

At the Heart of the Great Lakes



At a Glance:

- Facilitates an understanding of and appreciation for the Great Lakes
- Builds resource partnerships
- Supports business and coastal communities
- Develops Great Lakes educational materials
- Funds Great Lakes research

Surrounded by four of the five Great Lakes, Michigan is at the heart of the largest surface fresh water system on earth. Through research, education and outreach, Michigan Sea Grant is dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes and coastal resources.

MICHIGAN: A SPECIAL PLACE

Water is what makes Michigan a special place, with more than 3,288 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers. The Great Lakes are not just a “local” issue. With about one-fifth of the world’s fresh surface water supply, and nine-tenths of the U.S. supply, responsible use of the Great Lakes is in the best interest of Michigan, the Great Lakes region, the country and the world.

WHO WE ARE

Michigan Sea Grant, a cooperative program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, is part of the National Sea Grant College Program. The network of 32 university-based Sea Grant programs in coastal states across the country is administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Federal funds are matched with funds from state, tribal, business and other non-federal sources to carry out the programs.

Michigan Sea Grant educators, researchers and other specialists provide information about Michigan’s coastal areas to residents,

educators and stakeholders through publications, websites, displays, special projects, workshops and presentations. Also, Michigan Sea Grant extension educators live and work in coastal communities around the state.

WHAT WE DO

Our programs promote better understanding, conservation and use of Michigan’s coastal resources. Michigan Sea Grant funds integrated research projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of Great Lakes resources. Free publications include fact sheets, reports, articles and other documents available to download. The online bookstore offers affordable publications, with discounts offered to partners, educators and others.

RESEARCHING CURRENT COASTAL ISSUES

The Michigan Sea Grant research program brings together natural sciences, social sciences, decision makers and stakeholders to address Michigan’s challenging coastal issues. The most pressing coastal resource issues define our research agenda.

Outreach professionals and partners in local, state, federal and tribal governments help to identify these key issues. Research projects are funded through a competitive, peer-reviewed process, with a biennial call for proposals.

Sea Grant supports each research project by connecting scientists with stakeholders, including policy-makers and citizens. These partnerships support the researchers by ensuring that data and feedback are gathered directly from stakeholders.

The process of engaging decision makers, community members, and the media requires time and specialized skills. Sea Grant outreach professionals – with established community connections – facilitate collaborative relationships between researchers and stakeholders. Communications and extension specialists also help ensure that project information is framed and communicated in a way that best informs decision-making.

- More information about the research program: www.miseagrants.umich.edu/research

EXPLORING THE GREAT LAKES – EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

From hands-on K-12 cruises and camps, to free, online curriculum aligned to content expectations, Michigan Sea Grant offers programs and materials that enhance science education and encourage stewardship.

Supporting the Next Generation of Citizens and Scientists

The Sea Grant education team supports Michigan's formal and non-formal educators by helping youth and adults gain knowledge of and appreciation for the Great Lakes and the oceans. Learning more about Michigan's coastal and Great Lakes issues is the first step in becoming a Michigan coastal steward.

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Opportunities

Sea Grant offers several fellowships for students who are looking for an opportunity to learn more about coastal, Great Lakes and marine issues and a chance to apply academic training in ecology, natural resources, policy or law to real-world issues.

- Explore education programs, fellowships, curriculum and classroom materials online: www.miseagrant.umich.edu/education

Online Bookstore

High-quality, low-cost classroom materials are available for educators, enabling them to display colorful posters on their classroom walls and add great resource publications to their shelves. Sea Grant supports secure online ordering via the website and offers educator discounts.

- Browse the Michigan Sea Grant bookstore: www.miseagrant.com

Sea Grant Program Facts:

- The Michigan Sea Grant College Program was established in 1969.
- Michigan Sea Grant has published the program's newsletter, *Upwellings*, since 1976.
- The program has funded more than \$66 million in research, outreach and education projects.
- Research proposals are selected for funding through a competitive, peer-reviewed process every two years. All accredited university researchers in the state of Michigan are encouraged to apply.



GETTING THE WORD OUT

Sea Grant outreach specialists facilitate connections between coastal industries, businesses and communities, with Michigan universities, government and other resources. Our quarterly newsletter, *Upwellings*, provides science-based information and links to resources about a variety of Great Lakes issues of concern, such as beach health and water quality, tourism, boating and marinas, invasive species, fisheries management and more.

- *Upwellings* online: www.miseagrant.umich.edu/upwellings

SUPPORTING COASTAL BUSINESSES

Michigan Sea Grant works with businesses and industries throughout the state to help foster sustainable economic growth. Coastal communities and businesses face challenges that are often unique to their regions. Projects and programs focused on supporting businesses in Michigan include:

- Michigan Clean Marina Program promotes cleaner options: www.michigancleanmarina.org
- Whitefish marketing boosts a native species: www.greatlakeswhitefish.com
- Marsh restoration supports boating and recreation: www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ais/marsh-restoration.html
- Coastwatch data assists charter captains and biologists: www.coastwatch.msu.edu
- Discover Northeast Michigan highlights coastal business opportunities: www.discovernortheastmichigan.com

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(586) 469-7431

Southwest:

(616) 846-8250

Upper Peninsula:

(906) 226-3687

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Michigan Sea Grant enhances the sustainability of Michigan's coastal communities, residents, and businesses through research, outreach and education.

www.miseagrant.umich.edu
www.umich.edu
www.msue.msu.edu
www.noaa.gov