

The State of Sea Grant 2014: Impacts, Challenges and Opportunities

Biennial Report to Congress
by the National Sea Grant Advisory Board

Dr. Rosanne Fortner, Chair of the Biennial Report Committee
Rear Admiral Richard D. West, Vice-Chair, National Sea Grant Advisory Board
November 17, 2014

What is Sea Grant?



Sea Grant
National Sea Grant College Program

**33 University-
based programs**



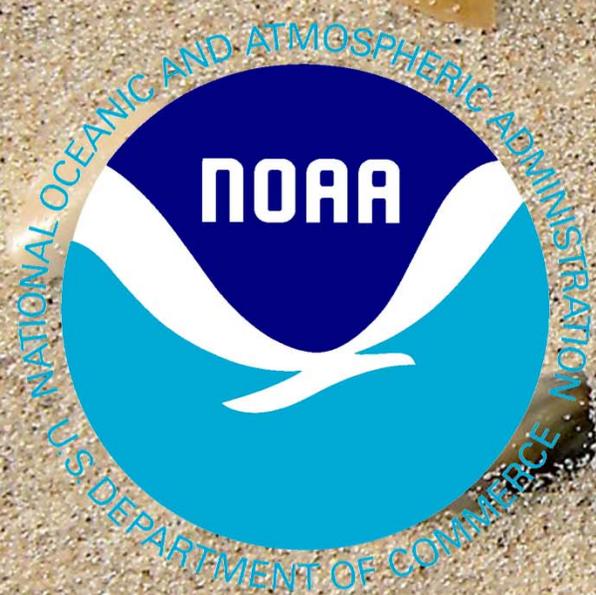
- **Sea Grant** – a federal-university partnership supporting NOAA's mission
 - National, regional and local priorities
 - Local and regional implementation

Sea Grant's Mission

“Enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment”



