

April 6, 2007

Honorable Robert Portman  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Portman:

We, the undersigned entities, represent the users, the stakeholders and the beneficiaries at the state, local and regional levels of the information and services provided by the National Sea Grant College Program funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We are writing to urge the Administration to support a budget of at least \$80 million for this program in the Administration's forthcoming fiscal year 2009 budget. We believe it is important to reverse the severe reductions this program has endured in recent years and restore it to a level where it enables vital research to go forward, supports important education and outreach efforts at the local, state and regional level, and strengthens the state programs in their application of research to address important local coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes natural resource management issues.

For four decades now, the National Sea Grant College Program has led the quest for practical solutions by providing research and education on ocean, coastal and Great Lakes issues. Federal dollars appropriated to the Sea Grant program are leveraged and matched by state and private funds. The 32 Sea Grant programs, located in every coastal, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast state, conduct policy-relevant, merit-based, competitive research linked to an extensive outreach and education network. This structure ensures that Sea Grant research is useful to coastal resource managers at the regional, state and local levels, marine-related businesses and industries, and most importantly the general public.

Sea Grant has established long-standing working relationships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, like those of us who have signed below, in every ocean, coastal and Great Lake state. Because it is science-based and non-regulatory, Sea Grant is viewed as an honest broker among a wide range of constituents. Some examples where Sea Grant has contributed to the economic vitality at the local, state and regional levels include:

- The Sea Grant training program at 5,000 seafood processing plants will prevent 20,000 to 60,000 seafood-related illnesses a year, which could cost consumers as much as \$115 million annually.
- Sea Grant saved taxpayers \$120,000 in the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup program. Over the past 14 years, more than 75,000 volunteers have collected 728 tons of trash and have saved state taxpayers more than \$1.6 million.
- Sea Grant has contributed to the founding or operation of eight pearl farms, four demonstration and training pearl hatcheries, 15 giant clam farms (including the largest commercial giant clam aquaculture venture in the Pacific) and 20 sponge farms (Micronesia is the only area that farms sponges). Overall, the number of aquaculture

enterprises in the Hawaiian Islands has reached 126 farms valued at \$25.2 million dollars, which translates into approximately 630 jobs.

- Sea Grant researchers and policy experts have provided information and assistance to decision makers at every level, from small-town mayors to regional leaders, to help them make sense of complex issues, including climate change, ecosystem-based fisheries management, and coastal resource conflicts.
- In North Carolina, 200 of the 205 new oceanfront homes built to the Sea Grant hurricane standards survived Hurricane Fran in 1996, compared to more than 500 older oceanfront houses in the same area that were destroyed.
- Sea Grant research and outreach on Manila clams and blue mussels have resulted in new industries worth \$19 million annually.
- Sea Grant research and extension work for hybrid striped bass aquaculture has expanded this species from being a demonstration project ten years ago to a \$25 million dollar annual business.
- No mussel culture industry existed in the Northeast prior to 1980 and after a five-year Sea Grant research effort landings of wild and farmed mussels are now valued at \$6 million.
- Sea Grant research efforts to develop new drugs from marine organisms have resulted in discovery and description of more than 1,000 compounds that may be vitally important to the health industry.
- Efforts to develop state designated underwater preserves have led to new diving activity in Great Lakes coastal communities providing an economic stimulus of at least \$1.5 million over a two-year period.
- In Southern California, Sea Grant continues to educate local businesses on maritime security and business continuity in this, the busiest port complex in the U.S.
- Research on gear preventing endangered seabirds from dying in longline fisheries prevented closure of those fisheries saving hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars.

We urge the Administration to take full advantage of this program's strength, experience, and connections at the local, state and regional level by strengthening its support of this program in the upcoming fiscal year 2009 Presidential budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

