educational and scientific publications, including **10** peer-reviewed journal articles

**45** graduate students, and **86** undergraduate students supported for academic scholarships, internships, fellowships, and professional training opportunities, with

**17** supported graduates hired into their professional field of interest

**682** seafood industry personnel adopted responsible fishery practices based on knowledge gained from Maine Sea Grant

**22** communities implemented sustainable economic and environmental development practices

**78** resource managers used ecosystem-based approaches to management as a result of Sea Grant's work

**300** acres of habitat restored or protected



**12** research, program development, and industry innovation grants competitively awarded with Maine Sea Grant research funding to advance our understanding of marine and coastal issues, address critical challenges, and foster more resilient Maine communities and economies.



**538** K-12 educators, **16,708** K-12 students, and **6,764** community members engaged in Maine Sea Grant-supported education programs\*\*



\*Metrics are direct results of Maine Sea Grant work between Feb 1, 2023, and Jan 31, 2024, as reported by Maine Sea Grant staff in Summer 2024.  
\*\*"Education programs" refers to informal education, K-12 and secondary education programs.