

Sea Grant Association

House FY2006 Appropriations Request NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Sea Grant - Addressing the Nation's Ocean Agenda

- **Sea Grant's integrated approach recognized by the Ocean Commission as key to success.** "Sea Grant's emphasis on **applied research, education, and outreach** results in projects that respond directly to local and national needs as determined by the marine industry, government representatives, resource managers, and the public. Sea Grant advisory specialists and coastal field agents convey the needs of the marine communities to university scientists, and in turn, transfer research results to resource users and managers at the state and local level. Sea Grant also advances formal and informal education. Its communications specialists package and deliver research, outreach, and educational information on a wide range of topics." (*U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report, pg. 333*).
- **Sea Grant is recognized by the Ocean Commission as an excellent investment.** "The Sea Grant program, a partnership between NOAA, thirty state Sea Grant programs, and over 200 universities, is a highly-leveraged program. To the \$60 million in federal funds appropriated in fiscal year 2003, the states contributed an additional \$36 million, a match of nearly 60 percent." (*U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report, pg. 333*).
- **The President's Budget & Ocean Commission recommend increasing the Sea Grant budget.** The FY06 President's Budget recommends a \$3.8 million increase to the Sea Grant budget over the President's FY05 request. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy states that "Congress should **significantly expand the National Sea Grant College Program** as part of doubling ocean and coastal research funding." The Commission recommends an immediate increase of \$20M and an eventual total increase of \$60M for Sea Grant.

Sea Grant Initiatives

Coastal and Ocean Observations – Developing the Tools, Engaging the Stakeholders. Sea Grant can enhance the development of the nation's **Integrated Ocean Observations System** by: working with users to identify needs, engaging the private sector, supporting applied research, and providing educational and technology transfer programs to ensure that breakthroughs are transferred to the private sector and communicated to relevant audiences. This will require a +\$2.15 million increase in appropriations to the Sea Grant base.

Serving the Nation's Fishing Communities. Sea Grant has initiated, through its **Fisheries Extension Enhancement** program, a nationwide network of fisheries extension outreach specialists to serve the economic needs of the nation's commercial and recreational fishing interests and the informational needs of federal, regional, and state fishery management agencies. Sea Grant could complete implementation upon receiving the fully authorized \$3 million appropriation in FY06. This would be a +\$1.5 million increase over FY05 appropriations.

Implementing Integrated Regional Programs. Sea Grant is eager to serve as the **Regional Network** for the generation, delivery and interpretation of science-based regional information products as called for in the Ocean Commission Report, U.S. Ocean Action Plan, and the President's FY06 budget request. Sea Grant is uniquely qualified to bring input from a diverse constituency to the table as the Ocean Research Priorities Plan is developed, and apply its research, education and outreach efforts to priority actions that address critical issues facing regional marine ecosystems. This would require a +\$2 million in increased appropriations to the Sea Grant base.

Sea Grant FY2006 Appropriations Request

- **Support Sea Grant appropriations for FY06 at \$68.4 million, a \$5.65 million increase over our FY05 appropriation of \$62.75 million.**
- **Please sign the letter being circulated by the House Resources and Science Committees in support of Sea Grant appropriations.** For further information and to sign this letter, please contact Steve Workman in Congressman Gilchrest's office at x55311 or Eric Gordon in Congressman Pallone's office at x54671.

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