

Sea Grant celebrates its 50th anniversary



NOAA Sea Grant is a federal-state partnership that turns science into action to ensure that our coastal communities remain engines of economic growth in a rapidly changing world. There are now 33 Sea Grant programs in every coastal and Great Lakes state, plus Puerto Rico and Guam. This year, through March 2017, Sea Grant celebrates its 50th anniversary of putting science to work for America's coastal communities. In the next 50 years, Sea Grant's expertise and place-based support will become even more vital as America's coasts face new environmental challenges.

Over the past 50 years, Sea Grant's research, education, and outreach activities have encompassed diverse issues relevant to local, regional, and national priorities, such as healthy coastal ecosystems, resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and environmental literacy and workforce development. In Connecticut, the state program has only been around for 30 years; it's a small but very strong program.

Sea Grant is unique in its ability to quickly transfer research to application. Nationwide, 350 extension agents share science and tools that have improved the environment and economy of coastal and Great Lakes communities.

Over the last 50 years, the U.S. coastal population doubled in size. In 2010, 123.3 million people, or 39 percent, of the nation's population lived in counties directly on the shoreline. Since its inception 50 years

ago, Sea Grant has been on the ground in coastal communities across every coastal and Great Lakes state and Guam, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Korea, Japan, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to listen to needs, respond with science, and transfer new information into products people can use.

Coastal economies are a driving force for the economy of the nation as a whole, and Sea Grant is an important part of that. Sea Grant creates or sustains an average of 9,300 jobs and 2,825 businesses each year in growing and innovative industries including aquaculture, recreation and tourism.

Sea Grant has provided fellowships to more than 1,000 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellows since the fellowship began.

Sea Grant programs draw on more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, law and policy specialists, public outreach experts, communication professionals, and educators from more than 300 institutions across the country.

To watch a video about what Sea Grant does for the nation, see <http://s.uconn.edu/sg50>

