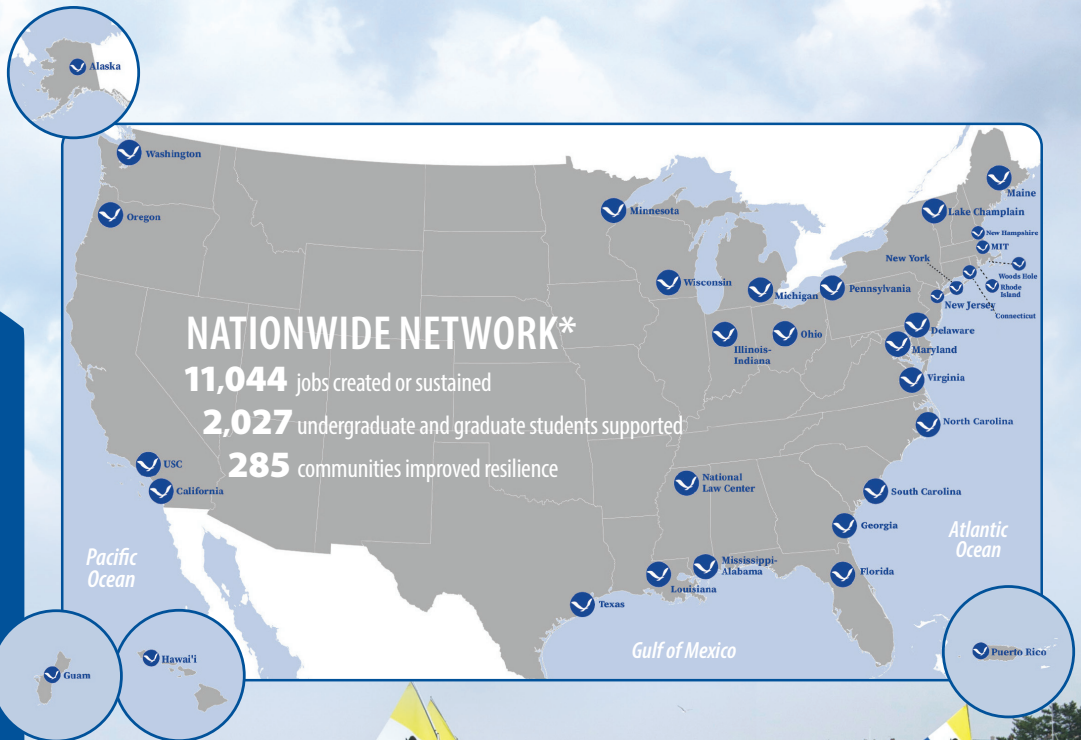




# WHAT IS SEA GRANT?

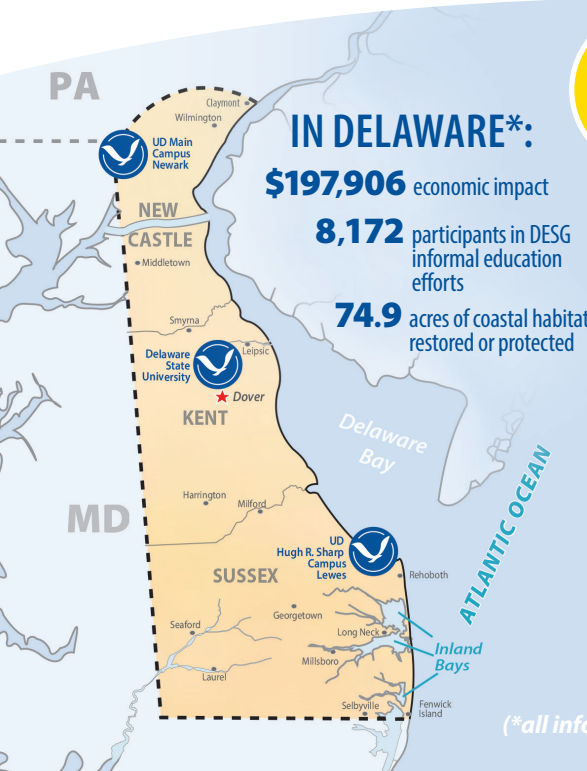
Sea Grant is a national program in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, and Guam that uses **community engagement, education and research** to apply the latest science to protect and improve our coastal communities and solve environmental problems.

