

Minnesota Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Minnesota. Highlights from Minnesota Sea Grant's work in 2016 are detailed below.



Posts with rescue equipment and safety information are installed along Lake Superior's Park Point Beach near Duluth, Minnesota in a collaboration among Minnesota Sea Grant, National Weather Service, Duluth YMCA and the city of Duluth. Credit: M. Thoms/Minnesota Sea Grant

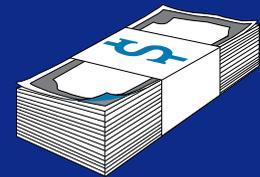
New data improves rip current forecasts and safety awareness in Great Lakes

Minnesota Sea Grant led the development of the ParkPointBeach.org website to provide accurate and timely information to the public about the conditions on Park Point Beach, Lake Superior. In 2016, real-time wave height and improved water temperature data were incorporated into the website, which contains information about hazards (rip currents, bacteria levels, UV index), water conditions and weather. The National Weather Service office in Duluth uses this real-time data to forecast the presence of rip currents and set the beach flags for the day.

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\$18.6 M

Economic benefit



16,000

K-12 students reached

7,000

Acres of coastal habitat protected, enhanced or restored



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Minnesota Sea Grant symposium advances water policy in the Great Lakes



Map of the Upper Great Lakes at the border of the U.S. and Canada.

Credit: Minnesota Sea Grant

Minnesota Sea Grant partnered with the University of Minnesota Law School to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Sea Grant Law Center to host the Upper Great Lakes Law and Policy Symposium. Minnesota Sea Grant led the planning, fundraising, communication and execution of the symposium, which attracted 120 people from the U.S. and Canada. Presentations from U.S., Canadian and indigenous perspectives about the laws and policies governing the Great Lakes led to ideas for tackling Great Lakes trans-boundary issues like climate, contaminants and water diversions.

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“The Upper Great Lakes Law and Policy Symposium was one of the best collaborations I’ve seen in my 25 years in environmental protection.”

- Mic Isham, Chairman of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species



In 2016, Minnesota Sea Grant directly reached more than 13,000 people and printed updated identification cards on 15 aquatic invasive species for distribution in Minnesota (445,000 cards in total). Sea Grant showed that 97% of Minnesota boaters and anglers report taking preventative actions to protect lakes and rivers from the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Informing the Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan



Minnesota Sea Grant led a survey of Port of Duluth-Superior landowners and businesses to better understand the barriers and opportunities related to development and restoration initiatives within the harbor. In 2016, the survey informed the formation of the Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan which identified projects, opportunities and priorities for the Port.

Educating Officials on Stormwater Management



Minnesota Sea Grant’s Watershed Game and Non-Point Education of Municipal Officials (NEMO) workshops help students, teachers, citizens and officials understand the connection between land use and water quality. In 2016, Minnesota Sea Grant reached 145 educators and professionals through our train-the-trainer workshops and these new instructors reached more than 3,500 students.