

Sea Grant Association

House FY2007 Appropriations Request
NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sea Grant - Addressing the Nation's Ocean, Coastal & Great Lakes Agenda

For nearly four decades, the National Sea Grant College Program, as an important part of NOAA's research, education and outreach enterprise, has provided research and education on national coastal and Great Lakes issues leading to practical solutions. Federal dollars appropriated to the Sea Grant program are leveraged and matched by state and private funds. The 31 Sea Grant programs, located in coastal, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast states, conduct policy-relevant research linked to an extensive outreach and education network. This structure ensures that Sea Grant research is useful to coastal resource managers at the state and local level, users, and marine-related businesses and industries.

Sea Grant has developed long-standing working relationships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in every coastal state. Because Sea Grant is science-based and non-regulatory, it is viewed as an honest broker among a wide range of constituents. Sea Grant supports research, outreach and education activities that foster healthy marine ecosystems, seafood safety, sustainable living marine resources, economically viable and safe coastal communities, new technologies for ocean development, coastal observatories and education and human resources development. The *U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*, in its 2004 report, calls on Congress to expand the Sea Grant program in conjunction with a doubling of all ocean and coastal research funding.

Sea Grant FY2007 Appropriations Request

**Support an FY 2007 Appropriation of \$72 million for Sea Grant in the
FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act**

Sea Grant requests an FY 2007 appropriation of \$72 million in base funding, well within the program's authorized level. The actual total enacted by Congress in FY 2006 fell short of the Administration's request. Budgetary shortfalls have constrained Sea Grant's ability to conduct the quality of research, education and outreach needed to address the nation's most pressing regional and national needs. The Sea Grant request for FY 2007 would enable the program to provide the information, education and outreach needed to assist NOAA in carrying out its many missions.

Sea Grant Initiatives

When adequately funded, Sea Grant serves as the gateway to relevant and reliable scientific information. The initiatives listed below are two examples in which Sea Grant, as a fully funded NOAA research, education and extension program, can target practical problems facing the nation and address those challenges with science-based solutions.

- **Building Resilient Coastal Communities.** Coastal areas of the United States comprise only 10% of our nation's land mass, yet they are home to more than 54% of Americans. As witnessed by the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, coastal communities and the natural resources and infrastructure on which they depend are at increasing risk from hurricanes, tsunamis, coastal storms, shoreline change, and sea level rise. This initiative would engage the research, education and community-level outreach capabilities of Sea Grant and its partners to enhance mitigation, preparedness, planning, education, response, and recovery in coastal communities throughout the nation.
- **Ensuring Safe and Sustainable Seafood for Americans.** Domestic seafood production has not kept pace with consumer demand; the United States imports an ever increasing amount of the seafood consumed in the country. America's food security is increasingly at risk from an over reliance on imports. Issues with quality assurance and consistent supplies are increasing. At the same time, the nation's commercial seafood industry is threatened by the loss of coastal access and multiple use conflicts in coastal waters. This initiative would enhance efforts in the areas of seafood safety and technology, marine aquaculture, and fisheries extension to address the ever increasing needs of the nation's seafood industry.

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