

Putting Science to Work for Wisconsin's Coastal Communities

BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2021 REPORTING



\$24
million

in economic impacts

15

new and continuing
research projects



97

jobs retained or sustained



53

university students supported

Wisconsin Sea Grant is a locally focused, federal-state partnership supporting research, education and outreach. In 2022, the program celebrates **50 years** as an officially designated college program that fosters the sustainable use of Wisconsin's Great Lakes.



From Discovery to Application

Path to PFAS Answers Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that have been detected in public water supplies and pose dangers to human health. Since the 1940s, these chemicals have been used in many common items, including cookware, food packaging and stain-repelling fabrics, as well as fire-fighting foam. Sea Grant teamed with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to develop recommended groundwater PFAS standards to protect drinking water. Additionally, Sea Grant funded a researcher to study the Tyco Fire Protection Products site near Lake Michigan, yielding findings that can be applied to other locations in the state.



BONNIE WILLISON / WISCONSIN SEA GRANT



SARA STATHAS

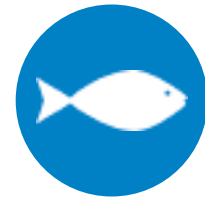
Water Safety — #1 Priority The Great Lakes are called freshwater seas. Like the planet’s oceans, they attract beachgoers and boaters. And just like the saltwater seas, the lakes can be places of towering waves and dangerous rip currents. Sea Grant promotes water safety. The 2021 beach ambassador program on Milwaukee’s lakefront offered water safety education on a beach that, due to the pandemic and worker shortages, had no lifeguards. Also, a Sea Grant-funded researcher has installed real-time wave and water condition buoys and information-relay systems accessible by phones in both lakes Michigan and Superior to keep water recreationalists safe.

Rocking Resiliency How prepared is Wisconsin to deal with increasing weather challenges, many resulting in flooding? Sea Grant is stepping in to help both public and private landowners with tools — a flood resiliency scorecard to assess risks and prepare for them and brand-new workbooks on protecting coastal properties — and plenty of one-on-one advice that experts in coastal engineering, green infrastructure and data-visualization readily share.

Building America’s Salmon-Raising Industry Americans love eating fish. Most of it — 90% — comes from other countries, which means the U.S. suffers from a \$16.8 billion seafood trade deficit. The aquaculture sector holds great promise in closing the deficit, creating domestic jobs and producing healthy, local and delicious seafood choices such as Atlantic salmon. Wisconsin is at the forefront of this effort sharing advice and assistance. Plus, Sea Grant is part of a 5-year \$10-million project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study salmon aquaculture. The findings will be shared with businesses that sustainably grow fish in eco-safe indoor facilities.



18,091
K-12 and lifelong
learners reached



973
commercial fishers
or aquaculture operators
assisted



394
natural resources
managers assisted

GREAT LAKES
SCIENCE FOR
OUR FUTURE

Sea Grant 50
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN