Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Update

GCRC Coastal Georgia Colloquium
October 19-20, 2022

Mark Risse, Director
Major Efforts and Activities

- 50 yr Anniversary during COVID
- Strategic Planning
- New Grant Opportunities
- Focus Area Updates and Emerging Program Areas
2024-2027 Strategic Plan Underway

4-year Strategic Plan is required by the National Sea Grant Office

Our plan is designed to:

- Guide research, extension and education activities
- Align with the national plan while addressing state specific priorities
- Inform research RFPs
- Establish metrics used to evaluate goals and outcomes

The 2024-2027 Plan:

- Includes more targeted goals, strategies and outcomes to inform research RFP and programmatic efforts
- Emphasizes DEIJA principles
- Includes more accurate metrics to evaluate goals

The plan will be submitted to NSGO on Oct. 26, 2022.
National Sea Grant Funding Opportunities

Aquaculture ($15 million annually) – CLOSED
- Expect next national RFP to be targeted to Workforce Development
- Georgia Sea Grant is awarded supplemental funding for each project funded

Coastal Resilience ($125K) – CLOSED
- Will cover half of a new Coastal Resilience Coordinator position, a fellow to work with underserved audiences, and some funds for a regional workshop

Marine Debris ($10 million annually for 5 years) – CLOSED
- Challenge competition: 6 LOI’s, variety of researchers, and ideas for up to $3M each
- Community Action Coalitions: Smith proposal submitted, $300K plus Trawl to Trash with SC Sea grant

Contaminants of Emerging Concern – OPEN
- 1 LOI submitted with Georgia Southern
- Additional RFP forthcoming

U.S. Coastal Research Program Extension - CLOSED
- Submitted 5 Proposals for $400K each
- Tech bubble curtain, Bilskie marsh modeling, Resilience and equity, Living shorelines/oyster shells and SANDMATCH tool

Young Fishermen’s Development Act ($500K) – OPEN
- Two RFP’s currently out, LOIs due Dec. 1, contact Bryan Fluech (fluech@uga.edu) if interested
Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

- **Expanding classroom outreach** focused on underserved audiences and **engaging new schools in pre-K-12 programs** at the aquarium.

- **Increasing volunteer and community science** efforts (bluebird monitoring on Skidaway, Trawl to Trash marine debris cleanups)

- **Reviving Public Programs** by hiring **Austin Heil** as Public Programs Coordinator

**Anne Lindsay**  
Associate Director of Marine Education  
lindsaya@uga.edu

**Katie Higgins**  
Marine Educator and Volunteer Coordinator  
kt.higgins@uga.edu

**Austin Heil**  
Marine Educator and Public Programs Coordinator  
austin.heil@uga.edu
Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Hired Nina Sassano as internship coordinator in 2019.

- Improved onboarding process for student interns, fellows and scholars.
- Increased professional development opportunities and networking.
- Engaged 35 college students through student opportunities in 2022, nearly doubling our average annual numbers.

Nina Sassano
Marine Educator and Internship Coordinator
nina.sassano@uga.edu
Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

• Supporting sustainable aquaculture through **research** and **workforce development** is priority

• Aquaculture White Paper and Conference

• Renewing efforts to **promote shell recycling** and study **reef restoration** and **living shorelines**

• Continuing to **engage commercial shrimpers** through **oral history projects** and by providing **workforce development**

Tom Bliss  
Director of Shellfish  
lindsaya@uga.edu

Justin Manley  
Hatchery Manager  
manley@uga.edu

Bryan Fluech  
Associate Director of Extension  
fluech@uga.edu

Tori Stivers  
Seafood Specialist  
tstivers@uga.edu
Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

- Increasing applied ecological research capacity through the Coastal Ecology Lab
- Creating new green infrastructure tools and resources for coastal municipalities
- Improving stormwater management by working with residents and small businesses to install rain gardens
- Partnering with Network for Engineering with Nature
- Blue Carbon Marsh Restoration Workshop in May

Jessica Brown
Stormwater Specialist
jtrbrown@uga.edu

Kimberly Andrews
Coastal Ecology Specialist
kma77@uga.edu

gacoast.uga.edu
Resilient Communities and Economies

- Assessing economic impact of coastal industries

- Engaging military installations and surrounding communities in resilience through Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison Program

- Hiring coastal tourism faculty position – Coastal Tourism Conf next Thursday

- Posting local resilience coordinator position soon

Jill Gambill
Coastal Community Resilience Specialist
jgambill@uga.edu

Eugene Frimpong
Coastal Economic Specialist
eugene.frimpong@uga.edu

Michelle Covi
Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison
mcovi@uga.edu
Oyster Roast For a Reason
Celebrating Georgia Oysters

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 | 1 - 4 P.M.
The Bluff at the UGA Aquarium

Support UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

Enjoy Live Music

Taste Georgia's Locally Grown Oysters

Purchase Tickets
Questions?

CONNECT WITH US:

@ GACoast.UGA  @GACoast_UGA  @gacoast.uga  gacoast.uga.edu