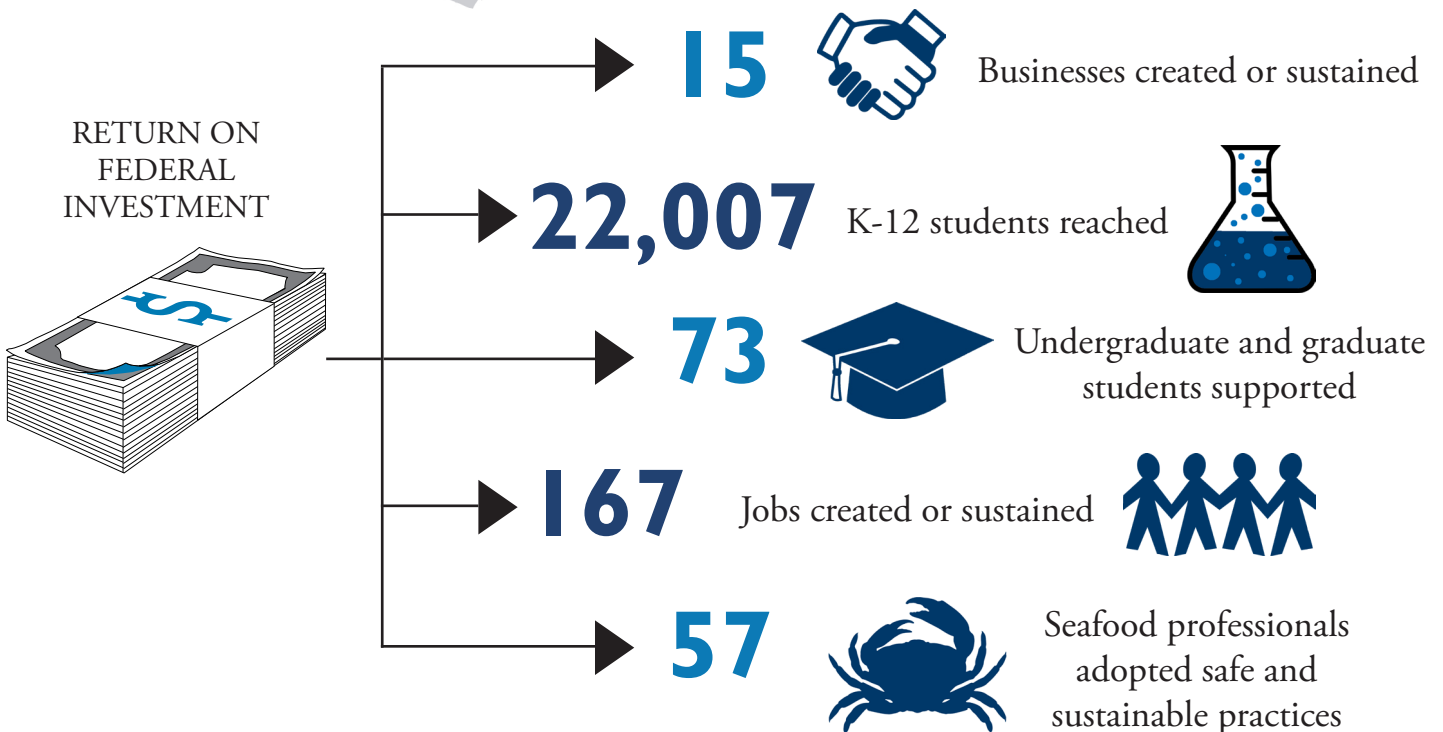


# SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

**\$5.0M**  
economic impact in 2015

*Metrics reported to National Office in June 2016  
for work completed Feb 2015 to Jan 2016.*



## Beach Sweep/River Sweep litter cleanup saves taxpayers \$145,652

**“We always stress the importance of not littering to our children. However, no words were needed when my son saw the excessive amount of garbage brought in with the extra high tide.”**

- Ed Decker,  
Beach Sweep/River Sweep volunteer

In 2015, 3,625 people volunteered to collect nearly 14 tons of litter along 181 miles of South Carolina’s beaches, marshes, and waterways. The amount of volunteer time for the South Carolina Sea Grant coordinated Beach Sweep/River Sweep event was valued at \$145,652 savings for the state. Clean beaches, marshes, and waterways are critical to support commercial and recreational boating and fishing, wildlife viewing, tourism, and other industries, in addition to contributing positively to a healthy quality of life for coastal residents. Natural resources account for about \$30 billion in annual economic revenue for South Carolina.

[scseagrant.org/content/?cid=49](http://scseagrant.org/content/?cid=49)



Frank Roberts of Lady's Island Oyster checks his oyster cages. Credit: Julie Davis

**“It was clear that myself and several other growers were going to be out of business if our industry did not have a reliable in-state seed source...Sea Grant was the first place our industry looked for help.”**

- Frank Roberts,  
Lady's Island Oyster

## **Sea Grant aids steady growth of oyster mariculture businesses**

Fresh local oysters are critical to the restaurant and tourism industry in South Carolina. Concerns over the potential spread of oyster disease from other states halted all oyster seed supply coming into South Carolina. South Carolina Sea Grant responded by equipping growers with the technology and knowledge to spawn and raise their own oyster larvae and seed, ensuring a steady and sustainable supply within the state.

Additionally, tourism has become a dominant industry benefiting coastal economies in the Southeast. South Carolina Sea Grant helped create a partnership between growers and eco-tour companies which offer farm tours to visitors. Pilot programs have shown increased economic benefits for both industries. [scseagrant.org/content/?cid=38](http://scseagrant.org/content/?cid=38)

## **Sea Grant helps improve local resilience to coastal hazards**

The city of Folly Beach, S.C. experiences extensive beach erosion that endangers structures on the beach and negatively affects tourism, the community's main economic driver. Prior to 2015, the city had not updated its state-mandated local comprehensive beachfront management plan since 1999.

South Carolina Sea Grant, in coordination with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, assisted Folly Beach in updating its beachfront management plan by providing technical expertise and a forum for public discussion. The resulting plan was submitted for approval and adoption by the state's Coastal Zone Management Program. South Carolina Sea Grant also helped lead a public forum in which renourishment and other erosion control methods were discussed to plan for future hazards. [scseagrant.org/content/?cid=251](http://scseagrant.org/content/?cid=251)



### Contact information

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