

investing in

Rhode Island Sea Grant

Rhode Island Sea Grant leverages its \$2.1 million federal dollars with other federal, state, and private monies. Over the past six months, this amounts to \$1.83 million with \$1.98 million in submitted proposals.

G RANTS AND AWARDS

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF RHODE ISLAND

Southern New England Collaborative Research Initiative (SNECRI) RFP Administration

The Foundation has called on Rhode Island Sea Grant to administer their SNECRI competitive grants process, including RFP dissemination, coordination of the proposal submission process and reviewers, and coordination of the technical review panel brought in to evaluate the proposals.

AMOUNT: \$12,000

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: B. Costa-Pierce, A. Desbonnet

NOAA FISHERIES NORTHEAST SCIENCE CENTER

Fishery-independent Scup Survey of Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England Waters

A team of commercial fishermen and a Sea Grant researcher are testing alternative sampling methods to assess more accurately the status of the scup population in southern New England waters. Results of this research could significantly improve research surveys of this species. The researchers will work in 10 separate hard-bottom sites that are currently not sampled by other finfish trawl surveys because of the rough topography. This is the sixth year of funding received for this project.

AMOUNT: \$107,010

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: L. Skrobe

NORTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER

Software for Objective Evaluation of Nearshore and Offshore Fish Farms

Despite the rapid growth of fish farms overseas, concerns about environmental impact and the associated difficulty of

obtaining licenses have proven a major obstacle to growth in the United States. This project will test the accuracy of two mathematical models—DEPOMOD and AquaModel—that describe the transport of feces and uneaten feed from pens to the sediments and the biochemical response of the benthic community to such loading. The results of this work will then be applied to simulations of the operations and impact of virtual offshore farms “placed” at several sites along the New England coast. This project represents a multi-institutional collaborative effort.

AMOUNT: \$102,763

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: B. Costa-Pierce

R.I. COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CRMC)

Aquidneck Island Coastal Greenway/Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

Rhode Island Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center is facilitating the process to develop the Aquidneck Island SAMP for the CRMC. The SAMP boundary includes the same boundary used in the Aquidneck Island West Side Master Plan. Activities described in this Cooperative Agreement build on existing momentum to continue to apply innovative coastal management tools, such as a coastal greenway system, to achieve regional coordination and management on the island.

GRANT REQUEST: \$42,000

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: J. McCann, S. Kennedy

Coastweeks 2008

Coastweeks is a nationwide celebration of our coasts, dedicated to fostering awareness, understanding, and improved management of the coast. The Coastweeks celebration in Rhode Island is coordinated by Rhode Island Sea Grant and the CRMC.

GRANT REQUEST: \$2,000

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Allard Cox

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

The Ocean SAMP, lead by CRMC in partnership with other state and federal agencies as well as stakeholders, will refine the state’s coastal policy to reflect the needs of specific areas. Federal, state, and local regulations and plans must be consistent with SAMPs, once adopted, which makes them powerful planning tools. This project is part of a larger grant submitted by the University of Rhode Island (URI). Total grant request: \$3,297,000.

GRANT REQUEST: \$1,502,256

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: J. McCann, T. Crean, T. Smythe, A. Neville, J. Tobey, S. Olsen, S. Kennedy, M. Higgins, B. Costa-Pierce, A. Desbonnet, D. Beutel, M. Allard Cox

**R.I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
URI COASTAL INSTITUTE, AND THE NATURE
CONSERVANCY**

**Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium 2008 —
Sound Connections: The Science of Rhode Island and
Block Island Sounds**

Funded in large part by the Ocean SAMP effort, this symposium focused on Block Island Sound and Rhode Island Sound and their interfaces with waters to their north, south, east, and west. The symposium explored the physical oceanography and living marine environments of the Sounds region, ecological trends, ocean-atmosphere interactions, and the geological landscape of the area. The overall purpose of the symposium was to develop a conceptual framework on how these coastal ecosystems work, including various drivers and forcing functions, rates of ecological change, human impacts, and vital linkages among the sounds and their neighboring ecosystems, and to discuss research gaps and needs for the future.

GRANT REQUEST: \$13,000

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Schwartz,
A. Desbonnet, B. Costa-Pierce

**RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION AND PRINCE
CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

**Creating a Diverse and Vibrant Newport Harbor
Waterfront**

Recognizing the growing demand in Newport for a stronger economic base that can provide stable, quality, year-round employment opportunities for citizens, this proposal will dedicate Phase II of the Newport Harbor Redevelopment Planning initiative to generating an economic study to: 1) gauge the current effectiveness of the harbor as a community provider and 2) offer practical market scenarios to support city and citizen commitment to redevelop the waterfront to realistically answer some of the financial and social needs of a residential population that is increasingly disadvantaged and already distanced from the existing economic, cultural, and recreational assets of the harbor.

GRANT REQUEST: \$93,872

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: J. McCann, T. Crean

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

**7th Marine Law Symposium — A Viable Marine Renew-
able Industry: Solutions to Legal, Economic, and Policy
Challenges**

The Marine Law Symposium is a biennial event organized by the Marine Affairs Institute, a partnership among Roger Williams University School of Law, URI's Department of Marine Affairs, and Rhode Island Sea Grant. This Symposium explored means to achieve a viable marine renewable energy industry for the United States with a focus on offshore wind, hydrokinetics (wave, current, and tidal), and ocean thermal energy conversion. The goal was to identify the challenges facing a viable marine renewable energy industry at the local, state, and federal levels and to describe and evaluate possible solutions to these challenges including siting, jurisdictional, permitting, financial, environmental, and technological issues. For a full list of sponsors as well information on the agenda, speakers, and a blog, visit: <http://law.rwu.edu/sites/marineaffairs/symposia/seventhMLS.aspx>.

