



# TEXAS SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

*Science Serving Texans*

**Texas Sea Grant** is a unique partnership that unites the resources of the federal government, the State of Texas and universities across the state to create knowledge, tools, products and services that help coastal communities, marine industries and the people of Texas. It is part of a network of 33 university-based Sea Grant programs in coastal and Great Lakes states and territories.

We support integrated research and extension projects that improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas' coastal and marine resources. The overarching goals of our research program are to support

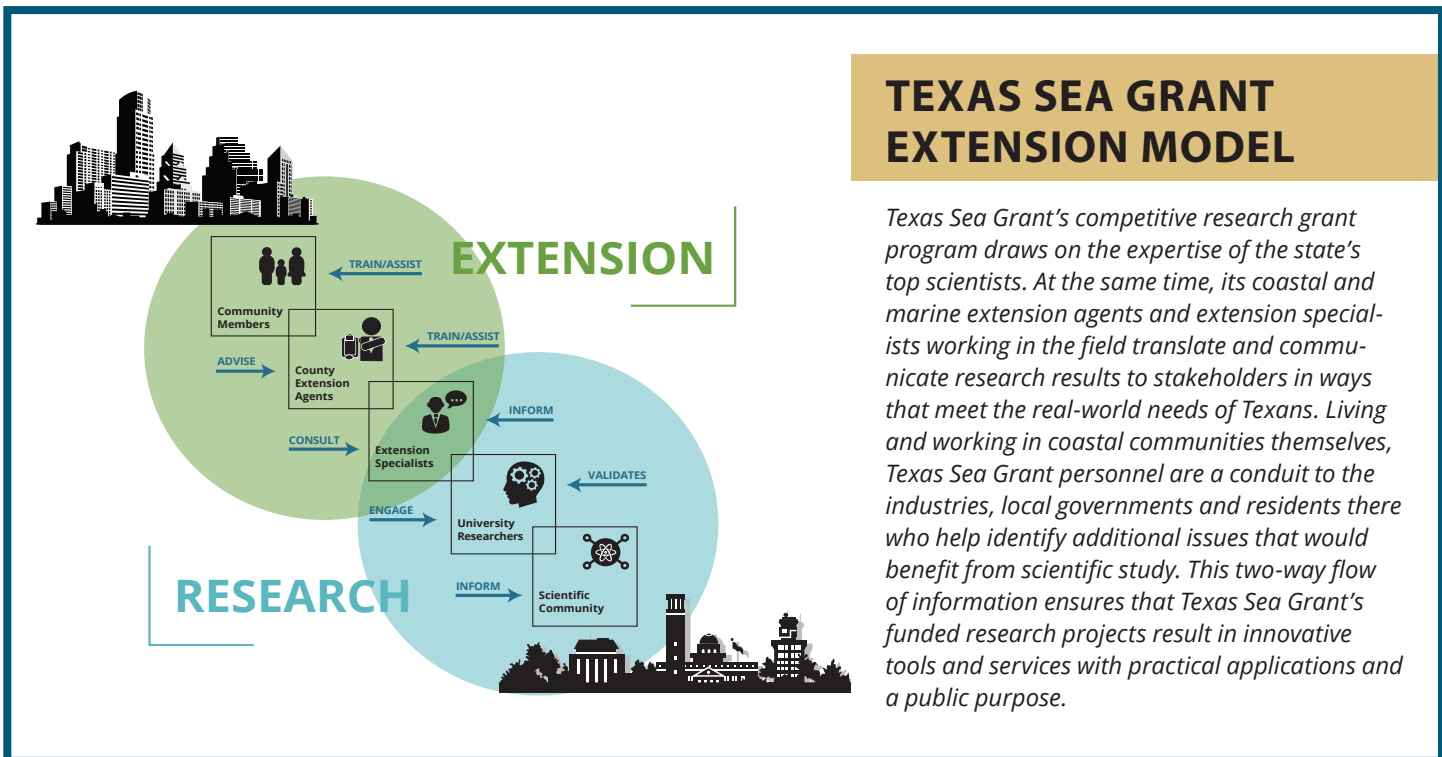
outcome-oriented research that spans broad areas of natural, physical, social, behavioral and economic sciences and engineering, and to make research investments that will generate substantial social, economic and environmental impacts in Texas. This combination of research, education and outreach helps build and grow innovative businesses along the coast, protect against environmental destruction and natural disasters, and train the next generation of leaders.

Inspired by the Land Grant agricultural extension model, we have served the State of Texas for 46 years from our headquarters

## MISSION

Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use, and stewardship of Texas coastal and ocean resources.

in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University in College Station and our extension field offices in counties and cities along the Texas coast.



## TEXAS SEA GRANT EXTENSION MODEL

*Texas Sea Grant's competitive research grant program draws on the expertise of the state's top scientists. At the same time, its coastal and marine extension agents and extension specialists working in the field translate and communicate research results to stakeholders in ways that meet the real-world needs of Texans. Living and working in coastal communities themselves, Texas Sea Grant personnel are a conduit to the industries, local governments and residents there who help identify additional issues that would benefit from scientific study. This two-way flow of information ensures that Texas Sea Grant's funded research projects result in innovative tools and services with practical applications and a public purpose.*

# SELECT 2017 TEXAS SEA GRANT IMPACTS



**\$3.2 million**

in fuel savings for the shrimp fishing industry



**188 businesses**

created or sustained and 874 jobs created or sustained



**1,225 acres**

of coastal wetlands, dunes and prairie restored



**87 university students**

supported through grants and fellowships



## Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Seafood harvesting and production are among the most important industries on the Texas coast. Commercial fishing is a \$1.5 billion business in Texas employing 26,496 people. Shrimp is by far the largest segment of the catch, and Texas Sea Grant works with shrimp fishermen to help them

overcome market factors like high fuel prices and low-priced imports, meet regulatory requirements, and maximize their profits. We also work with fishermen and with seafood retailers to help facilitate their access to specialty markets. Aquaculture contributes another \$349 million to the state's economy, and we support research that helps these businesses increase their productivity sustainably and economically.



## Resilient Communities and Economies

The Texas coast faces rapidly increasing population and development now and in the coming decades. We are helping coastal cities and towns plan and prepare for a future of unprecedented growth and increase their resilience to hurricanes, flooding and other coastal hazards, allowing them to better protect their

economies, natural resources and people. Our funded research and extension programs provide coastal communities with critical data needed to support informed decisionmaking, increase capacity to communities that lack resources, and improve the quality of life of coastal stakeholders.



## Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Healthy ecosystems are the foundation of the communities and economies of the Texas coast. They are essential for commercial and recreational fishing and the tourism industry, but their value is also priceless to those who live, work and play along our coast. A rapidly increasing coastal population, higher demands on fisheries and other human activities are placing greater stresses on these fragile systems. We are funding research and giving resource managers the information they need to make science-based decisions to respond to water quality degradation, wetlands loss and other threats to these ecosystems.

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## STEM Education and Workforce Development

Educating students at all levels, from K-12 through graduate study at institutions of higher education, is crucial to continuing progress and meeting the challenges ahead. Texas Sea Grant builds tomorrow's workforce to support coastal and marine industries and ensures a scientifically literate public that is able to use our natural resources in ways that capture the economic, environmental and cultural benefits they offer while preserving their quality and abundance for future generations.

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TSG1821.5485.0618

TAMU-SG-18-302

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Texas  
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY