

Sea Grant Association

M. Richard DeVoe
Chair, External Relations Committee, Sea Grant Association
and
Executive Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

**Testimony Regarding the Reauthorization of the
National Sea Grant College Program
Before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC
April 3, 2008**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is M. Richard DeVoe. I am the Executive Director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and today I appear on behalf of the Sea Grant Association (SGA) in my capacity as Chair of the SGA's External Relations Committee.

It is an honor to represent the nationwide network of Sea Grant professionals at this hearing, and it is with great appreciation that we – all of us in the Sea Grant Association – acknowledge your leadership and this Subcommittee's long history of support for the National Sea Grant College Program. Thank you for the opportunity to express these views regarding to the reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Program.

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) represents the combined capabilities of over 300 university and research institutions nationwide that participate in the National Sea Grant College Program. The SGA enables these institutions to coordinate their activities, to prioritize action at the regional and national levels, and to offer a unified voice on critical coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes issues. Just as our nation's Land Grant institutions have revolutionized agriculture, so too are the Sea Grant Colleges steering our nation toward the productive and sustainable use of our coastal, oceanic, and Great Lakes resources through integrated and competitive programs of scientific research, education and training, and technical assistance.

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) was last reauthorized six years ago, after extensive review and with overwhelming support by both Houses of Congress, through the Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 (P.L. 105-160).

The SGA strongly endorses the intent and many of the proposed changes contained within the Sea Grant reauthorization bill that is currently being considered before this subcommittee, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 (H.R. 5618). Over the last several months, the SGA and members of the National Sea Grant Review Panel have discussed

many of the issues associated with reauthorization. As a result of that process, we reached a substantial amount of consensus and we are pleased that much of that consensus is reflected in H.R. 5618. We specifically support the way the bill addresses the following issues:

- Adjustments in the rating and ranking process which were part of the last reauthorization bill;
- Additional emphasis on regional collaboration;
- Enhanced flexibility in the management and resource allocations within the program;
- Strengthening of the review process consistent with the recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences; and
- Linkage of the Sea Grant strategic planning and priority setting process to the overarching interagency ocean research priorities and implementation plan¹ released in January 2007 by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology.

However, we are concerned that the authorization levels contained in H.R. 5618 represent a significant reduction (of more than 33%) in Sea Grant's authorization levels compared to the current FY 2008 level, and fall short of what is needed to address the ever-increasing needs and opportunities that our nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources present. Several coastal regions under U.S. jurisdiction have limited or no Sea Grant Program coverage at the present, and there are significant stretches of the U.S. coastline that receive little or no attention from our on-the-ground Sea Grant Extension network of agents and specialists. Additionally, existing coastal and Great Lakes Sea Grant Programs receive many more high quality and user-driven projects than they can fund.

Therefore, we would like to offer our perspective on the funding needs for this important national program. The SGA recommends that the National Sea Grant College Program be reauthorized at a level of funding that grows to \$125 million by FY 2014. This will enable Sea Grant to support a robust, competitive, merit-based research program tied to extension, communication, and education in which science-based information is used to address societal problems and opportunities as they relate to management, conservation, and sustainable use of our coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources.

The Public Policy Context for Ocean and Coastal Issues

The interface between science and policy is precisely where the Sea Grant Program applies its precious resources. As the program makes decisions on funding of research and outreach projects, issues that are acutely important to Sea Grant's local, regional, and national constituencies receive priority attention. Extension and educational resources are deployed in ways that enhance the relevance and impact of the science and discoveries that result from Sea Grant-funded research.

¹ Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade: An Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy, NSTC Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, January, 2007

There is a growing demand from our diverse network of stakeholders, resource managers, and decision-makers for scientifically-sound information upon which sound decisions addressing many of today's complex problems can be made. Sea Grant's integrated science and outreach approach incorporates up-to-date and ongoing dialogue with its constituencies to identify the most important and timely issues of national importance facing our communities, states and regions. Technological and scientific approaches, though desirable, cannot solve all of society's problems, and Sea Grant's ability to embed itself within the communities it serves enables the program to interact directly with people who live, work, and play along our nation's coastal regions, thereby ensuring that the utility and impact of investments made by the Sea Grant Program are relevant and significant. Sea Grant's work is always fresh. Although the program has been in place for more than 40 years, Sea Grant's constant attention to societal needs through stakeholder interactions allows it to be nimble and responsive, while also maintaining the rigor and reliability of a strategic enterprise.