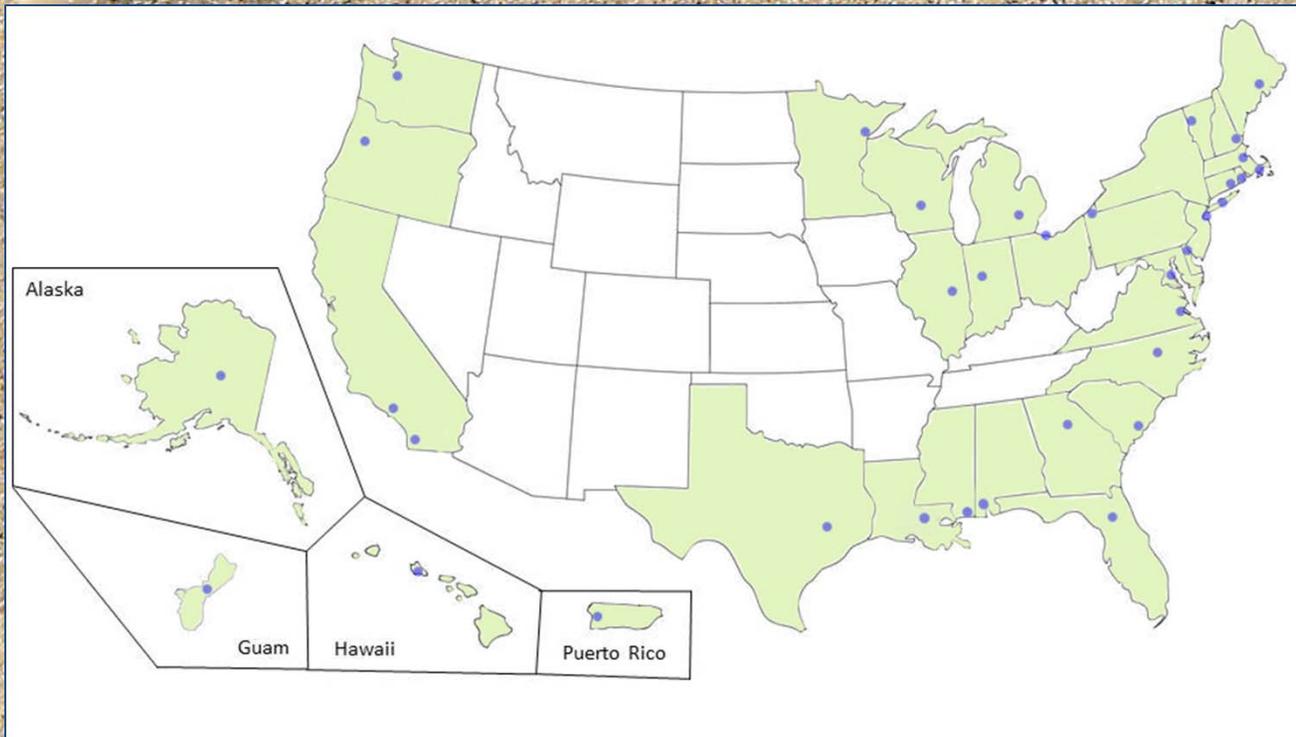
Sea Grant and NOAA



- Over **300 universities** provide access to oceans, coasts and Great Lakes R&D assets
- Stable national infrastructure of **600 university employees, 3,000 scientists, coastal experts, educators and students**
- Support for **350-400 research projects** annually and **900 graduate students**
- Connects **4500+ partner organizations** each year

Sea Grant's Niche

- Conducts research on urgent coastal issues
- Provides trusted information to stakeholders
- Community-based and respected



Sea Grant's
Network

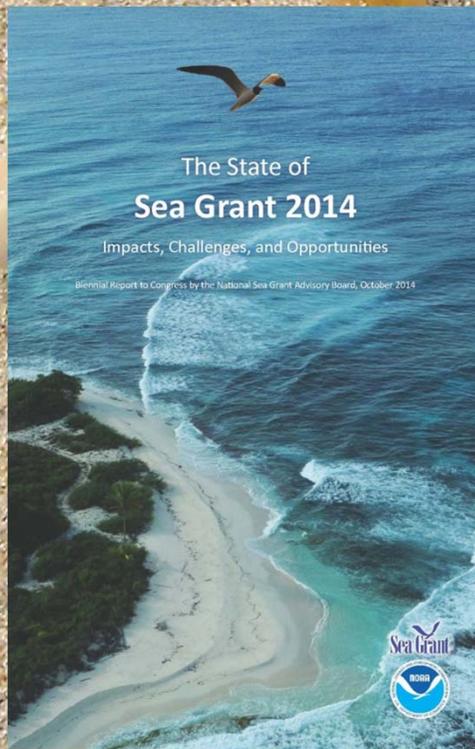
State of Sea Grant 2014 Report

- Required by 2008 Sea Grant Act (P.L.110-394)
- Progress toward meeting strategic plan priorities
- Third biennial report to Congress
 - 6 Advisory Board members
 - 3 external Sea Grant experts
 - 1 NSGO staff, *ex officio*
 - Puerto Rico SG designers



State of Sea Grant 2014 Report

Response to 2012 Recommendations



1. ...continue to advance national priorities and solve problems on a local/regional basis, with sensitivity to local needs.

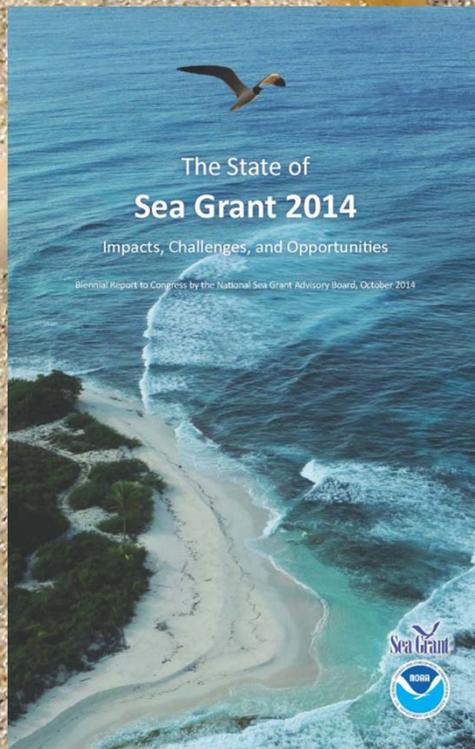
— Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 shows positive and effective Sea Grant attention to this recommendation.

