

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

WASHINGTON SEA GRANT

Vision

WSG envisions healthy, vibrant and productive marine ecosystems together with resilient, prosperous and engaged coastal communities in Washington state.

Mission

The WSG mission is to help people and marine life thrive by supporting research, technical expertise and educational activities that foster the responsible use and conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Values

To accomplish its mission and achieve its vision, WSG adheres to a set of core values focused on achieving positive environmental and societal impact. It seeks to forge tools, foster insights, build capacity and invest in relationships for sustainable management, enjoyment and use of Washington's marine resources to support safe and prosperous fisheries and aquaculture, rich cultural and maritime heritage, resilient communities, and healthy ecosystems. Facilitating practical and collaborative solutions to today's ocean and coastal issues, WSG supports a culture of scientific integrity and serves as a trusted source of place-based information and real-world expertise relevant to the people and places of Washington. WSG seeks to create access to resources and opportunities for everyone in Washington, and to incorporate the breadth of the state's perspectives and priorities in all that we do.

Partnerships as a cross-cutting principle

WSG endorses and is committed to pursuing activities to cultivate and sustain partnerships by integrating the expertise and capabilities of partners from international, federal, tribal, state and local communities as well as from academia, nongovernmental organizations and industry.

Partnerships are a cornerstone of the Sea Grant model. WSG cultivates partnerships by valuing and engaging the priorities, expertise, capabilities, and participation of many partners. WSG collaborates with international, federal, tribal, state and local governments; local communities; businesses; people from academia; K-12 schools and nongovernmental organizations on a wide variety of marine-related research, engagement and education projects.



A Coastal Society

Washington is a coastal society, with almost 70 percent of its nearly eight million residents living within its 15 coastal counties. The Pacific Northwest's vibrant and diverse marine ecosystems and resources have been foundational to human sustenance, livelihood and culture since people have been here, and remain so today. For example, coastal tribes may pair Indigenous knowledge systems with Western science to ensure ecologically and culturally important species can be conserved and thrive. And the state's maritime sector—including commercial fishing and shellfish aquaculture—is an economic engine employing nearly 61,900 people and generates nearly \$46 billion in business revenues.



The challenges that affect Washington's shores and waters affect the entire state. From coastal flooding to pollution, there are many challenges. Washington Sea Grant (WSG) serves Washington by helping address these challenges so that the state's unique coastal society can continue to thrive for decades.



About Washington Sea Grant

Based at the University of Washington (UW), WSG is part of a national network of 34 Sea Grant colleges and institutions located in U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states and territories. The National Sea Grant College Program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and funded through federal-university partnerships.

For more than 50 years, WSG has funded important marine research and worked with communities, managers, businesses and the public to strengthen understanding and sustainable use of the region's ocean and coastal resources. WSG-supported researchers are at the scientific forefront of vital topics—from restoring and cultivating kelp as a sustainable aquaculture crop to investigating how changing ocean temperatures impact tribal fish stocks. But such research remains simply an academic enterprise if its findings are not relevant to and communicated for use by practitioners such as marine industry members, natural resource decision-makers, and the public. WSG's wide-ranging outreach services work to bridge this two-way knowledge flow, develop practical tools for management and guide equitable access throughout Washington's diverse communities and economies to our shared marine resources and opportunities. WSG's educational and workforce development programs help ensure that Washington's legacy of important marine work will continue through the next generation.



WSG LEADERSHIP

Kate Little, Interim Director
kalittle@uw.edu

Katy Curtis, Assistant Director
for Operations and Culture
katy123@uw.edu

Melissa Poe, Assistant Director
for Outreach and Community
Engagement
kmpoe@uw.edu

Sea Grant
WASHINGTON
3716 Brooklyn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6716
seagrant@uw.edu | wsg.uw.edu
206.543.6600
WSG-PM 26-02; 2/26

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

NOAA National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

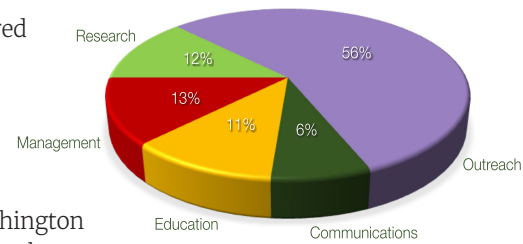
HOW WE WORK

WSG organizes its activities around three core functions: research, outreach, and education. Its communications work is also woven through each of these areas. The integration of these functions is key to carrying out WSG's mission.