An increased investment in Sea Grant is an investment in America's economic future. Attempts to balance our booming coastal economy with its associated impacts on the coastal and marine environment upon which it depends have raised the stakes for effective government action. The coastal regions of the United States contribute more than 50 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, according to a recent study by the Federal Reserve. The oceans, in one way or another, account for one out of every six jobs nationwide. Tax revenues in coastal areas are among the fastest growing revenue sources for state and local governments. In fact, the collective economic impact of the coastal economy far exceeds U.S. agriculture, and yet federal investments in Sea Grant colleges and universities are an order of magnitude smaller than investments in the Land Grant college and university system funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agriculture and land-based activities, the program on which Sea Grant was modeled.

In more recent years, the work of two major national commissions² have brought into focus the importance of our oceans and coasts to our nation's natural heritage, security, and economy. With an offshore ocean jurisdiction larger than the total land mass of the United States, U.S. waters support rich and diverse systems of ocean life, provide a protective buffer, and support important commerce, trade, energy, and mineral resources.

- More than \$1 trillion, or one-tenth, of the nation's annual gross domestic product (GDP) is generated within near-shore areas, the relatively narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to the coast. Looking at all coastal watershed counties, the contribution swells to over \$6.1 trillion, more than half of the nation's GDP;
- In 2003, ocean-related economic activity contributed more than \$119 billion to American prosperity and supported over 2.2 million jobs. Roughly three-quarters of the jobs and half the economic value were produced by ocean-related tourism and recreation. More than 13 million jobs are related to trade transported by the network of inland waterways and ports that support U.S. waterborne commerce;

² An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, April 20, 2004;
America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change, Pew Oceans Commission, June 2, 2003

- Annually, the nation's ports handle more than \$700 billion in goods, and the cruise industry and its passengers account for \$11 billion in spending;
- The commercial fishing industry's total value exceeds \$28 billion annually, with the recreational saltwater fishing industry valued at around \$20 billion, and the annual U.S. retail trade in ornamental fish worth another \$3 billion; and
- Nationwide retail expenditures on recreational boating exceeded \$30 billion in 2002.

Sea Grant's Place in the Public Policy Context

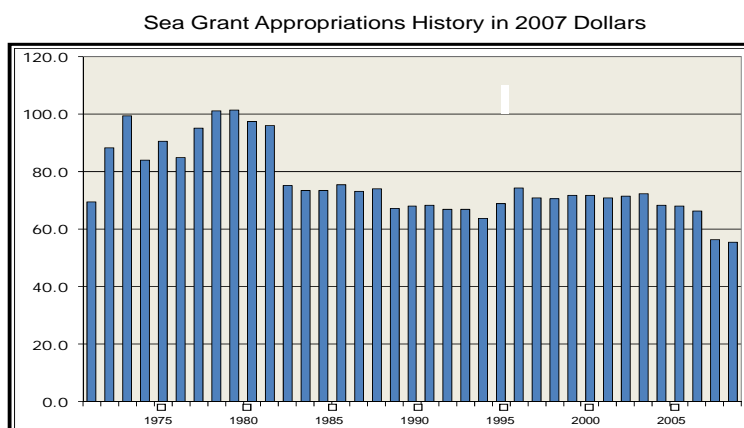
Sea Grant is an important federal program that assists decision makers in addressing these increasingly pressing issues. Sea Grant is a productive and effective federal-state-university partnership which supports competitive, merit-based, and integrated research, education, and extension programs at many of our nation's outstanding university and research institutions. Over 300 institutions and more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, educators, students, and outreach experts participate in the program each year. Sea Grant provides its constituents with relevant science-based information and technical assistance that addresses ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource issues and opportunities of national significance at the national, regional, state, local and levels. Sea Grant thus supports the mission of its parent agency – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – as well as the needs of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes communities, with an overall goal of fostering economic and environmental sustainability on a national level.

This successful partnership program, in which the federal contribution is matched with non-federal resources on a 2 to 1 basis, relies on stakeholder engagement to ensure that Sea Grant resources are deployed strategically and that outcomes are relevant. Sea Grant emphasizes the application of objective, science-based information and collaborative problem-solving to address complex societal issues. I have attached a list of users, stakeholders, and beneficiaries that attest to the value of the products and services produced via the Sea Grant program.

