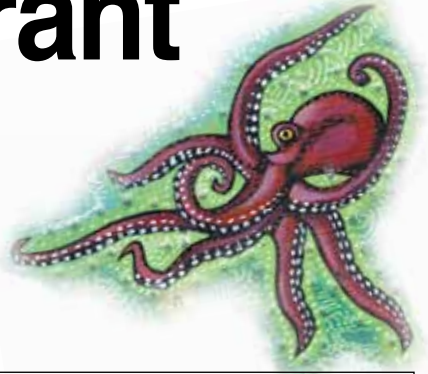


Washington Sea Grant

Knowledge for Use in the Marine Environment



Washington Sea Grant is a catalyst for marine research and innovative education and outreach. Our specialists translate research findings into practical information and decision-making tools to meet the needs of ocean users in Washington state, across the nation and throughout the world.

Over the past five years, Sea Grant staff has cooperated with 22 cities, 15 port districts, 15 coastal counties, almost all Washington tribes, 45 federal and 13 state agencies and scores of school districts, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Our commitment to our constituents is helping to ensure that Washington's \$7.5 billion ocean economy — the fifth largest in the United States — will remain robust and environmentally sound.



Environmental change coupled with increasing population growth is putting unprecedented pressure on Washington's living marine resources. Through research and outreach, Washington Sea Grant helps managers, scientists, marine users and the public understand and develop approaches to ensure resilient marine resources and healthy ecosystems.





Seed money from Washington Sea Grant has supported the NEPTUNE project's efforts to establish underwater observatories within the depths of the northeastern Pacific Ocean. Insights from this project are shedding light on the origins of life on our planet and, possibly, other worlds.

Through Sea Grant's Simple Techniques program, 4,000 fine-mesh screens for kitchen sink drains were distributed to households in the Hood Canal watershed. This lessened the flow of nitrogen from failing septic systems into one of the state's most productive waterways. Not only did the effort remove nitrogen from the system, it increased community awareness — that individual actions *do* make a difference.



Established in 1968,

Washington Sea Grant began as a federal experiment in local investment, building on the University of Washington's academic strengths in marine science, engineering and policy. In 1971, it became one of the first four programs designated nationally as a Sea Grant College. Today, it is part of a national network of 31 Sea Grant Colleges administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Encouraging Pathfinders and Pioneers

Washington Sea Grant-sponsored research maximizes the productive use of marine resources while preserving and, if necessary, helping to restore the essential qualities of a healthy marine environment.

We've helped to devise new technologies and techniques to assess endangered and threatened salmon and herring populations, manage Northwest aquaculture and fisheries, understand cycles of climatic change in the Pacific Ocean and derive cancer-fighting medicine from sea sponge symbionts.

The program's climate of innovation inspires both faculty and their assistants — more than 700 students from more than a dozen academic departments in one year alone.

Outreach and Education: Sharing a Wealth of Knowledge

Washington Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Services program links university resources and expertise with local communities and user groups.

A network of campus- and community-based specialists assists Sea Grant constituents in aquaculture, fisheries, coastal economic development, coastal tourism, ports and marine transportation, water quality, small oil spill prevention, aquatic invasive species control, safety at sea and marine technology training.

Water quality field agents and education specialists foster awareness among constituents of all ages and interests. Last year, they held a total of 312 education events with almost 8,000 participants.





“If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water,” wrote naturalist Loren Eiseley. Education and outreach activities help encourage stewardship of marine habitats and inspire a sense of wonder. Washington Sea Grant staff members are familiar figures at water quality festivals and fairs, hands-on workshops and NOAA’s summer science camp for kids.



Marine Advisory Services staff has helped curb the accidental capture of the highly endangered short-tailed albatross by commercial fishermen in Alaska. This cooperative activity led to new fishing regulations and circumvented potential lawsuits that might have shut down a \$300 million fishery. Techniques derived from this project could save at least 80,000 seabirds over the next decade.

Communicating with Constituents

Washington Sea Grant Communications keeps the public informed about current research and technology and promotes the understanding of marine issues among industry, educators and marine resource users.

The Communications office maintains a publications database, produces and distributes informational brochures, pamphlets and books, creates public exhibits and responds to media inquiries about Sea Grant activities and research.

Communications has shared its expertise with the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the University of Washington’s College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences, helping them inform their constituents about harmful algal blooms and other important marine issues.

Opportunities for Career Enhancement and Academic Growth

Through fellowships and internships, Washington Sea Grant provides prime opportunities for graduate students to expand their research horizons and enhance their careers.

By participating in these programs, students and recent graduates gain invaluable first-hand experience in industrial design and marine product development or in the challenges faced by managers of our nation’s coasts. Some study population dynamics of endangered or threatened fish and mammals at sea. Others work with legislators and federal agency staff on issues that directly affect ocean resources and the environment.

By facilitating such personal growth, our program is shaping the future of ocean science and marine policy, nationally and internationally.



A solid base in research, a highly qualified staff of outreach and education specialists and a strong commitment to creativity and innovation — these attributes are keeping Washington Sea Grant in the forefront, offering guidance and support on a broad range of marine environmental and resource issues. We stand by our slogan: “Knowledge for use in the marine environment.”

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