

Sea Grant 701 – Timeline

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| 1957 | Sputnik I, Earth's first satellite, is launched by the Russians propelling science into the midst of international policy. |
| 1958 | U.S. universities confer 2,780 doctoral degrees in the sciences, yet only 13 are marine-related. |
| 1963 | Athelstan Spilhaus first publicly suggests the Sea Grant idea during the keynote address of the 93rd annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. |
| 1966 | President Lyndon Johnson signs the bill, establishing the Sea Grant Program through The National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966. |
| 1968 | The work of Sea Grant begins as the first grants are awarded and the National Review Panel is established. |
| 1970 | Sea Grant becomes part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And The National Sea Grant Depository is established as an information center dedicated to the collection, storage, documentation, and dissemination of Sea Grant literature. |
| 1971 | Four universities are the first to achieve Sea Grant College status: Oregon State University, University of Rhode Island, Texas A & M University, and University of Washington. |
| 1972 | University of Hawaii and University of Wisconsin achieve College status. University of Southern California becomes an Institutional Program |
| 1973 | University of California achieves College status. |
| 1975 | State University of New York and Cornell University achieve College status. |
| 1976 | The National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966 is amended by the Sea Grant Improvement Act. The amendment strengthens the basic program of the original Act and codifies the National Sea Grant Review Panel. University of Delaware, State University System of Florida, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University of North Carolina achieve College status. |
| 1978 | Louisiana State University achieves College status. |
| 1979 | The Sea Grant Intern Program is initiated, allowing outstanding graduate students to spend one year in Washington, D.C., developing the skills needed for active leadership in both policy development and research in coastal and ocean sciences. |
| 1980 | University of Alaska, University of Georgia, and University of Maine/University of New Hampshire achieve College status. |
| 1982 | University of Maryland, University of Michigan/ Michigan State University, and Mississippi/ Alabama Consortium achieve College status |
| 1984 | Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium achieves College status. |
| 1985 | University of Minnesota achieves College status; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution becomes an Institutional Program. |
| 1986 | South Carolina Consortium achieves College status. |
| 1987 | National Sea Grant College Program Authorization Act of 1987 passed. The Sea Grant Intern Program was renamed the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship in honor of Dean Knauss, one of the founding fathers of Sea Grant. |
| 1988 | The Ohio State University and the University of Connecticut achieve College status. |
| 1989 | New Jersey Marine Science Consortium and University of Puerto Rico achieve College status. |
| 1991 | National Sea Grant College Program Authorization Act of 1991 passed. Administration of the Act not to exceed listed dollar amounts. |

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| 1994 | Programs were granted ability to review research proposals themselves and select the projects for funding. Program Assessment Team History: 1994 Ocean Studies Board's report "NSGO should evaluate the success of each state program on a four-year cycle, using, in part, retrospective information on recent achievements, based on measures for each of the three areas of research, education and outreach." |
| 1997 | University of Illinois/ Purdue University achieves College status. |
| 1998 | National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998 passed, including administration of Act set to 5% instead of a dollar amount. NOAA celebrates Sea Grant's 30th anniversary commemorating three decades of accomplishments in research, education, and outreach related to coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. A performance-based evaluation system is established (PAT system). Resources allocated to programs are determined in part by performance. In four years, all programs to be evaluated by a performance assessment team. National Strategic Investments introduced. |
| 1999 | Sea Grant and NOAA Fisheries established a Graduate Fellowship Program in population dynamics and marine resource economics. |
| 2002 | National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002 signed into law after unanimous passage in both houses of Congress – adding language re. a National Academy of Sciences study of the evaluation and rating system, as well as rating of programs according to their relative performance. National Sea Grant Law Center is competitively awarded. |
| 2003 | University of New Hampshire achieves College status. Second cycle of PATs begin. |
| 2004 | University of Maine achieves College status. |
| 2006 | National Research Council report on the PAT system. |
| 2008 | Pennsylvania State University becomes an Institutional Program; National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 passed changing the National Sea Grant Review Panel to the National Sea Grant Advisory Board and removed language re. rating of programs according to their relative performance. |
| 2009 | Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (PIE) System begins: First time all College Programs' Strategic Plans aligned with the National Sea Grant College Program 2009 -2013 Strategic Plan. |
| 2012 | University of Guam and Lake Champlain (University of Vermont and SUNY Plattsburgh) achieve Coherent Area Program status. |
| 2014 | 1000th Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship awarded; Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary achieves College status |
| 2016 | Pennsylvania State University achieves College status. |