

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2020

Chairman José Serrano  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Robert Aderholt  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge your support for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program and Sea Grant Aquaculture — programs critically important to shoreline states throughout the country.

Across the nation, thirty-four state level programs participate in the National Sea Grant Program—a federal-state partnership which provides critical services to a wide range of constituents in every coastal and Great Lakes state, and U.S. territories. Sea Grant contributes to making coastal communities more resilient while also aiding our aquaculture industries in navigating federal and state regulations. In this sense, Sea Grant serves as the coastal, marine-based equivalent of Agriculture Extension programs.

With imported seafood making up 90% of American seafood consumption, our nation should be focusing on programs to expand and improve our domestic aquaculture industry. Sea Grant is a program that does just that—helping fishermen and shellfish farmers navigate a complex patchwork of state and federal coastal zone management regulations through technical assistance. Sea Grant works with local producers to grow and sustain their business models while connecting them to local resources to share best practices.

The economic impact of the Sea Grant Program highlights the benefit of this federal investment. According to the 2018 performance metrics of the program, Sea Grant contributed to creating and sustaining approximately 8000 jobs and provided assistance to over 23,000 fishermen. On top of job creation and technical assistance, Sea Grant helped restore over 200,000 acres of coastal ecosystems. Further, the program generated an estimated \$624 million in economic development—nearly half of our nation's \$1.2 billion aquaculture economy.

The National Sea Grant Program is a known job creator that is highly leveraged to maximize the effectiveness of federal investment. This program serves as the primary resource for our coastal small businesses and fishing communities. We urge you to continue your support for this important program.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LEE M. ZELDIN  
Member of Congress

Additional Signers:

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.	Denny Heck	Stacey E. Plaskett
Nanette Diaz Barragán	Brian Higgins	Katie Porter
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.	James A. Himes	Bill Posey
Gus Bilirakis	Sheila Jackson Lee	Ayanna Pressley
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.	William R. Keating	Jamie Raskin
Earl Blumenauer	Daniel T. Kildee	Kathleen M. Rice
Lisa Blunt Rochester	Ron Kind	Cedric L. Richmond
Anthony Brindisi	Peter T. King	Francis Rooney
G. K. Butterfield	Rick Larsen	David Rouzer
Buddy Carter	John B. Larson	Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Sean Casten	Al Lawson	John P. Sarbanes
Kathy Castor	Andy Levin	Kim Schrier, M.D.
David N. Cicilline	Alan Lowenthal	David Scott
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.	Tom Malinowski	Donna E. Shalala
Gerald E. Connolly	Carolyn B. Maloney	Albio Sires
Joe Cunningham	Brian Mast	Elissa Slotkin
Susan A. Davis	Lucy McBath	Christopher H. Smith
Peter DeFazio	A. Donald McEachin	Adam Smith
Rosa L. DeLauro	Gwen Moore	Darren Soto
Suzan K. DelBene	Joseph D. Morelle	Jackie Speier
Antonio R. Delgado	Seth Moulton	Pete Stauber
Mark DeSaulnier	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell	Haley M. Stevens
Debbie Dingell	Stephanie Murphy	Steve Stivers
Adriano Espaillat	Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.	Thomas R. Suozzi
Tulsi Gabbard	Jerrold Nadler	Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Mike Gallagher	Jimmy Panetta	Paul D. Tonko
Jesús G. “Chuy” García	Chris Pappas	Juan Vargas
Jared Golden	Bill Pascrell, Jr.	Nydia M. Velázquez
Jenniffer González-Colón	Donald M. Payne, Jr.	Peter Welch
Josh Gottheimer	Scott H. Peters	Jennifer Wexton
Alcee L. Hastings	Dean Phillips	Rob Wittman
Jahana Hayes	Chellie Pingree	Ted S. Yoho