Sea Grant is under Budgetary Stress

The growth of the National Sea Grant College Program has not been commensurate with the extraordinary growth in coastal population and development, and the concomitant increase in demands for Sea Grant program services by our coastal constituents. In fact, the Sea Grant budget has not kept pace with inflation over the last two decades, much less expanded to meet the wealth of new challenges and opportunities that face our country.

The FY 2008 budget for the Sea Grant program is \$57.1 million. The Administration's budget request for FY 2009 would reduce this national program to \$54.997 million – a 4 percent reduction at a time when the NOAA budget as a whole is proposed to grow by 5 percent. At the level proposed by the Administration, the Sea Grant program would be asked to operate at its lowest level in its 42-year history in real terms (see the following chart). Sea Grant's appropriations are over 20 percent below the buying power of its 1980 level and we have seen staff reductions on the order of 25 percent.



This decline in federal support has had serious ramifications for the Sea Grant program. At present, only about 12 percent of the proposals submitted to the Sea Grant program can be funded due to resource constraints. In contrast, the success rate for proposal support at the National Science Foundation is just over 20 percent. Sea Grant directors estimate that they have enough high quality meritorious proposals – of importance to the program’s mission and relevant to stakeholder needs – to fund 25 percent of the proposals submitted.

Currently, about \$30 million of Sea Grant’s \$57.1 million budget is used to support research. The research portion of the Sea Grant program budget could easily and justifiably be doubled to between \$60 million to \$80 million annually to support important research efforts that currently go unfunded to generate answers to the many questions and provide new knowledge and technologies needed by ocean and coastal resource decision-makers, business and industry, and coastal communities.

The balance of the Sea Grant budget supports the program’s extension, education, and outreach efforts. The uniqueness and success of the Sea Grant Program is based on its ability to integrate its research, education, and extension efforts, ensuring that research results are intimately tied to the needs of our citizens. The current level of expenditure for extension, communication, and education in the Sea Grant program is approximately \$25 million. A recent report of the NOAA Science Advisory Board³ called on NOAA to substantially expand its extension, outreach, and education activities. Sea Grant has the experience and the “on-the-ground” network to fulfill that policy recommendation immediately if sufficient additional budget support from NOAA was forthcoming. As Sea Grant’s research program expands to meet increasing demands, so too must the tools that put these research results in the hands of stakeholders so that they can be utilized. The Sea Grant extension, communication, and education function should therefore likewise be increased commensurate with increased research funding; to between \$40 million to \$50 million to maintain this critical balance of Sea Grant program support.

Sea Grant’s Alignment with Federal Interagency Ocean Research Priorities

Another justification for increased federal support for Sea Grant’s core functions relate to the recommendations put forth in recent important ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes policy and planning activities in NOAA and other federal agencies. In January 2007, the Federal

³ Engaging NOAA’s Constituents: A Report from the NOAA Science Advisory Board, March 2008

Government released its interagency ocean research priorities plan, titled *Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade: An Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy*. That document lays out the key priorities for interagency ocean research over the next ten years. Priorities identified in that report include:

- Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Ocean Resources – which includes efforts involving sustainable resources, such as fisheries and alternative energy sources, and nonrenewable resources, such as fossil fuels and minerals;
- Increasing Coastal Community Resilience to Natural Hazards – including research and education into causes, impacts, and the adaptation and mitigation from natural physical hazards, such as hurricanes and tsunamis, community and ecosystem vulnerability, and hazard mitigation;
- Enabling Marine Operations – which includes efforts to determine the impacts of marine operations, including transportation, energy exploration and development, and aquaculture, on the environment; and the impacts of the environment on marine operations;
- The Ocean’s Role in Climate – to examine the impact climate change on our ocean and coastal regions, understanding changes and impacts on ecosystems particularly on a regional basis so as to better prepare national, state, local, and regional decision makers to adapt and mitigate to regional climate change challenges;
- Improving Ecosystem Health – which examines natural and human-induced changes and impacts to ecosystems and methods to monitor and address impacts; and
- Enhancing Human Health – which is a focus on efforts to identify and assess ocean-related risks to human health and identify and develop ocean products for human well-being.

Common among these themes is the need to develop tools necessary to pursue research and to effectively translate the results of that research in ways that are useful to resource managers, policy-makers, and the general public. Society’s ability to fully develop the understanding needed to address key ocean and coastal-related issues and to apply existing understanding to support meaningful decision-making and ocean literacy depends on the generation of science-based information, development of technology, and continued intellectual innovation – three key functions of the Sea Grant Program.