**Sincerely,**

Alabama Seafood Association – Pete Barber, President  
Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition – Brett Dungan, Founding Member  
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Portsmouth, Rhode Island – Ms. Tina Dolen,  
Executive Director  
Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, Bedford, New Hampshire – Bonnie Spinazzola,  
Executive Director  
At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington  
Avon Lake Boat Club, Ohio – Joe Slife, Trustee  
Blackbrook Audubon Society, Ohio – Mary Ann Wagner, President  
Board of Millcreek Township Supervisors, Erie, Pennsylvania  
Boating Association of Ohio – Norman A. Schultz, Executive Director  
Borough of Belmar, New Jersey – Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle  
Bosarge Boat, Inc. – Steve Bosarge,  
President  
Brett's Fish Farm/Texas Sportfish and Koi Breeders, Liverpool, Texas – Brett Rowley, Owner  
Carteret County, North Carolina Fishermen's Association  
Casey's Seafood Inc., Newport News, Virginia  
Center for the Inland Bays, Delaware – Edward Lewandowski, Executive Director,  
Central Basin Charterboat Association (CBCBA) – Captain Jim Cooper, Secretary  
The Chesapeake Bay Commission  
The Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association  
City of Bayfield, Wisconsin – Mayor Larry MacDonald  
City of Bayou La Batre Port Authority, Alabama – David Rice, Chairman  
City of Huron, Ohio – Douglas Steinwart, Huron Parks & Recreation, Huron Boat Basin Facility  
Manager  
City of Mentor, Ohio – Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina – Kurt Krause, Director of  
Parks, Recreation and Public lands  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio – John Piskura, Mayor  
City of Sylvania, Ohio Community Improvement Corporation – Herbert Hoehing  
Clemons Boats – John Clemons  
Cleveland Botanical Gardens – Natalie Ronayne, CEO  
Cleveland Fishing Association – John Schenk, President  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio – Dr. Bruce Latimer, Director  
Jeff Collier, Mayor of Dauphin Island, Alabama  
Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association – Mike Theiler, Vice-President  
Connecticut Seafood Council – Barbara Gordon, Executive Director  
Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland – Dennis Roche, President  
Cordova Fishermen United, Anchorage, Alaska – Dan Hull, Commercial Fisherman  
Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas  
Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Metro Detroit Area, Michigan – Anita Twardesky, Co-  
Chair  
Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Duluth, Minnesota – William Kron, Chairman  
First Energy in Toledo, Ohio – Hans Rosebrock, Senior Economic Development Representative  
Fishermen's News, Seattle, Washington  
Fishtown Preservation Society, Leland, Michigan  
Florida Clean Boating Partnership  
Florida Outdoor Writers Association  
Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association  
Fresher Than Fresh, Inc., Gastonia, North Carolina  
Friends of Stone Laboratory, Ohio – Christopher J. Winslow, President

Dr. Delbert Gatlin, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University,  
College Station, Texas

Genesee Charter Boat Association, Rochester, New York – Sam Zucco, President

Goeden Fisheries

Graham and Rollins Inc., Hampton, Virginia

Great Lakes Historical Society – Carrie E. Sowden, Archaeological Director

Haasch Guide Service, Algoma, Wisconsin – Lee Haasch

Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu 1994-2004

Harborcreek, Pennsylvania – Mr. Dean S. Pepicello, Harborcreek Township Supervisor

Harlingen Shrimp Farms, Ltd., Harlingen, Texas, Dr. Fritz Jaenike

Hawaii Aquaculture Association – Mr. Ronald Wiedenbach, President

Holland American Line, Anchorage, Alaska – John Shively, Vice President Government and  
Community Relations

Holiday Harbor Marina, Inc., Ohio – Bob Lieblein, Jr

Houston Underwater Club, Houston, Texas – Page Williams

Huron Lagoons Marina, Ohio – Mike Solberg

Integrated Marine Systems, LLC – Ken Anderson, Owner

The Jersey Shore Partnership, Red Bank, New Jersey – Jack Rosenfeld, Chairman

Juneau Borough Schools, Juneau, Alaska – Peggy Cowan, Superintendent

Paul Kelly, Member, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Consultant, Rowan Industries,  
Houston, Texas

Lake County Planning Commission – Darrell Webster, Director

Lake Erie Charter Boat Association – Bob Collins, President

Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, Inc. – Scott Carpenter, President

Lake Erie Marine Trades Association – Kenneth J. Alvey, President

Lake Erie Shores & Islands – Sandusky Area Welcome Center – Joan Van Offeren,  
Executive Director

Lake Erie Walleye Magazine and www.walleye.com – Rick Kubb, Editor & Publisher

Lone Star Aquafarms, Palacios, Texas – John Turner

Lone Star Hatchery, Inc., Rio Hondo, Texas – Daphne Wang

Lorain County Visitors Bureau, Ohio – Barb Bickel, Executive Director

Luck Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas – Jeffery Chen

Lucky 7 Sportfishing Charters, Hamburg, New York – Hon. Richard A. Smith

Maine Aquaculture Association – Sebastian Belle, Executive Director

Maine Harbormasters Association – David Schmanska, President

Maine Lobsterman's Association – Patrice McCarron, Executive Director

Marine Exchange of Southern California, San Pedro, CA – Capt. M. H. K. Aschemeyer,  
Executive Director

Marine Industries Association of Florida

The Marine Trades Association of Maryland

Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Manasquan, New Jersey – Melissa Danko,  
Executive Director

The Maritime Archaeological Survey Team, Inc. (MAST), Ohio – Kenneth S. Marshall, P.E.,  
Chair of the Board of Directors

Marsh Area Regional Coalition – Darrell Webster, Chair

Massachusetts Audubon Society – Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy and Government  
Relations

Massachusetts Shellfish Aquaculture Association – Scott Mullin, President

Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association – Gary Sherman, President

Dr. Michael Masser, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University,  
College Station, Texas, (Past-president) World Aquaculture Society

Mattamuskeet Seafood Company, Swan Quarter, North Carolina North Carolina Coastal Federation