The Sea Grant network is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and comprises 34 local or specialty programs that work to advance that goal in specific local contexts.



## DELAWARE SEA GRANT

All three of Delaware's counties are considered coastal, and the state's entire shoreline, from Claymont to Fenwick Island, is tidal. The Delaware Sea Grant College Program serves the entire state and has worked with stakeholders in every region. Delaware Sea Grant is based at the University of Delaware College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, but it works closely with other institutions of higher education in the state, including Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, and the Widener University Delaware Law School.



## Community Engagement and Extension

Delaware Sea Grant also has many vital partnerships with government, non-profit and industry representatives to ensure it is addressing the needs of local stakeholders. These partners help the program update its strategic plan and evaluate its progress every four years, but they also work in more informal and continual ways to implement programs in six primary areas:

**Aquaculture** – Providing information and support for growing seafood in state waters or in tanks on land

**Coastal Hazards** – Helping residents and communities prepare for emergencies and challenges of coastal living

**Community Development** – Supporting Delaware towns in building the futures they want

**Ecosystem Monitoring and Protection** – Studying and improving coastal resources from water to plants and animals

**Fisheries** – Aiding commercial and recreational fishing industries and supporting seafood marketing in the state

**Legal Research** – Identifying existing and potential policy conflicts relevant to coastal and marine resources

These Delaware-specific program areas are pursued by the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, which includes extension specialists with experience and training in these areas.

(\*all infographic numbers cover the period from Feb. 1, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021)





## Education

A team of Delaware Sea Grant education and communications specialists work to enhance environmental literacy in the state and beyond through various in-person and digital approaches.

- **K-12 Classroom Support** – *Sharing the latest marine science and new educational techniques with teachers to improve and supplement classroom instruction*
- **Informal Education** – *Delaware Sea Grant staff teach students directly at special events, field trips and classroom visits*
- **Lifelong Learning** – *Engaging learners in the latest science content, hands-on activities in the environment, and opportunities to participate in community science*
- **Workforce Development** – *Helping students and professionals gain skills useful for environmental careers*
- **Mass Communications** – *Science and other coastal topics are shared with the public at large through publications, public service announcements, social media, video and other digital media*

In all cases, DESG expertise is leveraged for professional development, direct instruction, and mass communications about marine and coastal science.



## Research

Delaware Sea Grant provides research grants through a competitive process every two years for projects addressing the national Sea Grant program's

### Four Focus Areas:

- **Healthy Coastal Ecosystems**
- **Resilient Communities and Economies**
- **Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- **Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development**

Research projects must have clear applications to needs of stakeholders within the state. Past successful research projects have included investigations of surf zone injury risk leading to targeted educational campaigns and the identification and mapping of derelict crab pots leading to clean-up campaigns.

Panels of experts in the relevant science and its potential applications in the state assess and rank proposals from scientists, guiding funding decisions. Experts are drawn from both within Delaware and outside of the state.

Each two-year research cycle usually provides funding for six to eight projects. Most include support for a graduate student to work on the research with the principal investigator, who is usually a faculty member at a Delaware institution or a scientist at a Delaware non-profit or agency.



## LEARN MORE



Discover specifics about Delaware Sea Grant programs and the people who implement them and learn about the state's marine and coastal resources online at [deseagrant.org](http://deseagrant.org) or by following @deseagrant on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Science Serving the Delaware Coast  
[www.deseagrant.org](http://www.deseagrant.org)

