

# RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT

## BY THE NUMBERS

302   
JOBS CREATED OR SUSTAINED

66   
FISHERS ADOPTED SUSTAINABLE  
HARVESTING TECHNIQUES

96   
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS  
SUPPORTED

59   
PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN HAZARD  
ANALYSIS & CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS  
(HACCP) FOR SEAFOOD PROCESSING

53   
GRADUATE STUDENTS AND  
FELLOWS SUPPORTED

3,086   
VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED  
TO RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT

**\$2,079,007**  
federal funds

**\$1,039,505**  
non-federal match

**\$871,111**  
leveraged funds

**5**  
trainings to improve  
resilience

**4**  
ecosystem-based  
management (EBM)  
tools, technologies, and  
information services  
developed

**26**  
resource managers  
used EBM tools

**5**  
communities  
implemented  
sustainable  
development practices/  
policies

**20**  
law fellow projects  
helped organizations  
and communities  
answer legal questions

FY 2016 NUMBERS

RESEARCH • OUTREACH • EDUCATION



**Sea Grant**  
Rhode Island

# ABOUT RHODE ISLAND SEA GRANT



**Rhode Island Sea Grant** is one of 33 programs in the National Sea Grant College Program working to enhance environmental stewardship, long-term economic development, and responsible use of coastal and marine resources. Located at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Rhode Island Sea Grant supports research, outreach, and education programs designed to foster the resiliency of coastal communities and marine environments. Rhode Island Sea Grant partners with the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center on its extension program, and with the Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Law on its legal program, located at the Marine Affairs Institute at RWU.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Rhode Island Sea Grant facilitated the development of a first-in-the-nation fiberglass boat recycling program that will not only keep these boats out of landfills but will also generate revenue for local businesses while giving boat owners a way to easily and responsibly dispose of end-of-life vessels. The program is expected to launch this spring.

Rhode Island Sea Grant has supported efforts to strengthen Rhode Island capture and culture fisheries, sponsoring shellfish research and outreach that have resulted in improved policies that are opening temporarily closed shell-fishing areas more quickly after storms, which provides shellfishermen with real economic benefits. Rhode Island Sea Grant also made an existing in-person aquaculture course at Roger Williams University available online to provide access to a wider audience in support of the state's growing aquaculture industry, currently valued at \$5.5 million. Most recently, Rhode Island Sea Grant responded to the needs of the state's fishermen by cohosting a symposium

on the status of the productivity and water quality of Narragansett Bay. Based on the questions identified at the symposium, Sea Grant is funding research to enhance understanding about the changing conditions in the bay to improve management and foster a financially sustainable commercial and recreational fishery.

Rhode Island Sea Grant's Extension program facilitated the Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan for the state's Coastal Resources Management Council. The plan protected commercial fishing grounds even as it resulted in expedited permitting for the nation's first offshore wind farm. That wind farm generated 300 jobs and provides more affordable, reliable, clean, and renewable power for Block Island residents and businesses, as well as serves as a tourist attraction for sightseers and recreational fishing charters. The pilot project of five turbines has set the stage for development of many more turbines in the waters off the U.S. Northeast coast in the coming years.

As coastal storms in the region grow more intense and flooding threatens low-lying areas, Rhode Island Sea Grant has worked to assist communities and individuals to assess their risks and take action to become more resilient. Communities from Providence to Narragansett have used Sea Grant-sponsored tools and information to make decisions that will extend the life of their infrastructure, saving money, protecting property, and preventing contamination of coastal waters.

These are but a few examples of the work Rhode Island Sea Grant has done to benefit state residents, businesses, and stakeholder communities to ensure the continued availability of marine and coastal resources and protection for coastal areas.