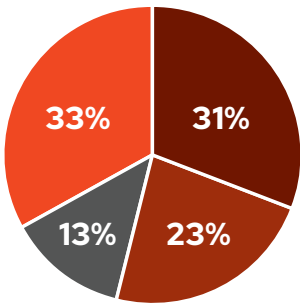




WISCONSIN SEA GRANT

Putting Science to Work for Wisconsin's Coastal Communities

For 56 years, Wisconsin Sea Grant has been a locally focused, federal-state partnership supporting research, education and outreach.



Funding Sources

- Core Sea Grant **33%**
- State Investment **31%**
- Leveraged Funds **23%**
- Other Sea Grant **13%**

FROM DISCOVERY TO APPLICATION

Fishing Industry Infused With \$15 Million

Wisconsin's commercial and tribal fishermen rely on sales to Europe to augment their income. Because of negative sustainability ratings developed by the World Wildlife Fund-European Union about Great Lakes fish, importers were not buying product from Wisconsin. Sea Grant intervened with educational materials and facilitated dialogue. In 2023 the ratings were revised, opening the door to \$15 million in annual sales.



Baileys Harbor Fish Co. staff bringing in the catch. Image by Baileys Harbor Fish Co.

BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2023 REPORTING



\$61 MILLION
In economic impacts



116
University students supported



24
New and continuing research projects



Summer research scholar Sofia Mota Cichy at work in Christy Remucal's UW-Madison lab. Image by Wisconsin Sea Grant

Path to PFAS Answers

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that pose dangers to human health and have been detected in public water supplies. Since the 1940s, these chemicals have been used in many common items, including cookware, food packaging and stain-repelling fabrics, as well as fire-fighting foam. Sea Grant has supported different research teams looking at various aspects of the PFAS contamination issue. Findings include: a plume of PFAS contamination in northeast Wisconsin has now moved into Lake Michigan via groundwater; PFAS can spread through rainfall; a newly developed model about historical PFAS movement will inform eventual cleanup; and detectable PFAS levels in some studied lakes in northern Wisconsin are not at dangerously high levels.

Training the Next Generation of Science Leaders

Through funded positions on research projects, summer research and outreach experiences for undergraduate students and an undergraduate scholarship, Sea Grant is investing in the next generation of water science leaders. Six years ago, Sea Grant initiated a fellowship program — pairing post-graduates with state agencies — offering the agencies cutting-edge knowledge and the newly minted professionals career-building skills and access to seasoned mentors.

Protecting People and Property

A priority for Sea Grant is protecting people and property in the face of extreme heat, storms, accelerated coastal erosion and other hazards. In this effort, Sea Grant deploys one-on-one advice from many staff members — including a coastal engineer — and advises local communities on how to visualize potential hazards, offers response training and shares detailed workbooks, videos and online tools. It also funds research on coastal processes and effective use of green infrastructure.

BY THE NUMBERS

CONTINUED



52,089

K-12 and lifelong learners reached



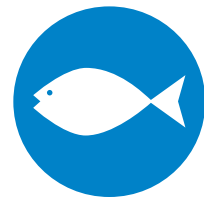
36

New tools and resources for environmental understanding



362

Natural resources managers assisted



566

Fish-related industry personnel assisted