

# Louisiana Sea Grant

For more than 40 years, Louisiana Sea Grant has fostered fundamental knowledge, technology, trained personnel and public awareness to advance the sustainable use of the state's coastal and marine resources and environment. By engaging university-based expertise in natural and social sciences, engineering, law and other disciplines, Sea Grant addresses the needs of public agencies, businesses and Louisiana's citizenry.

At any given time, Louisiana Sea Grant manages or participates in more than 50 projects. The program's activities embrace four main focus areas, as many as 14 academic institutions, 19 coastal zone parishes, and numerous partners in state and federal government, in addition to the private sector.

## Research

Louisiana Sea Grant-sponsored research has identified the bottlenecks in establishing aquaculture for Gulf killifish, a popular recreational baitfish, opening commercial production opportunities. LSU AgCenter researcher Christopher Green (right), a principal investigator on the project, examines larval Gulf killifish, also known as cocahoe minnows.



Off-bottom and other alternative culture techniques are being refined at Louisiana Sea Grant's oyster hatchery and research facility on Grand Isle. Off-bottom culture allows oyster growers to harvest more of the seed they plant compared with traditional reef methods, resulting in greater yields. LSG oyster specialist John Supan (left) works with the mesh bags used for long-line oyster culture.

Louisiana Sea Grant Executive Director Robert Twilley (standing) is co-principal investigator on a project developing more accurate hurricane storm surge forecasts. Those forecasts are made available to emergency management officials through the project's Coastal Emergency Risks Assessment (CERA) interactive website to help protect lives and property.



# Outreach

Sea Grant extension professionals serve the state's coastal residents – about 70 percent of Louisiana's population. Extension agents and specialists, many of whom live in coastal communities, connect residents to university-based research in such areas as natural fisheries, seafood production and processing, and coastal and wetland management.



Outreach efforts have aided shrimpers' pocketbooks across the state by providing fishermen with the resources to market part of their fresh catch directly to the public via the Internet. That Sea Grant project, called Louisiana Direct Seafood, evolved from a local extension effort in Delcambre. LSG also provides commercial fishermen with training on better handling practices to improve seafood quality.



Louisiana Sea Grant's Law & Policy Program provides timely and relevant legal information and services to users of the state's coastal lands and waters, including state and local governments, businesses, commercial and recreational fishers, NGOs and the public. Sea Grant legal was instrumental in drafting legislation that allows off-bottom oyster culture and navigating other obstacles to bivalve aquaculture.

# Education

Protecting homes, businesses and lives from coastal flooding requires information. Levee elevations, flood depths and other data collected by Louisiana Sea Grant are incorporated into programs like *The Next Storm Surge*, which makes coastal residents, businesses and government officials aware of their risks.



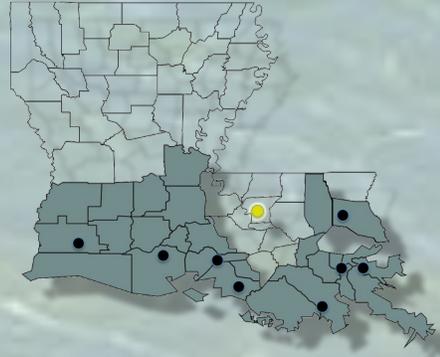
Louisiana Sea Grant impacts tens of thousands of kindergarten through high school students each year both in and outside the classroom. Annually, more than 2,000 young people in grades K-8 participate in Ocean Commotion – a hands-on coastal stewardship fair hosted by Sea Grant where children learn about everything from water safety to coastal ecosystems. An elementary school student (left) learns about shrimping while experiencing the trawl crawl.

Louisiana Sea Grant-funded research supports as many as 20 graduate students and up to 100 undergraduate students annually. Since 1971, LSG has invested in more than 800 graduate students – including law students. Additionally, LSG's Undergraduate Students Research Opportunities Program (UROP) allows undergrad students across the state to expand their horizons through their own hands-on research.



# Louisiana Sea Grant

Engaging university-based expertise in natural and social sciences, engineering, law and other disciplines, Louisiana Sea Grant fulfills the need for fundamental knowledge, technological development, trained personnel and public awareness to advance the sustainable use of the state's coastal and marine resources.



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## Research

With partners, Louisiana Sea Grant resource economists developed a tool to measure the cost efficiency of coastal restoration plans over a project's lifetime. The decision-making tool will help with selecting restoration projects.



Photo courtesy TaxCredits.net

Louisiana Sea Grant researchers are developing a new, lower-cost bait made from shrimp waste to bolster the state's commercial blue crab industry. More than 24 thousand metric tons of blue crab were harvested in Louisiana in 2012 with an economic value of more than \$52 million.



Louisiana Sea Grant-funded researcher Alex Kolker (LUMCON) is aiding in the state's understanding of how to restore the coastal zone in a way that also improves water quality. His work has identified a timing schedule by which river diversions can be operated.



