

Sea Grant Association

National Sea Grant College Program: Local Actions Yielding Results

MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA: *Dedicated Research, Building Resilient Communities*

Planning and assistance for small coastal communities has always been part of the mission of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC). But in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the importance of these needs have grown to much greater proportions. Two initiatives in the works before the storm struck, a program on marine debris education, awareness, and cleanup; and cultural diversity assistance for coastal fishing communities, have taken on new life. Now more than ever, a dedication to building resilient coastal communities is needed; and MASGC will continue to do its part. <http://www.masgc.org>

MARYLAND: *Informing Wise Policy for Better Coastal Communities*

More than 15 million people call the Chesapeake watershed home. However, as a result of its development, the Bay's ecosystem has experienced profound change, leaving coastal communities in the Chesapeake watershed with a series of difficult environmental, economic and land use challenges. Maryland Sea Grant has responded to complex environmental issues, like controlling nonpoint sources of pollution, by strategically targeting several key areas. By supporting scholars in the area of environmental philosophy and ethics, as well as innovative natural resource economists and finance experts, Sea Grant has helped provide insightful information into factors that drive community decision making. Research and outreach efforts include a range of activities - from studying the attitudes and opinions of coastal residents to advising small communities on innovative and effective ways of protecting their part of the Chesapeake watershed. <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu>

TEXAS: *Promoting Beach Safety and Awareness*

As part of a national educational effort to increase public awareness of rip currents and actions to take if one is caught in a rip current, Texas Sea Grant worked with coastal motels and hotels to place bilingual beach safety brochures and table tents in each guest room. High-tourist areas such as Galveston, Corpus Christi and South Padre Island have been targeted with this information. Rip currents are to blame for approximately 100 deaths in the United States each year. Sea Grant is working with city governments along the coast to post signs with rip current information and encourage adoption of a flag system to warn of rip currents. <http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

HAWAII: *Innovators in Aquaculture*

The Hawaii Sea Grant Program was one of the first to become involved in ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC). OTEC aquaculture utilizes pure, cold, nutrient-rich and pathogen-free deep ocean water for the culture of temperate fish such as trout. Hawaii Sea Grant was the first to show the potential of deep ocean water as a valuable resource and as a result, today, OTEC aquaculture is a multimillion dollar industry. In addition, projects funded by the Program have spawned successful independent aquaculture programs in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Basin. Aquaculture is becoming increasingly viable in Hawaii, given its need to diversify its economic base. <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/SEAGRANT>

WASHINGTON: *Providing Reliable and Timely Data to Boaters*

Currently, recreational boaters must consult several sources in order to learn about tide and weather conditions before heading out to sea. However, accessing this information is oftentimes cumbersome and not always understandable and usable by boaters. Research supported by the Washington Sea Grant Program will result in the creation of a central Internet-based Boater Information System. This system will incorporate the latest high-resolution mesoscale environmental forecasting products, created to provide information on wind, weather and currents on a much finer, location-specific level. This user-friendly database will, for example, allow boaters to determine the likelihood of small-craft winds occurring at a specific time and place or whether the waves will be too high for passengers who are prone to seasickness. The system is expected to be available on the Web by late 2007. <http://www.wsg.washington.edu>

ALASKA: *Ensuring Seafood Quality through Advanced Technology*

Over the next two years, research funded by the Alaska Sea Grant Program will help scientists determine how electronic noses (e-noses) might be used to boost seafood quality in Alaska's processing plants. These tools, used in such applications as sniffing out landmines, detecting contraband drugs, and seeking chemical and biological weapons, have chemical sensors that take the place of nasal receptors and microprocessors that interpret data. It is hoped that by providing vapor profiles for fresh and not-so-fresh fish, e-noses could give a fast, unbiased quality check that could improve Alaska's seafood - detecting the difference between product quality in real time - and increase the industry's ability to compete in world markets. <http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant>

Sea Grant: A Truly National Network

When it contacted Louisiana Sea Grant following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast last year, the Washington Sea Grant Program learned that there was an urgent need for a mobile boat hoist to help repair and re-launch commercial fishing boats damaged by the hurricanes. Donations from Washington Sea Grant and Alaska Sea Grant, as well as from other contributors, made it possible to transport a donated 60-ton Travelift® from Alaska to Plaquemine Parish, Louisiana. Without that hoist to move displaced boats to dry land for repair, fishermen affected by the hurricanes would have been out of work for several years. Louisiana's Sea Grant partners helped to make their speedy recovery a reality. <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov>

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the National Sea Grant College Program. SGA advocates for greater understanding, use, and conservation of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

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