

# WASHINGTON SEA GRANT

## BY THE NUMBERS\*

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

"I'm realizing more and more how grateful I am to have been a WSG fellow. The skills I learned and honed during that experience have been incredibly useful in my job search."

- Grace Freeman, former Washington Sea Grant Science Communications Fellow, Western Washington University.

Nearly **\$70** million  
in economic benefits and services

More than **725** jobs created or sustained

More than **535,000** coastal residents, boaters, fishermen, shellfish growers, small business owners, natural resource managers, coastal planners and K-12 students reached

More than **73,000** volunteer hours valued at **\$2.5 million**

**196** undergraduate and graduate students and fellows supported

**166** communities implemented sustainable development practices and policies





# WASHINGTON SEA GRANT RESEARCH AND OUTREACH MILESTONES

## PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY

- ♦ **694** fishermen trained in marine safety, rescue, first aid, weather and marine technology
- ♦ **15** lives saved attributed to lessons learned through Safety at Sea training workshops
- ♦ **\$2 million** saved annually in reduced gear losses and boat repairs thanks to WSG-facilitated voluntary towboat lanes

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

- ♦ Washington's shellfish industry leads the U.S. with annual farmed bivalve sales of **\$150 million**; this industry 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 **20** representatives from Pacific Northwest tribal nations and Pacific Rim Indigenous cultures meet bi-monthly for a cross-Pacific regional collaborative effort led by WSG to advance sustainable Indigenous aquaculture practices, including traditional fish ponds and clam gardens
- ♦ The Willapa-Grays Harbor Estuary Collaborative was launched in 2022 by WSG, providing support to one of the largest cultivated oyster producing areas in the country

## BUILDING COASTAL BUSINESSES AND SUSTAINING JOBS

- ♦ More than **\$4.3 million** in funding secured with WSG assistance for pumpout services and marina operations and maintenance
- ♦ More than **24** tons of sablefish were successfully grown to commercial-scale quantities and size, setting the stage for a Northwest sablefish aquaculture industry to enter the **\$17 million** international sablefish export market

- ♦ **15** coastal communities made use of WSG's Economic Dashboard, providing essential economic data that informs local decision-making and fosters economic resilience

## RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- ♦ More than **200,000** invasive green crab were caught by partners with technical support from WSG Crab Team in 2022
- ♦ A report shared localized sea level rise projections for 171 locations in Washington. In workshops around Puget Sound, over **70 percent** of attendees reported using the projections in planning and policy-making
- ♦ **8 to 10 million** gallons of sewage diverted to shoreside pumpout stations by boaters
- ♦ More than **200** volunteers participate in the King Tides Program, garnering **1,200** photos of king tides taken across the coastline, which have helped scientists, planners and the public visualize sea level rise

## EDUCATING FUTURE OCEAN LEADERS

- ♦ More than **12,500** K-12 students engaged in beach walks, school events, festivals and informal education programs
- ♦ **196** university students and fellows supported through research grants and five fellowship programs

\*Numbers are for 2018-2021 unless otherwise specified

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Washington Sea Grant  
College of the Environment  
University of Washington

3716 Brooklyn Ave. N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98105-6716  
206.543.6600

seagrant@uw.edu • wsg.uw.edu

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Photo opposite page: Limekiln Point,  
San Juan Island. Below: Aerial  
view of Lummi Island.

