Each May, the Duluth-area River Quest brings about 1,500 sixth graders to the St. Louis River Estuary, where they learn about Minnesota’s industrial and shipping economy, the natural resources that make Minnesota unique, and how they can enjoy our resources safely.

Minnesota Sea Grant has helped organize River Quest for the past 26 years. We’ve reached more than 25,000 students on aquatic invasive species and beach safety and rip currents at our information and activity stations.

What Makes Algae Become Toxic?

Cyanobacteria blooms (CyHABs) threaten the health and recreational value of Minnesota’s lakes by causing “pea-soup” waters that can contribute to hypoxia, kill fish, and create harmful, even lethal, toxins.

Minnesota Sea Grant is actively seeking financial support to develop real-time methods to track CyHABs using satellites and rapid detection methods to determine when a CyHABs becomes toxic.

It’s important to note that some, but not all CyHABs produce toxins and then only under certain conditions. This research can help state agencies more effectively protect people and pets from exposure to CyHABs and toxic waters.
Minnesota Sea Grant Seek Your Help

The President’s FY19 budget proposal calls for the elimination of the National Sea Grant College Program. We encourage you to contact your congressional representative and ask that they support the FY19 programmatic appropriations request of $85M to continue funding for the National Sea Grant College Program. Details: www.seagrant.umn.edu/news/support

Muskies in the St. Louis Estuary

Minnesota Sea Grant funded research to understand Muskellunge behavior and genetics in the St. Louis River Estuary of Lake Superior. Loren Miller, University of Minnesota adjunct associate professor and MNDNR fisheries research scientist, discusses this research and how UMN graduate student Erin Schaeffer, pictured above, is leading the acoustic tracking fieldwork.


Oil Spill Prediction, Mitigation and Research

Minnesota Sea Grant funded research that will help manage the clean-up of oil should it spill into the Great Lakes. Lian Shen, director of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and professor of mechanical engineering, is featured in a Minnesota Sea Grant video: “Oil, Water, Wind: What if Oil Spilled into a Large Lake.”


Stormwater Management Guide

Minnesota Sea Grant is developing educational materials and hosting focus groups to gather public input toward creating a practical stormwater management guide. Minnesota communities along the North Shore have municipal initiatives to manage stormwater, but it’s not clear how private land and homeowners can be a part of coordinated community stormwater management. In addition to strengthening public understanding and involvement in North Shore community stormwater management, Minnesota Sea Grant’s work will increase public safety and reduce municipal cost reductions.

Park and Recreation Planning Resiliency Checklist

Minnesota Sea Grant is developing a resiliency checklist to ensure that climate mitigation and climate adaptation measures are included in park and recreation planning for the Duluth Parks and Recreation Department, which has extensive planning responsibilities for the area’s world-class outdoor recreation facilities. Growing concerns about climate impacts add additional layers of planning challenges and responsibilities. A resiliency checklist provides a handy tool to use to consider severe weather event preparedness, public safety, long-term cost savings, and the use of green infrastructure solutions.

Tom Beery