- ◆ Research sponsored by WSG focuses on issues and opportunities faced by ocean users and managers in Washington and the Pacific Northwest.

In a highly competitive selection process, top priority goes to projects that build regional scientific capacity and provide knowledge for use in the marine and coastal environment. From understanding how ocean change will affect vulnerable species to developing new ventures within the aquaculture industry, WSG supports a mix of basic and applied research.

- ◆ Outreach experts provide technical assistance, applied research and community engagement to connect marine and coastal constituents to the best scientific and place-based



information available. WSG specialists work in a broad range of topic areas, including safe seafood access, aquaculture, fisheries, water quality, habitat restoration, sustainable coastal development and shoreline planning, marine operational safety, oil spill prevention, and climate hazard resilience.

- ◆ Education activities engage learners of all ages to enhance understanding and stewardship of marine resources and provide professional development opportunities that nurture ocean-related careers. WSG supports informal educational programs for K-12 students and presents undergraduate and graduate students as well as recent graduates with fellowship programs that expand horizons, and enhance future careers.

Communications is important to each of the three core functional areas described above in order to maintain the program's commitment to being a public resource for trusted science-based information. WSG aims to provide information that draws on lived experiences and honors Washington's history, people and places. Using a variety of platforms, such as websites, social media and publications, WSG works to translate technical and scientific findings into useful information for a broad set of constituents.

WSG PRIORITIES

Through national and local strategic planning processes, WSG identified four critical program areas. These program areas respond to issues of major importance to WSG constituents and partners, including NOAA, the National Sea Grant Office, research scientists and WSG stakeholders throughout the Pacific Northwest.

◆ Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Environmental literacy is critical for citizens to understand their own impacts, for the passage of policies that promote healthy oceans, and for supporting Washington's ocean economy and heritage. The maritime sector needs workers who are trained in the relevant skills. WSG educates students of all ages and strengthens the maritime sector.

◆ Resilient Communities and Economies

Washington's coastal communities must be prepared for a wide range of risks that threaten lives and livelihoods, including flooding, erosion, shifting species, oil spills and tsunamis. WSG builds capacity for coastal communities that are economically vibrant, environmentally healthy, and resilient to coastal hazards.

◆ Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Washington is located in one of the world's most productive marine regions, home to iconic species such as southern resident killer whales and Chinook salmon. However, its ecosystems face numerous threats, including environmental change, pollution and lost or degraded habitat. WSG seeks to understand ocean environments, reduce stressors and advance ecosystem-based approaches to manage, protect and restore natural resources and support human well-being.

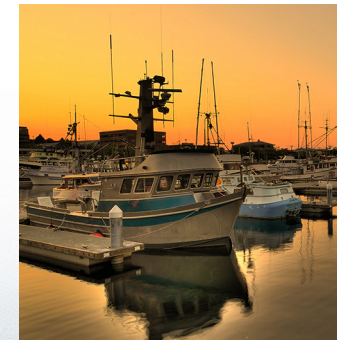
◆ Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

From tribal fishermen to commercial oyster farmers, seafood harvesting and consumption is a vital part of Pacific Northwest culture, diet and commerce. However, local seafood industries and consumers are confronted with difficult issues such as diminishing stocks, limited local retail opportunities, complex regulations and the inherent dangers of commercial fishing. WSG facilitates sustainable use of living marine resources through science-based and Indigenous knowledge-based management and workforce development.



"I first went to Sea Grant in 1974 for information about a variety of fisheries, including crab fisheries and trawl fisheries. They were and remain a trusted source of scientific information on all aspects of Washington's waters."

Riley Starks, fisherman



Left: A marine sunset at Fishermen's terminal in Seattle; Right: Students learning in the field



Clockwise: The San Juan Islands; WSG Crab Team in the field; King tides at Cape Disappointment; a school of salmon

