

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.

BETWEEN 2021–2024, EXAMPLES OF WSG’S IMPACT INCLUDE:

More than
\$250 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
70,000
volunteer hours valued at
\$2.7 million

204
undergraduate and
graduate students and
fellows supported

Sustainable development
practices and policies
implemented in nearly
300
communities

“The Sea Grant program is absolutely vital to the shellfish industry here in Washington. As a second-generation shellfish farmer in Washington state, I know first-hand the enormous benefits that the Sea Grant program brings to our coastal communities.”

*Kathleen Nisbet Moncy,
COO of Goose Point Oysters*



WASHINGTON SEA GRANT RESEARCH AND OUTREACH MILESTONES

PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY

- ◆ **480** 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
- ◆ **\$3.8 million** saved annually in reduced gear losses and boat repairs thanks to WSG-facilitated voluntary towboat lanes

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

- ◆ A pilot project in 2024 removed **17,000** pounds of nuisance seaweed from commercial shellfish beds, and turned it into carbon-rich soil amendment for local land-based farmers
- ◆ Through strategic monitoring at **35** sites throughout Puget Sound, the SoundToxins program provides early warning of harmful algal blooms
- ◆ 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 **\$3.5 million** in funding secured with WSG assistance for pumpout services and marina operations and maintenance
- ◆ By providing **39** managers with resources, knowledge and skills to enhance employee retention, the Tide's Out program supported over **\$10 million** worth of jobs in the shellfish industry in its first two years

- ◆ **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
- ◆ After the rollout of the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) for Washington state, WSG convened more than **150** planners and managers to help them use this information to assess vulnerability to flooding and other coastal hazards
- ◆ 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 community members through MyCoast.org, where users uploaded more than **1,400** photos of king tides that have helped scientists, planners and the public visualize sea level rise

EDUCATING FUTURE OCEAN LEADERS

- ◆ More than **7,800** 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 2021–2024 unless otherwise specified

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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