Photo courtesy NASA

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Resilient Communities & Economies



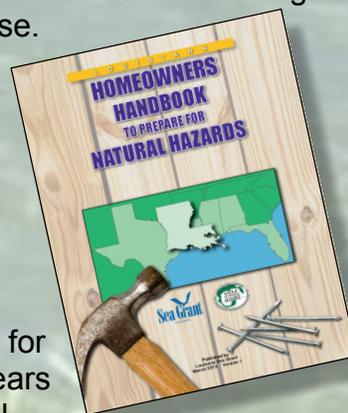
# Outreach

The state's Disaster Mortuary Response Team used Louisiana Sea Grant researchers' geospatial cemetery data in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes to restore graves disturbed by Hurricane Isaac. Since 2011, Sea Grant has collected GIS data on coastal cemeteries that are vulnerable to coastal erosion, sea level rise and tropical storms.



More than 1,500 fishermen and other seafood industry personnel attended Sea Grant-sponsored workshops and seminars to learn about improving seafood quality and commercial fishing profitability. Workshops were held in various locations – Delcambre, Dulac, Venice, Cameron and Lacombe, to name a few – as well as conducted in English and Vietnamese.

Louisiana Sea Grant's Law & Policy Program composed and published the *Louisiana Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*. More than 6,500 copies were distributed, through May 2014.



# Education



Each summer – for more than 20 years – 65 high school youth from different parishes across the state participate in Marsh Maneuvers. During the week-long residential camp, the students experience the coastal environment, learn about natural resources, help re-vegetate a marsh, and learn how the state's wetlands affects their lives.

Louisiana Sea Grant provides teachers with needed professional development on wetlands and other topics that affect our environment and that are relevant to K-12 students.



Photo courtesy NOAA

Louisiana Sea Grant's award-winning vessel encroachment practices plan helps ensure diver safety by teaching dive boat captains and commercial and recreational fishermen how to communicate with each other when a diver is in the water.

# Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program

The Sea Grant Law & Policy Program (SGLPP) has been a component of the Marine Advisory Services of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program for nearly 40 years. The mission of the SGLPP is to provide timely and relevant legal information and services for the many users of Louisiana's coastal lands and waters, including state and local governments, coastal business, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, non-governmental organizations and the general public. Legal advisory services are performed by in-house attorneys and a staff of legal interns. This document answers frequently asked questions about legal intern opportunities.

## What is a Sea Grant Legal Intern?

Sea Grant Legal Interns are second and third year law students who serve as research assistants to the staff attorneys.

## What kind of projects will I work on?

Research projects cover a wide range of topics and come from a variety of sources. All projects will involve legal issues that affect one or more of our four focus areas: healthy ecosystems and habitats, resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and education and workforce development.

Research topics are gathered from discussions with our Legal Advisory Board; questions presented by members of the Marine Extension Service; and issues faced by local governments, state governmental departments (such as the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources), non-governmental organizations, and coastal businesses and residents.

Research projects also vary in the amount of work required to complete them. Some projects can be completed in a few weeks, while others can take a semester or longer.

## How do I apply?

In general, new legal interns begin after the conclusion of the spring semester. However, depending on when openings become available, we do hire throughout the year.

If you are a 1L at Louisiana State University Law Center, you will have an opportunity to apply through the On Campus Interview process held during the spring semester. If you are a 2L or 3L at LSU, or a student at another university, please contact Melissa Daigle directly at [mtros2@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:mtros2@tigers.lsu.edu) anytime throughout the year.



## Do I need prior experience or a certain educational background?

Prior experience is not required, though advanced writing skills and Westlaw or Lexis training is recommended.

Additionally, our legal interns have had a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees; a specific educational background is not required. We also give preference to those who have an interest in our focus areas.

## Will I get paid?

Yes, our legal interns earn \$15/hour.

## Can I earn course credit in lieu of being paid?

Yes, course credit is available. Please contact Melissa Daigle for more information.

## How many hours a week will I work?

Our legal interns can work up to 20 hours a week.

## Where will I work?

Our offices are located in the Sea Grant Building on Louisiana State University's Baton Rouge campus, behind the Campus Federal Credit Union. Legal interns are provided with office space in the building.

## Will I have an opportunity to publish my research?

Some of the research projects completed by legal interns will be turned into articles for publication in our *Louisiana Coastal Law* newsletter.

Additionally, some students have written law review articles based on their work at the SGLPP, either from a topic of our choosing or the student's (as long as it relates to the mission of the SGLPP).

## Will I have the opportunity to travel?

The issues researched by the SGLPP often have implications relative to a specific geographic area of the state. Such research may require travel to these areas. Additionally, interns are often invited to and encouraged to attend related meetings in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, or other cities across coastal Louisiana.

## Will I have the opportunity for outreach work/development of presentation skills?

Some research projects result in presentations rather than formal memorandum or articles, and interns can be given the opportunity to give the presentations. Additionally, interns are encouraged to attend and present at professional conferences.

## Where can I learn more about Sea Grant?

Louisiana Sea Grant - [www.laseagrant.org](http://www.laseagrant.org)

Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program - [www.lsu.edu/sglegal/](http://www.lsu.edu/sglegal/)

National Sea Grant Office - <http://seagrant.noaa.gov>



**Legal interns have the opportunity to travel during their time with Louisiana Sea Grant. Above, interns participated in a coastal restoration outreach project on Grand Isle.**