2. ...continue to track and report the impacts of Sea Grant activities.

— Planning, Implementation and Evaluation Resource (PIER) database provides support and guidance on effective impacts. Refined 2014-2017 program measures and metrics.

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Response to 2012 Recommendations



3. ...continue to emphasize partnerships and collaborative efforts.

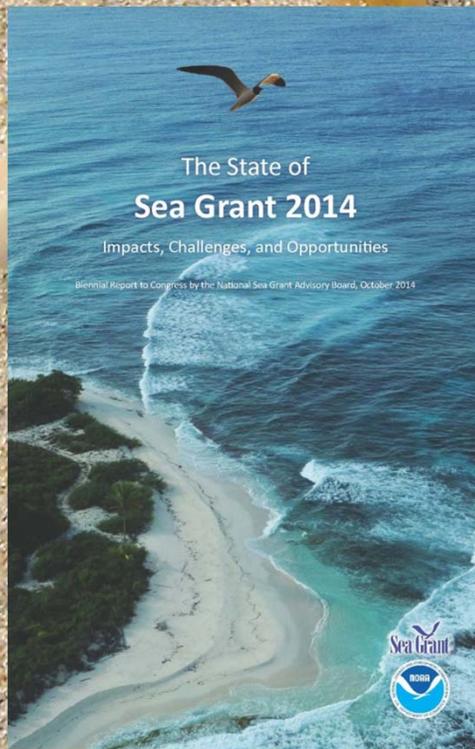
- Partnerships are growing in number and impact. They increase Sea Grant's scope of influence and leverage support for wider efforts

4. The federal budget should allocate more resources to reverse the erosion of buying power and maintain a dynamic program.

- FY 2014 Sea Grant increase of ~ \$5M: welcome recognition of the value of the services rendered by Sea Grant.

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Response to 2012 Recommendations



5. The National Sea Grant Office should review the funding structure of Sea Grant.

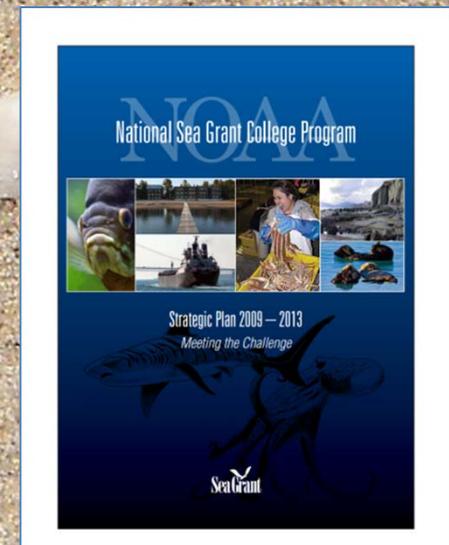
- A third Advisory Board Allocation Committee challenged historic practices of Sea Grant funding. NSGO has begun to rebalance for a minimum level of base funding of \$1M.

6. NOAA should continue integration of its coastal programs.

- Good progress: improving delivery of services to NOAA partners and customers and creating opportunities for further coordination and collaboration across NOAA.

Sea Grant Program Focus Areas

- **Strategic Plans**
 - Program goals track to national goals
- **2009-2013 National Focus Areas**
 - Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
 - Sustainable Coastal Development
 - Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply
 - Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities



