WISCONSIN SEA GRANT

Putting Science to Work for Wisconsin's Coastal Communities

BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2020

$64 million
in economic impacts

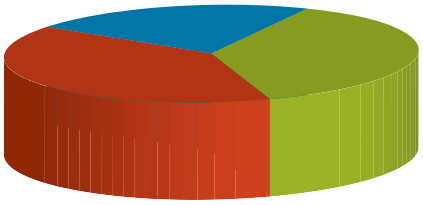
15
new and continuing research projects

47
businesses created or sustained

42
university students supported

20,370
K-12 and lifelong learners reached

Wisconsin Sea Grant is a locally focused, federal-state partnership supporting research, education and outreach. For **53 years,** it has been fostering the sustainable use of Wisconsin's Great Lakes.



95% of federal funds are invested in trusted, objective, science-based programming

$1,074,217 in leveraged funds

18:1 return on federal investment

From Discovery to Application

Pursuing PFAS Answers Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that pose dangers to human health and have been detected in public water supplies. Sea Grant funded a researcher who examined PFAS levels in rainwater collected across the country. PFAS were detectable in all samples, pointing to the significant role of rainwater in dispersing the chemicals. The U.S. EPA is formulating standards for PFAS levels and is incorporating Sea Grant-sponsored data so people can address PFAS in their communities.

Coastal Recreation = Economic Powerhouse

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted every part of American lives. Some might find a silver lining in that more people are discovering or solidifying their affinity for outdoor activities, including coastal and water-based recreation. With more than 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and hundreds of miles of Great Lakes tributary rivers and streams, those natural assets translate into positive economic payoffs as people visit beaches, fish and go boating in ways that follow public health guidelines. A study released in October 2020 (reflecting 2012-17) found that Wisconsin's recreation sector was valued at $7.8 billion and supported 93,000 jobs. Under the pandemic those numbers, although not yet documented, are certain to rise higher. Sea Grant researches harmful algal blooms, microplastics and fisheries, and supports the boating industry through the Clean Marina Program.

Properties Awash in Record-High Waters

The Great Lakes undergo cyclical changes in water levels. In 2020, they were in a record-high state — measured in feet, not inches. That means erosive waves reached higher elevations on the shore, where they battered infrastructure and ate away at bluff and dune bases. High waters added to the frequency and severity of flooding and created operational and safety problems at ports, harbors and marinas. Sea Grant supported water-levels research projects and is working with homeowners and communities on how best to protect coastal structures and is coordinating with state and federal agencies to offer assistance.

Building America's Salmon-Raising Industry

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 90% percent of seafood in the U.S. is imported, resulting in a $16.8 billion trade deficit. The aquaculture sector holds great promise in closing that deficit, creating domestic jobs and producing healthy, local and delicious seafood choices such as Atlantic salmon. Wisconsin is at the forefront of this effort thanks to a business known as Superior Fresh, which benefits from Sea Grant advice and assistance. The northwestern Wisconsin business employs more than 70 people. The operation is expanding its footprint, growing the fish house from 1 to 2 ½ acres to boost production by 21,000 pounds a week.

28
communities that adopted resiliency practices

508
natural resources managers assisted

444
acres restored

36
Sea Grant-supported students secured a job in their field after graduation

Sea Grant
University of Wisconsin

seagrant.wisc.edu

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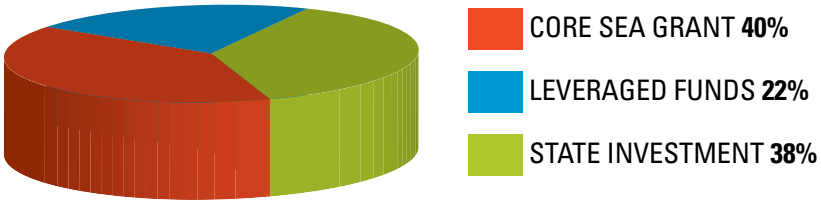

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