

# OHIO SEA GRANT

## In the Last Five Years

Sparks **\$2 Million** annually in charter captain industry profit

Restored **2,181 acres** of degraded ecosystems worth more than \$12 Million

**\$1** Federal support = **\$3** State support

**\$13** in economic benefit to local communities for every federal dollar invested

**\$15.6** Million averaged annually in economic impacts

**125,000** K-12, college and adult students learned about Lake Erie through Stone Lab programs

**400 TEACHERS** educated each year, bringing Stone Lab science into their classroom

Supports the **\$14.1 Billion Lake Erie tourism industry**  
**EMPLOYING 123,880 PEOPLE**

**227 agency and industry personnel** trained to identify harmful algal blooms and treat their toxins

**40,000 professionals** educated and trained to help them advance their careers or keep their jobs

On average annually **76 businesses retained**  
17 jobs created  
**387 JOBS RETAINED**

**161 COMMUNITIES** empowered through training and tools to protect themselves from storm floods and other coastal hazards

Mobilized **9,171 HOURS** of volunteer time valued at \$210,933

**175 Partners** dedicated to help expand Ohio Sea Grant's impact in Ohio



The Ohio Sea Grant College Program is part of NOAA Sea Grant, a network of 33 Sea Grant programs dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of marine and Great Lakes resources.

[ohioseagrant.osu.edu](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu)



# 50 Years of Meaningful Impacts

In 2016, Sea Grant celebrated 50 years of using research, outreach and education to impact coastal communities. Sea Grant's work encompasses diverse issues relevant to local, regional and national priorities, including healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies and environmental literacy and workforce development. Ohio Sea Grant and its education and research facility Stone Laboratory continue to broaden their reach across the state. Some of the program's initiatives to strengthen Ohio's coastal communities are highlighted below.

## Protecting Drinking Water for Ohio Residents

In 2014, a harmful algal bloom left 500,000 residents in Toledo without drinking water. Ohio Sea Grant was one of the first to respond, performing testing for water treatment plants and supporting city officials managing the problem. Today, Ohio Sea Grant researchers are developing new ways to keep algal toxins out of drinking water, from early warning systems when blooms approach water intakes to new treatment methods that save cities money. A Stone Lab workshop on algal blooms has trained 227 people over the past five years, including a water treatment plant operator in Norwalk, who identified a harmful algal bloom in their reservoir and averted what could have been a serious problem.

## Teaching a New Generation of Lake Erie Protectors

Knowledge about natural resources and their effects on everyday life is essential to understanding and protecting them. Over the past five years, 125,000 students, from middle schoolers to adults, have learned about Lake Erie from Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab staff through field trips, workshops, college courses, outreach events and classroom activities. Along with fostering a wider appreciation for Lake Erie's importance to Ohio and the region, these students have gone on to work for state and federal agencies, started their own businesses, or attended graduate school to continue to spread a love of nature and science to future generations.

## Cleaning up Lake Erie's Polluted Tributary

Hazardous waste polluted the lower two miles of the Ashtabula River so badly that it was designated a federal Area of Concern in 1987. As a founding member of the Ashtabula River Partnership in 1994, Ohio Sea Grant worked with partners to help secure funding for the project, which removed 635,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the river and placed the dirt in a specially designed landfill. Today, this important Lake Erie tributary is a clean, delisted Area of Concern, flourishing with increased commercial shipping and new tourism business opportunities for the region.

## Training Charter Captains to Grow Their Businesses

Lake Erie's sport fishing industry contributes \$1 Billion to Ohio each year, making it a vital part of the state's economy – especially along the coast where it has the greatest impact. For the last 36 years, Ohio Sea Grant has helped keep charter captains up with new fishing techniques and business practices with its annual Charter Captains Conference. More than two-thirds of these Ohio charter business owners attending this event report an increase in their bottom line due to what they learned. With 85 percent of these captains reporting they've changed their way of doing business as a result, Ohio Sea Grant is doing its part to support the annual \$10 Million charter captain industry.