Minnesota Sea Grant is one of 34 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Minnesota.

Minnesota Sea Grant created the Watershed Game for Local Leaders in Stream, River and Lake versions and has adapted the game for classroom use. Credit: Minnesota Sea Grant

Minnesota Sea Grant updates Stream, Lake, River and Classroom versions of The Watershed Game

Understanding the connection between land use, clean water and communities is vital for community leaders and citizens to make informed decisions. The Watershed Game is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connection between land use and water quality. A vast majority of participants report that the game increased their understanding about practices for clean water, roles of ordinances, need for planning and management. Minnesota Sea Grant has trained professionals across the country who use the tool to meet their programmatic goals.

watershedgame.umn.edu

$18.4 M
Economic benefit

14,300
K-12 Students reached

7,000
Acres of coastal habitat protected, enhanced or restored

Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2018 for work completed Feb 2017 to Jan 2018
Minnesota Sea Grant offers opportunities to help to Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Maria

In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused extensive damage to Puerto Rico’s coasts. Minnesota Sea Grant partnered with Puerto Rico Sea Grant to offer hands-on recovery aide through programs they developed for a recent scientific conference in Puerto Rico. Attendees at the February 2019 meeting of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography participated in educational activities and volunteer opportunities that focused on environmental and ecosystem restoration in Puerto Rico. Participants helped local organizations by recovering and reattaching coral reef fragments, assessing water quality, cleaning coastal ecosystems and planting crops at a local farm.

“I am very proud of the set of community outreach activities and deeply appreciate the response that these activities have had from [Association for Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography] members to help [Puerto Rico’s] communities and our students.”

-Áurea E. Rodriguez-Santiago, a member of the Association for Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography planning committee and Puerto Rico resident

**Minnesota Sea Grant co-organized aid efforts for coastal Metropolitan Puerto Rico. Credit: Ruperto Chaparro Serrano/Puerto Rico Sea Grant.**

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**Keeping beachgoers safe**

Information beachgoers want about weather, water conditions and hazards is often scattered among different sources. Minnesota Sea Grant and partners created ParkPointBeach.org as a one-stop site for Duluth beach information. The seven year old website is now the go-to beach information source for the community and is promoted by the City of Duluth website, local hotels and tourist organizations.

**Improving Great Lakes Literacy**

Minnesota Sea Grant co-funds Partners in Education, which benefits teachers and undergraduates while providing graduate training. Partners in Education hires one graduate student each year to generate Great Lakes literacy activities and train undergraduate volunteers to conduct activities in classrooms. They have reached 5,900 students and volunteered over 1,000 hours.

**Advancing aquaculture in cold climates**

Interest in food-fish aquaculture industry in Minnesota is growing. With increasing demand and technological advances, farmers and businesses are seeking economically and environmentally sustainable aquaculture methods. Minnesota Sea Grant’s 2017 aquaculture workshop brought together industry, regulators, and scientists for the first time to start the conversation in Minnesota.