



About Pennsylvania Sea Grant

FACT SHEET

Pennsylvania Sea Grant, as part of the National Sea Grant Program, promotes efforts to improve the environmental and economic health of Pennsylvania's coastlines.

Focusing on the Lake Erie and Delaware River watersheds, Pennsylvania Sea Grant works to increase public awareness of coastal environmental and economic issues through extension, communication, applied research, and education activities.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) administers the National Sea Grant College Program. Pennsylvania Sea Grant is also supported by the Pennsylvania State University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant
Penn State Erie
5091 Station Road
Erie, PA 16563
Tel. 814-898-6420
Fax 814-898-6462

Delaware Estuary Office
1450 Edgmont Avenue
Suite 150
Chester, PA 19013-3934
Tel. 215-806-0894
Fax 501-637-2923



www.pserie.psu.edu/seagrant

In March 1998, a Pennsylvania Sea Grant outreach program was established in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania's program is part of the National Sea Grant Network that was established in 1966 and has grown to include thirty Sea Grant Colleges involving hundreds of universities nationwide. The mission of Sea Grant is to promote wise stewardship of coastal resources, including ocean and Great Lake regions. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce administers Sea Grant.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of Pennsylvania Sea Grant is to increase public awareness of and solutions to environmental and economic coastal-related issues through extension, education, applied research, and communications outreach, thereby improving the overall environmental and economic "health" of the Commonwealth's coastal regions.

Primary objectives include:

- Enhance coastal recreation, tourism, land-use practices, and appropriate development.
- Serve as a conduit for information and services available through NOAA and other sponsoring agencies and organizations.
- Improve the understanding of the importance of the Commonwealth's coastlines among the K-12 audience.
- Support staff extension activities through applied research.
- Promote Sea Grant through the development of a comprehensive communication program.
- Augment staff extension activities through the facilitation of collaboration with other coastal-related agencies and organizations.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The geographic focus consists of two major Pennsylvania watersheds:

- The Lake Erie watershed, including Presque Isle, Presque Isle Bay, Lake Erie, and the upland areas of the watershed. This region incorporates sixty-three miles of coastline that includes Presque Isle State Park.
- The Pennsylvania portion of the Delaware Estuary and the drainage area of the Schuylkill River, including the fifty-seven-mile stretch of coastline that lies within three counties: Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement the goal and primary objectives of Pennsylvania Sea Grant, programming is focused in four broad areas:

Education - *Develop coastal- and watershed- related programming, primarily targeting the K-12 audience.*

Selected activities include:

Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity university.

- support of the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, an experiential environmental program that incorporates boat building, sailing, and the award-winning *Environmental Rediscoveries* curriculum;
- support of Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force, a student-centered program that promotes community-based environmental problem solving;
- creation of environmental education curricula that incorporate programming unique to the Great Lakes and Delaware Estuary , including a seafood safety program – *Seafood Sense*.

Extension – *Develop and address priority coastal issues in conjunction with regional advisory councils.*

Selected activities include:

- efforts to create awareness of aquatic nuisance species and their impacts, including the establishment of a Flathead Catfish Research and Outreach Consortium;
- active membership in coastal-related organizations;
- study of brown bullheads and native species as part of the Presque Isle Bay Area of Concern;
- an avian botulism monitoring, outreach, and research program;
- nonpoint source pollution programming, including the addition of a Nonpoint Education for Municipal Employees (NEMO) program in the Lake Erie watershed;
- seafood safety initiatives, including translation and dissemination of fish consumption advisories in multiple languages and a fish consumption creel survey;
- a series of land-use activities, including protection of biodiverse coastal lands and seeking of Scenic Byway designation for Pennsylvania’s Seaway Trail.

Applied Research – *Develop and support small, applied research programs that support extension activities.*

Research thrust areas include:

- aquatic nuisance species;
- native and endangered species;
- water quality.

Communications – *Develop outlets for dissemination of extension, education, and applied research.*

Selected activities include:

- a Pennsylvania Sea Grant Web site;
- a quarterly newsletter, *Keystone Shorelines*;
- fact sheets on important issues, such as aquatic nuisance species, living along the coastline, and fish habitat structures;
- involvement in coastal events, including Coast Day in the Delaware Estuary watershed and Coastal Connections in the Lake Erie watershed.

For further information, contact Pennsylvania Sea Grant at either location:

Lake Erie Office
 Penn State Erie
 5091 Station Road
 Erie, PA 16563-0500
 Phone: (814) 898-6420
 Fax: (814) 898-6462
 E-mail: sdr138@psu.edu

Delaware Estuary Office
 1450 Edgmont Avenue
 Suite 150
 Chester, PA 19013-3934
 Phone: (215) 806-0894
 Fax: (501) 637-2923
 E-mail: amf12@psu.edu

www.pserie.psu.edu/seagrant