Mentor Marsh Board of Management, Ohio – Sylvia Jayne, Chair

Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Detroit, Michigan – B. David Sanders, Executive Vice President

Michael Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas – Michael Chen

Michigan Boating Industries Association – Van W. Snider, Jr., President

Michigan Charter Boat Association – Denny Grinold, Legislative Liaison

Michigan Fish Producers Association – Paul Jensen, Secretary

Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen’s Association – Ken Merckel, Legislative Liaison

Minnesota Fish and Bait Farmers Association, New London, Minnesota

Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association – Tom Becker, President

Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board, Monroe County, New York – Dan Walding, Chairman

Montauk Inlet Seafood Inc., Inlet Seafood Property LLC, Montauk, New York – Ms. Sima Freierman

National Aquaculture Association

New York Power Authority, White Plains, New York – Dr. Dennis J. Dunning

New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Council – Edmund Sander

New York Seafood Council, Hampton Bays, New York – Mr. Roger Tollefsen

Noisette Company, LLC, North Charleston, South Carolina – John L. Knott, Jr., President and CEO

Norquest Seafoods, Seattle, Washington – Terry Gardiner, former President

North Carolina Coastal Federation

North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association – Jim Swartzenberg, President

Northwest Marine Trade Association, Seattle Washington

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance – Craig Pendleton, Coordinating Director

Ohio Bass Federation – Jim Doss, President

Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders – Joe Moravec, President

Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association – Ken Cunningham, President

Ohio Fish Producers Association – Kenny King, President

The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance – Dr. Andrew McGreevy, President

Ohio Wine Producers – Donniella Winchell, Executive Director

Organized Seafood Association of Alabama – Ernie Anderson, President

Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, Ohio – Larry Fletcher, Executive Director

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Olympia, Washington

Pamlico Packing Company, Grantsboro, North Carolina

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – Kathy E. Klein, Executive Director

The Honorable Victor Pearson, Mayor, City of Jamaica Beach, Texas

PennAg Industries Association Aquaculture Council, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania – Michael Rice, Council Chair, President, Mt. Parnell Fisheries, Mercersburg and Sam Sherk, Assistant Vice President

Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center, Pennsylvania – John Byrnes Ph.D., R.D., Extension Co-Director

Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Seattle, Washington

Port of Long Beach, Long Beach, California – Richard D. Steinke, Executive Director

Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California – Dr. Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director

Portsmouth Fishermen's Cooperative, Portsmouth, New Hampshire – Peter Kendall, Manager

R&B Aquatic Supply, Boerne, Texas – Brian Brawner

Reveille and the Zande Companies – Glenn T. Grisdale, AICP, GISP; Principal, Reveille

Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, Rhode Island – Mr. Grover Fugate, Executive Director  
Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Center (Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association, Ocean State Fishermen's Association, and R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association)  
Riverside Kayak connection, LLC, Wyandotte, Michigan – Tiffany Van De Hey, Owner  
Sandusky Charter Boat Association, Ohio – Bob Fravel, President  
Sandusky/Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Ohio – Joan Van Offeren, Executive Director  
Scenic Galveston, Galveston, Texas – Evangeline Whorton, Chairman  
Shoreline and Waterway Management Section Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Anthony P. Pratt, Administrator  
Shrimp News International, San Diego, California – Bob Rosenberry, Editor/Publisher  
Sima Marine, Ohio – John Sima  
Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises, Valdez, Alaska – Stan Stephens, President  
South Cuyahoga Sportsman's Association (SCSA), Ohio – Harry Arnold, President  
South Carolina Shrimper's Association, St. Helena Island, South Carolina – Mr. Lonnie Golden, President  
South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), Charleston, South Carolina – Dr. George Sedberry, President  
South Carolina Seafood Alliance, Charleston, South Carolina – Mr. Frank Blum, Executive Director  
Southern New England Fishermen and Lobstermen's Association – Arthur Medeiros, President  
Southern Ohio Marine Trades Association – Ronald Getter, Director  
Southern Star, Inc., DBA Arroyo Aqua Faros, Rio Hondo, Texas – Bing Hung  
Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association  
Gary Szatkowski, Meteorologist-In-Charge, National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office, Philadelphia/Mount Holly  
Tank Hollow, Poteet, Texas – Vance Schultze, President  
Taylor Shellfish, Shelton, Washington  
Texas Aquaculture Cooperative, Markum, Texas – Rob Schmid, Sales Consultant  
U.S. Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan – Gary Kadau, Community Development Director  
Virginia Seafood Council  
Wanchese Fish Company, Wanchese, North Carolina  
West Cleveland Walleye Association – Captain Walt Morris, President  
Western Basin Sportfishing Association, Ohio – Marc Hudson, President  
World Aquaculture Society Home Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana – Juliette Massey, Director  
Yacht Brokers of Sandusky, Ohio – John C. Brown, Owner