



Science Serving the Shore Connecticut Sea Grant Extension

Sea Grant Extension connects science with action to protect Connecticut’s coast. From restoring habitats and supporting aquaculture to building resilient communities and training the next generation, we deliver solutions that strengthen our coastal ecosystems and economies. Connecticut Sea Grant Extension professionals connect coastal communities with research-based education, facilitating collaborative efforts to sustain marine ecosystems and the coastal economies. The Sea Grant network consists of a federal/university partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

COMMUNITY IMPACTS



2.4k

youth & adults in nonformal education programs



650

participants at resilience-related presentations



282

people undertaking environmental actions through Extension programs



42

acres of coastal habitat & shellfish beds enhanced, restored, or upgraded

BY THE NUMBERS



33

industry members trained in shellfish farming & safe seafood handling



8

tools developed or adapted to facilitate better habitat & species management



7

tools & technologies to support the fishing & aquaculture industries



5

training courses supporting workforce development



The Foundations of Shellfish Farming class is incredibly important to ensuring growth and support for the future of aquaculture in Connecticut. The shellfish farming community we created is something I will continue to use as a resource in the years ahead!”

Course Participant



PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDE

- **Healthy Coastal Ecosystems:** Science-based projects and partnerships protect and restore coastal habitats, improve water quality, and support the long-term health of Long Island Sound.
- **Living Shorelines:** Supports communities with technical assistance and demonstration projects that use plants, sediment, and natural materials to reduce erosion, enhance habitat, and build coastal resilience.
- **Resilient Communities and Economies:** Communities receive tools, guidance, and research-driven support to reduce coastal risks, adapt to changing conditions, and foster sustainable economic growth.
- **Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries:** Collaborative research and extension efforts advance sustainable aquaculture practices, enhance fisheries management, and help maintain healthy ecosystems and thriving coastal industries.
- **Foundations of Shellfish Farming:** Provides new and prospective growers with practical, hands-on training in shellfish biology, permitting, site selection, and farm operations to successfully enter Connecticut’s aquaculture industry.
- **Seaweed Mobile Lab:** Provides capacity for demonstration and training in seaweed nursery production and research applications.
- **Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development:** Education, training, and outreach build ocean literacy, strengthen community engagement, and prepare a skilled workforce for Connecticut’s blue economy.

A partnership between UConn and NOAA.

Collaborators: Shellfish and Fish Farmers, Formal and Non-Formal Educators, Connecticut Residents and Visitors, Municipal Officials, Recreational Shellfishers, Kelp Growers, Researchers, Land Trust Volunteers, Students, Commercial Fishers, Artists, and many more.



Learn more and get involved at:
seagrant.uconn.edu

(9-2025) Data is based on 2024 program information. The University of Connecticut complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Extension program participants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations to address limitations resulting from a disability. For more information, please contact the UConn Extension Civil Rights Liaison at extensioncivilrights@uconn.edu.