

# WASHINGTON SEA GRANT

## BY THE NUMBERS\*

One of 34 Sea Grant programs across the nation funded through NOAA, Washington Sea Grant helps people and marine life thrive by providing research, technical expertise and education supporting the responsible use and conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems.

"As someone who is new to Washington state, I was grateful for being selected for two of Washington Sea Grant's fellowships; the Science Communication fellowship and Hershman fellowship. Not only did these fellowships broaden my skill set and further my career goals, but they helped me learn about Washington's diverse ecosystems, communities, and seafood."

*Andrea Martinez,  
former Washington Sea Grant fellow*

### BETWEEN 2018-2023, EXAMPLES OF WSG'S IMPACT INCLUDE:

- ◆ More than **\$190 million** in economic benefits and services
- ◆ More than **1,500** jobs created or sustained
- ◆ More than **1.4 million** coastal residents, boaters, fishermen, shellfish growers, small business owners, natural resource managers, coastal planners and K-12 students reached
- ◆ More than **100,000** volunteer hours valued at **\$3.6 million**
- ◆ **296** undergraduate and graduate students and fellows supported
- ◆ Sustainable development practices and policies implemented in more than **300** communities.



# WASHINGTON SEA GRANT RESEARCH AND OUTREACH MILESTONES

## PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY

- ◆ **930** fishermen trained in marine safety, rescue, first aid, weather and marine technology
- ◆ With a **10-14 percent** chance of a magnitude 9 earthquake occurring on the Cascadia Subduction Zone in the next 50 years, WSG tsunami research and outreach helps people better understand and prepare for the associated risks
- ◆ **\$2.4 million** saved annually in reduced gear losses and boat repairs thanks to WSG-facilitated voluntary towboat lanes

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

- ◆ Washington's shellfish industry leads the U.S. with annual farmed bivalve sales of **\$150 million**; this industry directly benefits from WSG research and technical assistance
- ◆ When **95 percent** of shellfish died on some farms, SoundToxins data identified shellfish-killing algal species concurrent with the mortalities, leading to further investigation of these species as a possible cause
- ◆ Over **20** representatives from Pacific Northwest tribal nations and Pacific Rim Indigenous cultures meet quarterly for a cross-Pacific regional collaborative effort led by WSG to advance sustainable Indigenous aquaculture practices, including traditional fish ponds and clam gardens
- ◆ With **27** member organizations, the Willapa-Grays Harbor Estuary Collaborative was launched in 2022 by WSG, providing support to one of the largest cultivated oyster producing areas in the country

## BUILDING COASTAL BUSINESSES AND SUSTAINING JOBS

- ◆ More than **\$6.1 million** in funding secured with WSG assistance for pumpout services and marina operations and maintenance
- ◆ **2** fully permitted seaweed farms launched with information from WSG, helping to kickstart a new industry in the state

- ◆ **15** coastal counties had access to WSG's Economic Dashboard, providing essential economic data that informs local decision-making and fosters economic resilience

## RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- ◆ More than **1 million** invasive green crab were caught by partners in 2024 with technical support from WSG Crab Team
- ◆ A report shared localized sea level rise projections for 171 locations in Washington. In workshops around Puget Sound, over **70 percent** of attendees reported using the projections in planning and policy-making
- ◆ More than **50,000** pounds of debris from derelict vessels recycled in the first two years of a WSG-supported pilot program
- ◆ The WSG King Tides Program engaged more than **5,000** users on *MyCoast.org*, where they uploaded photos and information that have helped scientists, planners and the public visualize sea level rise

## EDUCATING FUTURE OCEAN LEADERS

- ◆ More than **17,000** K-12 students engaged in beach walks, school events, festivals and informal education programs
- ◆ With support from WSG, Bellingham Technical College recruited **50 percent** more students in 2023 than in previous years in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Program

\*Numbers are for 2018-2023 unless otherwise specified

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Photo opposite page: Shi Shi beach.  
Below: Aerial view of Lummi Island.

