

# A Smart Investment in Massachusetts' Coastal Economy



WHOI Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Highlights from WHOI Sea Grant's work in 2023\* are detailed below.

In 2023, a federal investment in WHOI Sea Grant of \$1.3 million resulted in:

**\$7.6 Million**

**Economic Benefit**

**587%**

**Return on Investment**

Teacher  
Training  
Workshops  
**\$4,886,154**

Shellfish  
Propagation  
Program  
**\$2,079,233**

Discounts on  
Flood  
Insurance  
**\$416,115**

Extension  
Technical  
Assistance  
**\$222,720**

**24,640**

Cooperative research volunteer hours  
contributing to a striped bass study

People engaged in Sea Grant-supported  
informal education programs

**57,605**

**1,658**

Acres of coastal habitat protected, enhanced or  
restored as a result of Sea Grant activities

\* Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2024 for work completed Feb. 2023 to Jan. 2024.

## Notable Program Accomplishments



### EXPANDING COASTAL RESILIENCE EFFORTS

With funding granted in 2022 to bolster community resilience, our program hired its first Coastal Resilience Specialist in February 2023. This hire increased our coastal extension team's capacity for organized outreach programs to reach broader audiences. The first Cape Cod Coastal Resilience week in 2024 reached about a thousand people.



### BRINGING OCEAN SCIENCE TO THE CLASSROOM

Each year, our program brings researchers and educators together on WHOI's campus to explore a topic of ocean science. The daylong workshops share cutting-edge research and relevant classroom activities that teachers can add to their curricula. Each educator earns six professional development points towards their ongoing teacher certifications.



### STRIPERS ON THE LINE

With funding from our program, a team of UMass Amherst scientists researched the catch-and-release practices of the recreational striped bass fishery. The researchers teamed up with 77 volunteer fishers to catch and study 347 striped bass during the 2023 season. Their goal is to develop a set of evidence-based guidelines on how to handle fish to lower mortality rates and support a more sustainable fishery.



### SHELLFISH DISEASE MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Veterinary diseases of oysters and clams can cause direct economic losses to shellfisheries. Farmed shellfish alone are valued at \$32.6 million, with wild harvest adding tens of millions more in value to the state. Our program has monitored and studied shellfish disease since 2012. This stable surveillance and education to farmers generates sustained economic benefits for commercial, recreational, wild, and aquaculture-based harvests.