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WRACK LINES is published twice a year or as resources allow by the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program at the University of Connecticut. Any opinions expressed therein are solely those of the authors.

There is no charge for Connecticut residents, but donations to help with postage and printing costs are always appreciated.

Change of address, subscription information, cancellation requests, or editorial correspondence should be sent to the address below:

Connecticut Sea Grant

CTSG-16-03
ISSN 2151-2825 (print)
ISSN 2151-2833 (online)



From the EDITOR

TOGETHER, WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

This is a big year for Connecticut's Shellfish Initiative, as it gains momentum. You'll read all about it in this themed issue, with perspectives from many individuals and sectors working to develop the best plan for this resource. This issue contains a wonderful new infographic about our thriving shellfish status, for which we thank Maxine Marcy, designer of *Wrack Lines*, and Tessa Getchis, our shellfish Extension educator.

It's also a big year for Sea Grant nationwide, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary! Our Connecticut program has not existed that long, but the wheels of our existence were put in motion then. One of the biggest strengths of Sea Grant is our national network presence, which links experts in more than 300 universities nationwide. We are highlighting some of our best successes and programs this year to raise awareness of what we do for the nation. We've created a new 10-minute video, produced by John Karl of Wisconsin Sea Grant, which you can see on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/6xMW2bX7R88>.



Americans love to live and work on the coast, and that's certainly true here in Connecticut.

Being close to the water offers rewards, and challenges. We've seen disasters of the man-made and natural variety, economic changes and shifting coastal ecosystems that in turn shift the availability of coastal resources. All of these challenges provide an opening for Sea Grant to step in, applying research, education and outreach to study, protect and enhance the use of coastal resources. And, Sea Grant's got a track record. In 2016, we can truly say that Sea Grant has spent 50 years putting science to work for America's coastal communities.

If you want to know more, please see our website <http://seagrants@uconn.edu> and our Facebook and Twitter sites. We have a link to a new video about Connecticut Sea Grant's unique history on our home page. Together, we DO make a difference!

Yours,
Peg Van Patten

Peg Van Patten, *Wrack Lines* editor

About our cover:
Molluscs play a vital role in the environment, economy and society.
Photo: Tessa Getchis