

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant Update

GCRC Coastal Georgia Colloquium

October 19-20, 2022

Mark Risse, *Director*



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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

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Austin Heil

*Marine Educator and
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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*

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Knauss
Fellowship

Legal
Fellowship

State
Fellowship

Research
Traineeship

Marine
Education
Fellowship

Academic
and summer
internships

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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**



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*Associate Director
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Tori Stivers
Seafood Specialist

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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

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Kimberly Andrews
Coastal Ecology Specialist

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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**



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OYSTER ROAST FOR A REASON

CELEBRATING

GEORGIA OYSTERS

SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 2022 | 1 - 4 P.M.

THE BLUFF AT THE UGA AQUARIUM

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



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