Washington Sea Grant

By the Numbers*

One of 34 Sea Grant programs across the nation funded through NOAA, Washington Sea Grant helps people and marine life thrive by providing research, technical expertise and education supporting the responsible use and conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems.

$57 million
in economic benefit and services, providing more than double return on the federal investment

575
jobs created or sustained

435,000
coastal residents, boaters, fishermen, shellfish growers, small business owners, natural resource managers, coastal planners and K–12 students reached

72,000
volunteer hours valued at $2.2 million

700
partners from government, academic, industry and nongovernmental sectors

171
communities implemented sustainable development practices and policies

“Thank you again for providing us the basis for current and future waterfront planning for coastal resiliency. This has helped set us on a trajectory as a city taking the topic [of sea level rise] seriously.”

Marty Stump, Deputy Director, Planning & Development, Metro Parks Tacoma, Tacoma, Washington

*Numbers are for 2015–2018 unless otherwise specified
PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY

♦ 15 lives saved attributed to lessons learned through Safety at Sea training workshops.
♦ $1.7 million saved in reduced gear losses and boat repairs thanks to WSG-facilitated voluntary towboat lanes in 2018.
♦ 1,100 fishermen trained in marine safety, rescue, first aid, weather and marine technology.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

♦ An estimated 170,000 albatrosses and other seabirds saved in the 18 years since streamer lines were adopted in Alaska's $300 million longline fisheries.
♦ Washington’s shellfish industry leads the U.S. in annual farmed bivalve sales of $150 million, which directly benefits from WSG research and technical assistance. When 95 percent of shellfish died on some farms, SoundToxins data identified shellfish–killing algal species concurrent with the mortalities, leading to further investigation of these species as a possible cause.
♦ Over 125 guests, including representatives from 13 Pacific Northwest tribal nations, gathered in Oahu in 2020 for a cross-Pacific regional collaborative effort led by WSG to advance sustainable Indigenous Aquaculture practices, including traditional fish ponds and clam gardens.

BUILDING COASTAL BUSINESSES AND SUSTAINING JOBS

♦ Over $5 million in funding secured with WSG assistance for pumpout services and marina operations and maintenance.
♦ Sablefish aquaculture research produced over 8,000 market-size fish weighing more than 40,000 pounds and valued at $150,000 as an initial step to introducing sablefish aquaculture into the $17 million international sablefish export market. A pilot project is underway to grow sablefish on a commercial scale.

RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

♦ A report shared localized sea level rise projections for 171 locations in Washington. In sea level rise workshops around Puget Sound, over 70 percent of attendees reported using the projections in planning and policy-making.
♦ Over 40 million gallons of sewage diverted to shoreside pumpout stations by boaters.
♦ Nearly 58,500 trap hours, contributing to the early detection of invasive European green crab in Puget Sound.

EDUCATING FUTURE OCEAN LEADERS

♦ 230 university students and fellows supported through research grants and five fellowship programs.
♦ 36,000 K–12 students engaged in beach walks, school events, festivals and informal education programs.

“THE PORT [OF FRIDAY HARBOR] REALLY APPRECIATES SEA GRANT SPENDING TIME ON OUR DOCKS EACH SEASON AND EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR BOATERS AND MARINAS IN PUGET SOUND!”
Tami Hayes, Harbormaster, Port of Friday Harbor, Friday Harbor, WA

“…THIS CAMP IS A PERFECT COMBINATION OF KID FUN AND REAL SCIENCE. IN SHORT — THE BEST CAMP EVER!”
Parent, NOAA Science Camp

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