

Woods Hole Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.



Basket of surf clams harvested after one year of growth. Credit: Woods Hole Sea Grant

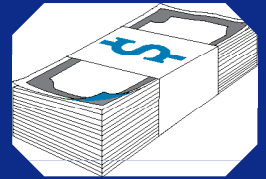
Woods Hole Sea Grant explores a new species for aquaculture

Woods Hole Sea Grant partnered with local stakeholders to explore surf clams as a viable alternative to augment an aquaculture industry dominated by oysters. Researchers partnered with a local shellfish hatchery to produce surf clam seed and worked with local growers to monitor the growth and survival of clams, providing insight into best locations and conditions for this species. Results were used to inform the shellfish aquaculture industry on ways to increase success with these clams, and demonstrated that this species could be harvested at market size within a year.

whoi.edu/seagrant

\$142 M

Economic benefit



900

Jobs created or sustained

300

Businesses created or sustained



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Woods Hole Sea Grant improves stakeholder literacy on coastline resilience



Attendees of the Martha's Vineyard Coastal Conference traveled to Chappaquiddick Island where they could observe the changes to the Katama barrier beach system and shoreline.
Credit: Bill Brine

- Woods Hole Sea Grant partnered with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Agency to host the Martha's Vineyard Coastal Conference in 2016, a meeting that brought together coastal managers, town officials, conservation commissioners, planning boards, environmental organizations and others interested in learning more about the coastline. With about 100 stakeholders in attendance, knowledgeable speakers with wide-ranging expertise gave well-received presentations on locally relevant and diverse agenda topics. For example, researchers informed local coastal managers on best-practices for utilizing their resources and building resilience.

“Woods Hole Sea Grant’s ongoing efforts to support our industry’s remarkable growth--through water quality and disease monitoring--have proved crucial time and again. With few other sources of federal funding available for aquaculture research, we rely heavily on Sea Grant not only to undergird the success we’ve had, but to stimulate innovation that will create even more opportunities in the future.”

- Chris Sherman, Island Creek Oysters

Improving Floodplain Management



In 2016, Woods Hole Sea Grant organized a workshop helping coastal managers become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). Towns that have CFMs on staff earn credit in FEMA's Community Rating System for advanced floodplain management and benefit from their staff's knowledge and floodplain regulatory enforcement capabilities. Since the workshop, the number of CFMs in the region has tripled.

Investigating the Origin of Toxic Invaders



New sightings of the clinging jellyfish in Cape Cod waters, and recent reports of extremely painful stings to swimmers, led to an urgent need to understand the life history of this species. Not all species of clinging jellyfish appear to be venomous, and so Woods Hole Sea Grant researchers used DNA to map the origins of the venomous jellyfish, which are now more prevalent in the region.

Coordinating the River Herring Network



In 2016, Woods Hole Sea Grant organized two forums for the River Herring Network, a group of river herring wardens who regulate harvest of this fish species and maintain clear passage through the river for their upstream migration to spawn. The forums brought together sixty herring wardens to receive training in ecosystem based management approaches for this economically important fishery.