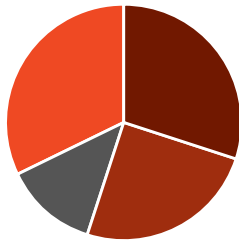




WISCONSIN SEA GRANT

# Putting Science to Work for Wisconsin's Coastal Communities

**For 55 years**, Wisconsin Sea Grant has been a locally focused, federal-state partnership supporting research, education and outreach.



### Funding Sources

- Core Sea Grant **32%**
- State Investment **30%**
- Leveraged Funds **25%**
- Other Sea Grant **13%**

## FROM DISCOVERY TO APPLICATION

### Path to PFAS Answers

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that pose dangers to human health and have been detected in public water supplies. Since the 1940s, these chemicals have been used in many common items, including cookware, food packaging and stain-repelling fabrics, as well as firefighting foam. A Sea Grant-funded researcher has been studying the Tyco Fire Protection Products site near Lake Michigan, yielding findings that can be applied to other locations in the state. She has also found that, unfortunately, the Tyco PFAS contamination has now moved into Lake Michigan via groundwater. Finally, this scientist serves on the Wisconsin PFAS Action Council and helps shape statewide detection and cleanup plans.



Bonnie Willison | Wisconsin Sea Grant

## BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2022 REPORTING



**\$165**  
**MILLION**  
In economic impacts



**117**  
University students supported



**1,130**  
Jobs retained or created



NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

### Heat and Ice

In the coming decades, Wisconsin’s climate will change in many ways. Sea Grant has funded scientists to review two important aspects of the changing climate—urban heat islands and how to mitigate them to protect people’s health, and the effects of reduced ice cover on Great Lakes shipping. That industry generates \$15 billion. Port managers are using Sea Grant research findings to plan for future conditions.

### Floods and a Flood of Help

Sea Grant helps both public and private landowners with: a flood resiliency scorecard designed to assess and prepare for risks, workbooks detailing property protection, one-on-one advice about coastal engineering, green infrastructure and data-visualization. A project that started in 2022 is providing flood resilience training to staff at Wisconsin Emergency Management that will be applicable to communities throughout the state.

### A European Market for Wisconsin Fish

Sea Grant responded to commercial fisher and fish processor requests for help in addressing challenges to the export of Great Lakes lake whitefish roe to Sweden. Negative sustainability ratings developed by the World Wildlife Fund-European Union in 2016-17 prompted ICA Sweden, the largest grocery market chain in the country, to remove the roe from shelves. Sea Grant conducted numerous meetings with the Europeans and provided a fact sheet that offered positive information. Sales of the high-value product resumed, bringing more than \$1.6 million in sales to regional fishers and processors.

## BY THE NUMBERS

CONTINUED



**28,835**

K-12 and lifelong learners reached



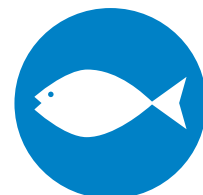
**24**

New and continuing research projects



**247**

Natural resources managers assisted



**318**

Commercial fishers or aquaculture operators assisted