

WHOI Sea Grant Marine Outreach Guidance Group (MOGG) Charter

October 2025

Purpose

The Marine Outreach Guidance Group (MOGG) is the advisory board to WHOI Sea Grant. Its purpose is to provide guidance, expertise, and community-based perspectives that help WHOI Sea Grant fulfill its mission to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable economy and environment for Massachusetts.

MOGG reflects WHOI Sea Grant's commitment to strategic partnerships, community engagement, and responsiveness to current issues of concern in coastal Massachusetts.

Membership

MOGG membership is based on programmatic need and is intended to reflect a diversity of expertise, geography, and perspectives. There is no fixed number of members. WHOI Sea Grant seeks to include individuals representing key sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, coastal management, education, communication, policy, and industry, as well as local, state, and federal partners.

Members are appointed by the WHOI Sea Grant Director to a 3-year term, renewable upon mutual agreement. Membership is reviewed periodically to ensure it continues to reflect current program priorities and emerging issues. If a member is unable to complete their term, the WHOI Sea Grant Director may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term or defer filling the position until a future review of membership needs.

Meetings and Participation

MOGG convenes twice annually:

- A shorter spring virtual meeting
- A fall in-person meeting held at WHOI or a partner location

Members are encouraged to:

- Attend both annual meetings
- Provide ad hoc input via email or phone as needed
- Participate in short surveys or document reviews when requested

Roles and Responsibilities

MOGG members:

- Advise WHOI Sea Grant on strategic directions, priorities, and partnerships
- Share insights on emerging coastal and marine issues
- Support WHOI Sea Grant's outreach, communication, and engagement efforts
- Serve as ambassadors, connecting WHOI Sea Grant with broader communities

- May be invited to assist with specific tasks such as evaluating proposals or providing input on a particular issue area

Onboarding and Support

New members receive an orientation packet with:

- WHOI Sea Grant's strategic plan and program overview
- Current roster of MOGG members
- Meeting schedule and logistics

New members who are less familiar with the program are also encouraged to participate in an informal orientation meeting (virtual or in person) with WHOI Sea Grant staff to learn more about the program's goals, structure, and current initiatives, and to ask questions prior to their first MOGG meeting.

WHOI Sea Grant staff are available to support member participation throughout their term.