Consistent with the overarching interagency ocean research priorities report and as a result of its on-going strategic planning process, Sea Grant has honed its strategic programmatic efforts to emphasize the following focus areas in the coming years:

- Sustainable Coastal Development – Decades of population migration to the coast have transformed our coastal landscapes and greatly intensified demand on finite coastal resources. New housing developments, recreation facilities, energy development activities, port expansions and other business activities are bringing more people, jobs and recreational opportunities to coastal communities. They are also increasing the pressure on coastal lands, water supply, traditional coastal businesses, and on the coastal culture and way of life. To accommodate more people and activity and resolve the growing number of conflicts, we

must develop new policies and management approaches to balance the conservation and use of coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant's well-established roles as an honest broker and source of unbiased information make it a key player in responding to the needs for sound information identified by decision-makers, for convening stakeholders to seek common ground, and for facilitating the development and implementation of new coastal policies, plans, management approaches, and conflict resolution strategies related to sustainable coastal and economic development.

- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems – Intensified development along the coast and related human activities are leading to water quality degradation, wetlands loss, invasive species, and a host of other challenges that need to be understood and addressed in order to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that are the foundation for quality-of-life of our citizens and for economic development along the nation's coasts. Ecosystem-based management, reduction and mitigation of anthropogenic impacts, protection of critical areas, and regional habitat restoration are some of the avenues that must be addressed to meet these challenges. Sea Grant's research, education and outreach initiatives can continue to play a major role in building our understanding of how these natural systems function, in advancing regional problem solving, and in supporting resource managers and decision-makers at all levels of government in moving toward an ecosystem-based approach to managing coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.
- Coastal Hazard Resiliency – Global warming, sea level rise, increased number and intensity of coastal storms, and other climate- and weather-related phenomena are putting more people and property at risk along the nation's coasts with major implications for human safety, ecosystem health, and the economic vitality of our coastal communities. It is essential that residents and leaders in coastal communities understand these risks, learn what they can do to reduce their vulnerability, and respond quickly and effectively to these events. Sea Grant – with its strong research, education, and outreach capacity – can play a major role in developing tools and technologies for disaster resiliency and in assisting local citizens, decision-makers, and businesses plan, prepare, respond, and rebuild in the face of these short- and long-term hazards events.
- Sustainable Safe Seafood Supply – The U.S. has witnessed the decline of many of its major fisheries at the same time that seafood consumption is on the rise, resulting in a seafood trade deficit of about \$9 billion a year. Over-fishing, habitat degradation, and increasing competition among coastal users have put our nation's fishing industry in great jeopardy. Seafood safety is a growing concern as international trade increases and fish diseases and contamination become bigger problems. Aquaculture is opening up new opportunities to meet the growing domestic seafood demand, but it must be conducted in a sustainable and economically viable manner in order for its full potential to be realized. Sea Grant continues to play a key role in advancing our understanding of the nature of these problems and opportunities and in employing its research, education, and extension capabilities to support informed public and private decision-making and resource management activities that will lead to an enhanced, sustainable supply of safe seafood into the future.

Conclusion – Enhanced Federal Funding for Sea Grant is Justified

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Subcommittee, the Sea Grant Association has a vision for the National Sea Grant College Program, **to become NOAA's primary university-based research, education, extension and outreach and technical assistance program for coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources.**

The Sea Grant Program – with its excellent track record, its distributed network, its objective approach to problem-solving, its strong integrity-backed ties to hundreds of stakeholders all across the country, its integrated approach that ensures its research efforts are tied to serving the needs of national, state, regional, and local decision makers, a revamped strategic planning and programmatic review process – is uniquely positioned to meet the growing needs of the Nation in implementing its ocean, coast, and Great Lakes agenda. To do so, based on current and emerging requirements we believe it is in the national interest to enhance the National Sea Grant College Program to a level of \$125 million by fiscal year 2014.

Sea Grant's strategic planning efforts and rigorous program evaluation processes foster excellence and accountability. Coupled with an updated authorization that reflects and supports the real needs of the program, Sea Grant can continue and expand its efforts to address an ever-increasing suite of resource issues facing the nation's coastal areas, foster innovative economic development efforts, and educate and train the nation's future coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes workforce.

