

April 6, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and
Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and
Science
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair and Ranking Member Shelby:

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 your Subcommittee to support this program in fiscal year 2008 at the level recommended by the bipartisan Dear Colleague Letter sponsored by Congressmen Allen from Maine and Brown from South Carolina which requests \$72 million for this national program.

At this level, the National Sea Grant College program is well within the \$103 million level authorized in the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (P.L. 107-299). More importantly, it would reverse the severe reductions this program has endured in recent years and restore it to a level where it could enable vital research to go forward, support important education and outreach efforts at the local, state and regional level, and strengthen the state programs in their application of research to address important local coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes marine resource 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 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 recognize that the U.S. Government is facing a time of extreme fiscal constraint and competing priorities. At the same time, we believe the National Sea Grant College Program provides a significant return on the investment of public resources. We urge the Congress to take advantage of this program's strength, experience, and connections at the local, state and regional

level and fully support the program in the upcoming fiscal year 2008 appropriations process.

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. Gridale, 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