

Sea Grant Association

Senate FY2005 Appropriations Request
NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Sea Grant supports research, education, training, and outreach programs that seek to maximize the economic, environmental, and social potential of the nation's coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources.

Sea Grant is "Science Serving America's Coasts"

- **Sea Grant addresses critical national issues.** Sea Grant efforts foster healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable marine resource development, economically viable and safe coastal communities, new technologies for ocean development, coastal observations and education and human resources development.
- **Sea Grant serves a broad constituency.** Sea Grant generates and extends critical information, practical knowledge, and new technologies to stakeholders in businesses, government and the general public. Sea Grant also educates many of our nation's future marine scientists through formal K-12 and university programs.
- **Sea Grant is an excellent investment.** All Federal Sea Grant dollars are matched 2 to 1. Sea Grant operates through partnerships that bring together federal, state and private sector partners for an extraordinary return on a modest federal investment.

Sea Grant Status & Situation

Reward of High Performing Sea Grant College Programs. Sea Grant's 2002 reauthorization mandated that highly rated university-based Sea Grant College Programs be recognized through the provision of **competitive merit funding** for all funds over FY03 levels. Base funds are needed to provide the resources required to meet this legislative mandate. This will also help restore Sea Grant's buying power that has decreased by 25% over the last two decades due to inflation. Sea Grant should have 100 more people in the field and hundreds more scientists engaged in serving the ever-growing number of coastal constituents.

Realize a Fully Operational Fisheries Extension Program. The goal of the Fisheries Extension program is to permanently place more fisheries field agents and specialists on the docks to assist commercial and recreational fishers. Two million dollars in FY04 appropriations have been provided to fund Fish Extension proposals. Sea Grant could **complete implementation** upon receiving the fully authorized \$3 million appropriation in FY05.

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- ➔ **Support Sea Grant appropriations for FY05 at \$68.4 million, a \$6 million increase over our FY04 appropriation of \$62.41 million.** This includes:
 - + \$5 million to provide merit funding for deserving Sea Grant College Programs and restore base funds
 - + \$1 million to fully fund the Fisheries Extension program at its authorized \$3 million level
- ➔ **Please sign the letter being circulated by the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, and Coast Guard in support of Sea Grant appropriations.** For further information and to sign this letter, please contact Michael Snyder of the Subcommittee majority staff (224-8172) or Brian Weitz of the minority staff (224-4912).

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