We believe that H.R. 5618 moves the Sea Grant Program in that direction and we are supportive of the bill in many ways and will work in support of its enactment. We believe it is important, however, for the Congress to provide the National Sea Grant College Program with resources necessary to build on the program's record of success and promise with a reauthorization of appropriations that matches both the immediate and long-term needs of all who live and work along the nation's coastlines, and one that represents the initial step in achieving a broader vision for the program as proposed in this testimony.

The SGA looks forward to working with you this year on Sea Grant reauthorization. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of all of the Sea Grant Colleges nationwide. I would be glad to address any questions the Subcommittee may have.

The *Sea Grant Association* is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the Sea Grant program concept. The SGA's regular membership consists of the institutions that participate in the National Sea Grant College Program, located within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). SGA provides the mechanism for these institutions to coordinate their activities, to set program priorities at both the regional and national level, and to provide a unified voice for these institutions on issues of importance to the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. The SGA advocates for greater understanding, use, and conservation of marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

www.sga.seagrant.org

M. Richard DeVoe, Chair SGA External Relations Committee
Executive Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
(843) 727-2078, rick.devove@scseagrant.org

Sea Grant Stakeholders, Beneficiaries and Supporters

Acme Smoked Fish Corporation, Brooklyn, New York	CRG Marine Laboratories, Inc.	Lake Erie Walleye Magazine and www.walleye.com	Philadelphia Water Department, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center
Acme Sponge and Chamois, Inc., Tarpon Springs, Florida	Darden Restaurants, Orlando, Florida	Leavins Seafood, Apalachicola, Florida	Pollock Conservation Cooperative, Seattle, Washington
Alabama Seafood Association	Dauphin Island, Alabama, Mayor Jeff Collier	Lone Star Aquafarms, Palacios, Texas	Port of Long Beach, Long Beach, California
Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition	Dawson's Seafood	Lone Star Hatchery, Inc., Rio Hondo, Texas	Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California
The Albatross Fleet, Foster's Quay, Hatteras, North Carolina	Delaware County Planning Department	Lorain County Visitors Bureau, Ohio	Portsmouth Fishermen's Cooperative, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Shoreline and Waterway Management Section	Luck Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas	Proteus SeaFarms International, Inc.
American Fishermen's Research Foundation	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Water Resources, Watershed Management Section	Lucky 7 Sportfishing Charters, Hamburg, New York	Publix Supermarkets, Lakeland, Florida
American Great Lakes Ports Association, representing:	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	Lynde Point Land Trust, Fenwick, Connecticut	R&B Aquatic Supply, Boerne, Texas
- Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Delaware River Yachtsmen's League	Maine Aquaculture Association	Reed Mariculture
- Port of Superior, Wisconsin	Delaware's Center for the Inland Bays	Maine Harbormasters Association	Reveille and the Zande Companies
- Port of Green Bay, Wisconsin	Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experiences	Maine Lobsterman's Association	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield, Rhode Island
- Port of Milwaukee	Dewberry-Federal Programs, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina	Maine Exchange of Southern California, San Pedro, California	Rhode Island Commercial Fisheries Center:
- Illinois International Port District	Doxsee Sea Clam Company, Point Lookout, New York	Marine Industries Association of Florida	- Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association
- Ports of Indiana - Burns Harbor	Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Metro Detroit Area, Michigan	Marine Industries Association of Northeast Florida, St. Augustine, Florida	- Ocean State Fishermen's Association
- Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority	Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Duluth, Minnesota	The Marine Trades Association of Maryland	- R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Port of Monroe, Michigan	Duluth Shipping News	Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Manasquan, New Jersey	
- Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority	Duval Audubon Society, Jacksonville, Florida	The Maritime Aquarium	Riverside Kayak connection, LLC, Wyandotte, Michigan
- Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority	East Coast Shellfish Growers Association	The Maritime Archaeological Survey Team, Inc., Ohio	Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples, Florida
- Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority	Empire Marine Trades Association	Maritime Products International, Newport News, Virginia	San Diego Oceans Foundation