GRANT REQUEST: \$44,663

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Higgins, C. Ferris,
S. Farady
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The logo features a large, stylized blue letter 'S' on the left, followed by the word 'SUBMISSIONS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font to its right.

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OF RHODE ISLAND**

**Reduction of Butterfish and Scup Bycatch in the *Loligo*
Squid Fishery**

A proposal to the SNECRI competitive research program, this research will investigate the performance of an experimental trawl on its ability to reduce the catches of butterfish and scup in the *Loligo* squid fishery in southern New England. Two commercial fishing vessels will be used to conduct the sea sampling in cooperation with URI. URI will also lead the data analysis, interpretation, and outreach. The commercial vessels will conduct side-by-side catch comparison hauls comparing the experimental net to the control net. The project is designed to investigate the quantity and catch composition of bycatch, particularly butterfish and scup, of the trawl nets.

GRANT REQUEST: \$144,771

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: D. Beutel, L. Skrobe

**NOAA FISHERIES SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY
PROGRAM**

**Use of Edible Meat from American Lobsters (*Homarus
americanus*) with Shell Disease**

Shell disease of the American lobster is widespread and is impacting the profitability and stability of the industry. The overall goal of this project is to study the quality, shelf-life, and acceptability of edible meat from shell-diseased American lobsters.

GRANT REQUEST: \$177,620

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: K. Castro, L. Pivarnik

“100 Lobster” Study

The goal of this collaborative project is to develop an understanding of American lobster shell disease on one of New England's most economically important fisheries. Objectives are to create and maintain a database repository and interactive tool for ongoing studies on the epizootic shell disease syndrome, to further describe the histopathology of lobsters exhibiting the syndrome in comparison with unaffected lobsters at the organismal level, and to experimentally assess the susceptibility and timing of lesion development in lobsters with epizootic shell disease that have recently molted.

GRANT REQUEST: \$29,725 (subcontract amount to URI)

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: K. Castro, B. Somers

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**From Ridgetops to Reefs: Engaging Undergraduates
in Conservation Biology by Providing a Field-Based
Research Experience in Costa Rica**

This project will provide undergraduate students a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience, in-country, with community-based tropical ecological research and economics,

thereby strengthening academic competency, expanding worldviews, and opening doorways for more informed academic and career choices in the biological sciences.

GRANT REQUEST: N/A (Pre-proposal)

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Schwartz, B. Costa-Pierce

Narragansett Bay Coyote Education Initiative

This initiative will: 1) actively engage a diverse citizenry that includes Indian, Latino, and African American populations; 2) enable adult participants to build comfort levels with science, so that issue-based science learners ultimately emerge as community-oriented problem solvers; and 3) empower these “solvers” to become the drivers in creating a strong, trusting social network that, evidence shows, motivates public policy debate and yields solutions that are based on science, appeal to the community, and are realistic in scope and expectation.

GRANT REQUEST: \$1,481,518

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: J. McCann, TBD

OCEAN FOUNDATION

Ronald C. Baird Sea Grant Science Symposium 2008 — Sound Connections: The Science of Rhode Island and Block Island Sounds

This symposium focuses on Block Island Sound and Rhode Island Sound and their interfaces with waters to their north, south, east, and west. The symposium explores the physical oceanography and living marine environments of the Sounds region, ecological trends, ocean-atmosphere interactions, and the geological landscape of the area. The overall purpose of the symposium is to develop a conceptual framework on how these coastal ecosystems work, including various drivers and forcing functions, rates of ecological change, human impacts, and vital linkages among the sounds and their neighboring ecosystems, and to discuss research gaps and needs for the future.

GRANT REQUEST: \$25,000

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Schwartz, A. Desbonnet, B. Costa-Pierce

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

OLLI at the University of Rhode Island

Spearheaded by the URI Foundation to bring an OLLI to URI, Rhode Island Sea Grant developed an “Ecosystem Stewardship in the Americas (ESTA)” component for the OLLI proposal. If successful, the ESTA component would develop the OLLI offering as two field-based experiences for Rhode Islanders 50+ years of age to learn about ecosystem stewardship in fragile tropical environments. Our program offers participants a first-hand look at internationally recognized sustainable coastal community development practices and species conservation on a sea turtle nesting beach in Gandoca, Costa Rica.

GRANT REQUEST: \$10,500

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Schwartz

R.I. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

Early-Career Researchers Initiative

Research funding is becoming increasingly constrained, thereby making it difficult for new investigators to secure their

first grants and limiting or delaying the emergence of the next generation of research leaders. The goal of this new initiative is to invest in early-career researchers working on coastal, marine, and ocean issues of priority concern to Rhode Island Sea Grant and Rhode Island EPSCoR’s focus in the marine life sciences. By investing in researchers early in their career, we hope to foster new ways of addressing our strategic priorities through the findings of innovative, possibly risky, cutting-edge research.

GRANT REQUEST: \$83,100

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: M. Schwartz

VAN BEUREN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Newport Harbor Market and Economic Impact Analysis

This project will produce an extensive analysis of the Newport Harbor waterfront, which is needed to provide critical information to officials so that they can enhance their abilities to make informed economic, environmental, and social decisions regarding the waterfront.

GRANT REQUEST: \$30,595

SEA GRANT STAFF INVOLVED: J. McCann, T. Crean