

TAMU-G-96-002 C2



Sea Grant  
Texas A&M University

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Sea Grant  
Answers  
Your  
Questions

## ***What is the National Sea Grant Program?***



Sea Grant was created by Congress in 1966 under federal law (PL 89-688) and modeled after the successful Land Grant College concept enacted by Congress in 1863, "to provide education and disseminate research for the common man." The basic Land Grant concept was applied when Sea Grant was authorized, although while Land Grant focuses on agriculture, Sea Grant places its emphasis on coastal and marine issues. Sea Grant is a partnership consisting of academia, government and industry. The program operates through a university-based network of approximately 300 institutions to meet environmental and economic needs in the coastal and marine waters of the nation.

## ***What is the mission of the program?***



Sea Grant promotes and sponsors research, education and outreach programs aimed at the wise utilization and conservation of the nation's coastal and marine resources in order to develop and maintain a sustainable economy and a healthy environment.

## ***How does the Texas Sea Grant Program operate?***

The Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program operates in the same manner as the other 28 programs, which represent all coastal states and Hawaii, the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and those states bordering the Great Lakes. Our program is housed at Texas A&M University, but works with academic institutions, agencies and industries throughout the state. The program involves marine-related research, marine advisory services and communications. It operates in two-

year funding cycles with core support from the federal government through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and matching support from the Texas Legislature.

## ***How are research priorities set and funds allocated?***



Research priorities are established with input from an Agency and Academic Advisory Committee, an Industry Advisory Committee, and a Marine Extension Advisory Committee. Each committee examines the state's research, education and outreach needs relative to the coastal and marine environment and establishes a prioritized list. Items on the lists involve researchable questions or address researchable problems that satisfy a public need; thus, the research is generally problem-oriented. The priority lists from the three committees are then compared and programmatic goals are established. Requests for Proposals are prepared and distributed to academic researchers throughout the state. Those who feel that their research interests mesh with the goals of the Sea Grant program are invited to submit brief preproposals. Each undergoes peer evaluation to determine if it addresses a priority area and is scientifically rigorous.

Authors of qualifying preproposals are asked to submit full proposals. Each full proposal is reviewed by several (usually six) experts in a specific research area and the proposals are then ranked for inclusion in the final Omnibus Proposal. Funding recommendations are based on the merit ranking.

## ***What process is used to establish budgets for the other Texas Sea Grant activities?***

The Marine Advisory Service, Marine Information Service and Sea Grant Administration also submit proposed budgets that are incorporated into the Omnibus Proposal. The Marine Advisory Service is involved in educational programs, workshops, demonstrations and related activities, while the Marine Information Service

produces publications and news releases on Sea Grant and related activities. The Administration coordinates all activities involved in proposal development, fiscal management and supervision of Sea Grant personnel.

***What are the research and advisory priorities of the Texas Sea Grant program?***



Currently, the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program supports projects in aquaculture, biotechnology, environmental studies, fisheries, marine education, marine business, seafood science and technology, and sociological, economic, legal and policy studies. Specific activities within each program area change from one funding cycle to the next, but these basic subject areas should remain focal points for the program in the future.

***Is funding in addition to that from state and federal government ever obtained by the Texas Sea Grant program?***



Yes. Most of the problems that researchers as well as marine advisory agents and specialists work on require more resources than are available from the core grant. Additional resources, both monetary and through the provision of goods or services (e.g., boat time for fisheries specialists) are frequently obtained from agencies, foundations and industry. In addition, Sea Grant investigators, agents and specialists are encouraged to develop interdisciplinary teams and to meld resources as a means of enhancing the quality and productivity of their programs.

***Who are the clientele served by Sea Grant?***

The Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program serves a diverse array of clients. Examples include federal, state

and local governments and agencies; environmental and industry trade organizations; institutions of higher education; K-12 teachers and students; numerous special interest groups involved with coastal issues; 4-H groups; tourists; senior citizens; and the general public.

*How many  
people does Sea  
Grant serve?*



Because of diversity within the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program, precise figures are not available. Sea Grant activities range from individual contacts, service on committees, presentations to a variety of groups, and the production and distribution of publications. Sea Grant's internal database has documented that more than 30,000 individuals are directly reached each year through more than 300 presentations, workshops, field trips, demonstration projects and seminars. The number reached through news releases, publications, meeting participation and trade shows, if known, would certainly increase the number of individuals reached by several-fold.

*What is the average annual budget for  
Sea Grant?*

Funding for the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program varies from year to year, but the following breakdown is reflective of the annual pattern: Federal (NOAA), \$1,550,000; State (Legislative appropriations), \$425,000; Texas A&M University match (staff salaries) \$225,000. Of the \$2,200,000 annual total, approximately 50 percent is expended on research and demonstration projects and the remainder is expended for staff salaries, benefits, travel, publications, communications, and other administrative and advisory activities.

*Does Sea Grant receive additional funding as a result of the annual state appropriation from the Texas Legislature?*

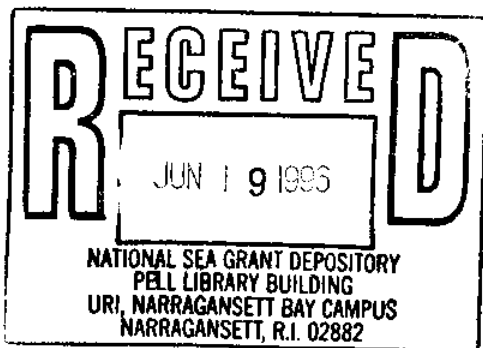


Yes. For the past 11 years, the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program has obtained an average of seven dollars of federal and additional support funding for every state appropriated dollar. Sources of the non-legislative funding include federal appropriations, matching funds and grants.

*How can I obtain additional information on the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program.*

You can call us at (409) 845-3854, fax us at (409) 845-7525, e-mail at [dherman@tam2000.tamu.edu](mailto:dherman@tam2000.tamu.edu) or mail your requests or questions to:

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