American Shore & Beach Preservation Association	Environmental Products for Important Causes, Inc. Farallon Fisheries	Marsh Area Regional Coalition	San Diego Watermen's Association
Angler Conservation Education, Ormond Beach, Florida	First Energy, Toledo, Ohio	Massachusetts Audubon Society	Sandusky Charter Boat Association, Ohio
Apalachicola Bay Oyster Dealer's Association, Apalachicola, Florida	Fishermen's News, Seattle, Washington	Massachusetts Shellfish Aquaculture Association	Sandusky/Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Ohio
Aquarium of Niagara, Niagara Falls, New York	FISHTECH Inc.	Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association	SaveOn Seafood, St. Petersburg, Florida
Aquatic Release Conservation, Ormond Beach, Florida	Fishtown Preservation Society, Leland, Michigan	Dr. Michael Masser, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, (Past-president)	SCDHEC-Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Charleston, South Carolina
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Portsmouth, Rhode Island	Florida Clean Boating Partnership	World Aquaculture Society	Scenic Galveston, Galveston, Texas
Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, Bedford, New Hampshire	Florida Guides Association	Mattamuskeet Seafood Company, Swan Quarter, North Carolina	S.C. Shrimper's Association, St. Helena Island, South Carolina
At-Sea Processors Association, Seattle, Washington	Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association	Mentor Marsh Board of Management, Ohio	Sea Food Suppliers
Avon Lake Boat Club, Ohio	Florida Marine Contractors Association, Merritt Island, Florida	Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, Detroit, Michigan	Seafood Products Association
Aylesworth Foundation for the Advancement of Marine Science, St. Petersburg, Florida	Florida Outdoor Writers Association	Michael Shrimp Farm, Rio Hondo, Texas	Shoreline and Waterway Management Section
Aylesworth's Fish & Bait, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida	Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association	Michigan Charter Boat Association	Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Bay Area Resource Council, Pensacola, Florida	Flow Science, Inc.	Michigan Fish Producers Association	Shrimp News International, San Diego, California
Beaver Street Fisheries, Jacksonville, Florida	Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force, Apalachicola, Florida	Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen's Association	Sima Marine, Ohio
BIOFlorida, West Palm Beach, Florida	Fresher Than Fresh, Inc., Gastonia, North Carolina	Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association	Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Blackbrook Audubon Society, Ohio	Friends of Stone Laboratory, Ohio	Minnesota Fish and Bait Farmers Association, New London, Minnesota	South Cuyahoga Sportsman's Association (SCSA), Ohio
Board of Millcreek Township Supervisors, Erie, Pennsylvania	Genesee Charter Boat Association, Rochester, New York	Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association	South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), Charleston, South Carolina
Boating Association of Ohio	Goeden Fisheries	Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board, Monroe County, New York	South Carolina Seafood Alliance, Charleston, South Carolina
Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse Inc., Tampa, Florida	Graham and Rollins Inc., Hampton, Virginia	Monterey Abalone Company	South Carolina State Ports Authority, Charleston, South Carolina
Borough of Belmar, New Jersey, Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle	Great Lakes Historical Society	Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, Connecticut	Southern Delaware Tourism
Bosarge Boat, Inc.	Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council	National Aquaculture Association	Southern New England Fishermen and Lobstermen's Association
Bozzuto's Inc.	Haasch Guide Service, Algoma, Wisconsin	National Fisheries Institute, Arlington, Virginia	Southern Ohio Marine Trades Association
Brett's Fish Farm/Texas Sportfish and Koi Breeders, Liverpool, Texas	Harborcreek, Pennsylvania, Township Supervisor Dean S. Pepicello	National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office, Philadelphia/Mount Holly	Southern Shrimp Alliance
Brevard Marine Advisory Council, Cocoa, Florida	Harlingen Shrimp Farms, Ltd., Harlingen, Texas	The Nature Conservancy	Southern Star, Inc., DBA Arroyo Aqua Faros, Rio Hondo, Texas
Brightwater Seafood Company, Charlotte, North Carolina	Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu	New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association	Southtowns Walleye Association of Western NY, Inc.
California Aquaculture Association	1994-2004	New York Power Authority, White Plains, New York	Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association
California Fisheries & Seafood Institute	Hawaii Aquaculture Association	New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Council	Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises, Valdez, Alaska
California Salmon Council	Holland American Line, Anchorage, Alaska	New York Seafood Council, Hampton Bays, New York	St Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Inc., St. Augustine, Florida
California Wetfish Producers Association	Holiday Harbor Marina, Inc., Ohio	Noisette Company, LLC, North Charleston, South Carolina	Strom Thurmond Institute-Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