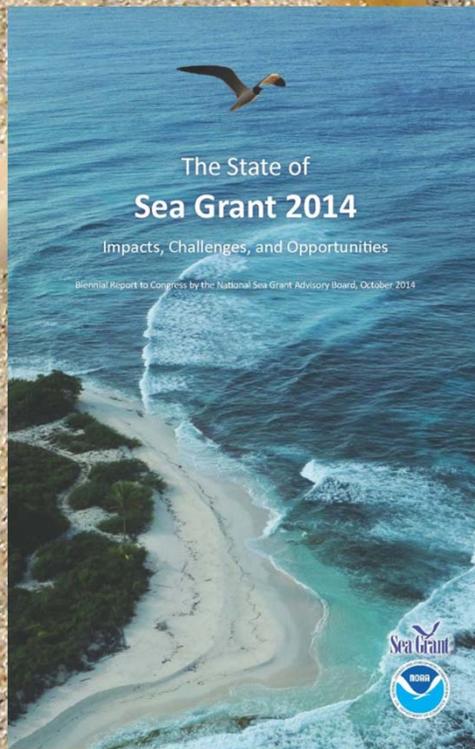
Sea Grant in Action

- Sea Grant's Response to Sandy
 - Coordination
 - Assessment
 - Technical Assistance & Outreach
 - New Research
- Climate Adaptation and Renewable Energy
- STEM Consolidation Response
- Sea Grant's Social Science Initiative
- Economic Impact Examples
- Partnerships



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Summary Findings



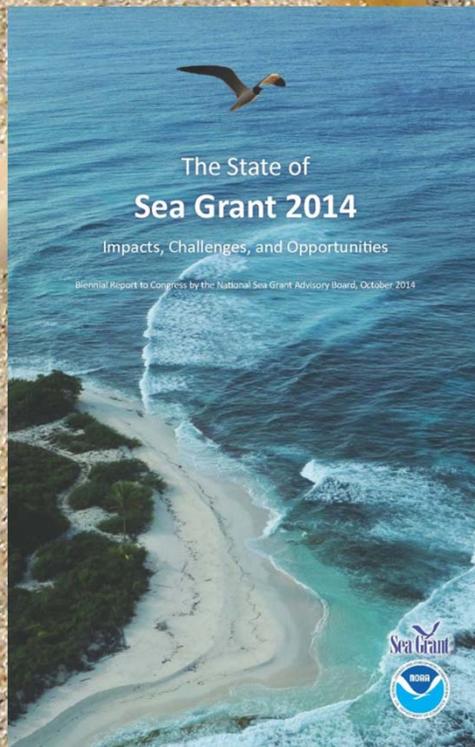
Sea Grant is an effective and solid investment of public monies in responding to the needs of coastal and Great Lakes communities.

- Focus Area impacts
- Sea Grant in Action response to real needs

In a full cycle of the PIE process, all programs were found to meet or exceed expectations.

Sea Grant has made great strides in addressing the allocation needs of the state programs through rebalancing of funding.

Challenges



- While the 0.5% administrative cap increase in the Senate committee reauthorization is welcome, the Board supports removal of the cap.
- The FY2014 budget allowed an increase in base funding for several underfunded programs, while retaining existing funding for others. Continued increases will return Sea Grant to a level that strengthens its ability to meet the needs of coastal communities.
- Federal consolidation of education programs threatens the integrity of the program's critical mission and its workforce development. Education is part of Sea Grant.

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Recommendations (page 26)

1. Continue to focus on advancing national priorities while solving problems on a local and regional basis. Continue to emphasize partnerships and collaborations.
2. Continue tracking and reporting of the impacts of Sea Grant activities toward the achievement of national goals.
3. Continued viability of Sea Grant relies on adjustment of budget equity among programs, while maintaining program review and merit considerations.
4. Strengthen the focus area in Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.

Performance Measures and Metrics

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Economic Impacts

\$450M	In economic impact
6,500	Businesses created or sustained
17,500	Jobs created or sustained
5	Patents

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

460	Ecosystem-based management (EBM) tools, technologies, and information services
521	EBM tools used by Sea Grant customers
4,000	Resource managers use EBM
21,700	Acres of degraded ecosystems restored

Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities

1,050	Trainings to improve resilience
300	Communities improved resilience

Research

576	Peer-reviewed publications
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Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply

23,000	Fishers adopt responsible harvesting techniques
53,000	Stakeholders modify practices based on increased knowledge of safety, sustainability, and health.
1,750	Hazard analysis & critical control points (HACCP) certifications

Sustainable Coastal Development

220	Communities implemented sustainable development practices/policies
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Education, Outreach and Extension

290,000	Volunteer hours
760	Undergraduate students supported
910	Graduate students supported
8,200	Workshops, trainings, and presentations