Captree Clam Company, Babylon, New York	Houston Underwater Club, Houston, Texas	Norquest Seafoods, Seattle, Washington	Tank Hollow, Poteet, Texas
Carla's Pasta, South Windsor, Connecticut	Huron Lagoons Marina, Ohio	North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterways Association, Oak Island, North Carolina	Taylor Shellfish, Shelton, Washington
Carlsbad Aquafarm, Inc.	Impact Assessment, Inc.	North Carolina Coastal Federation	Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Carteret Community College, Morehead City, North Carolina	Institute for Fisheries Resources	North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Carteret County, North Carolina	Texas Aquaculture Cooperative, Markum, Texas
Casey's Seafood Inc., Newport News, Virginia	Institution Food House, Inc., Hickory, North Carolina	North Carolina Fishermen's Association, Carteret County	Tierra Environmental Services, Inc.
Catalina Offshore Products	Integrated Marine Systems, LLC	North Carolina Sea Grant Advisory Board	TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group
Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Inc., Cedar Key, Florida	The Jersey Shore Partnership, Red Bank, New Jersey	North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association	Titusville Municipal Marina, Titusville, Florida
Center for the Inland Bays, Delaware	Juneau Borough Schools, Juneau, Alaska	North Carolina Watermen United, Hatteras, North Carolina	United Boatmen of NY
Central Basin Charterboat Association	Paul Kelly, Member, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Consultant, Rowan Industries, Houston, Texas	North Pacific Longline Association	University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute	Kent SeaTech	Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance	U.S. Steel Corporation, Ecorse, Michigan
The Chesapeake Bay Commission	King Fisher Fleet, Punta Gorda, Florida	Northwest Marine Trade Association, Seattle, Washington	Virginia Seafood Council
The Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association	Lake Carriers' Association, representing:	Ocean Garden Products, Inc.	Wanchese Fish Company, Wanchese, North Carolina
Citizens For Florida's Waterways, Merritt Island, Florida	- American Steamship Company	Ohio Bass Federation	Town of Waterford, Connecticut
City of Bayfield, Wisconsin, Mayor Larry MacDonald	- Armstrong Steamship Company	Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders	West Cleveland Walleye Association
City of Bayou La Batre Port Authority, Alabama	- Bell Steamship Company	Ohio Fish & Wildlife Management Association	West Coast Inland Navigation District, Venice, Florida
City of Huron Parks & Recreation, Ohio	- Central Marine Logistics, Inc.	Ohio Fish Producers Association	West Coast Seafood Processors Association
City of Jamaica Beach, Texas, Mayor Victor Pearson	- GLF Great Lakes Fleet Corp.	The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance	Western Basin Sportfishing Association, Ohio
City of Mentor, Ohio Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina	- Grand River Navigation Company, Inc.	Ohio Wine Producers	Western Fishboat Owners Association
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, Mayor John Piskura	- Great Lakes Fleet, Inc. / Key Lakes, Inc.	Old Salt Fishing Foundation, St. Petersburg, Florida	Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida, Pensacola, Florida
City of Sylvania, Ohio Community Improvement Corporation	- HMC Ship Management, Ltd.	Organized Seafood Association of Alabama	World Aquaculture Society Home Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Clemons Boats	- Inland Lakes Management, Inc.	Ottawa County Visitors Bureau, Ohio	Yacht Brokers of Sandusky, Ohio
Cleveland Botanical Gardens	- Interlake Steamship Company	Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Olympia, Washington	
Cleveland Fishing Association	- KK Integrated Logistics	Pamlico Packing Company, Grantsboro, North Carolina	
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio	- Lake Michigan Car ferry Service, Inc.	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary	
Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen's Association	- Lakes Shipping Company, Inc.	PennAg Industries Association Aquaculture Council, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	
Connecticut Seafood Council	- Pere Marquette Shipping Company	Penn State Philadelphia Outreach Center, Pennsylvania	
Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland	- Soo Marine Supply, Inc.		
Cordova Fishermen United, Anchorage, Alaska	- Upper Lakes Towing Company, Inc.		
Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Austin, Texas	- VanEnkevort Tug & Barge, Inc.		
	- Wisconsin & Michigan Steamship Company		
	Lake County Planning Commission		
	Lake Erie Chapter Federation of Fly Fishers, New York		
	Lake Erie Charter Boat Association		
	Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, Inc.		
	Lake Erie Marine Trades Association		
	Lake Erie Shores & Islands Sandusky Area Welcome Center		

* The above organizations and individuals represent the stakeholders and constituents of the National Sea Grant College Program via their local state Sea Grant programs and have expressed support for an annual appropriation of \$72 million for the program.