

TWO GREAT STATES ONE GREAT LAKE

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources. We are funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University, but IISG also works with key organizations, institutions, and agencies in the Great Lakes region to multiply opportunities for success.

Through research, outreach, and education, we bring together scientists, educators, policy makers, community decision makers, residents, and others to work toward a healthy environment and economy in the southern Lake Michigan region.

Shoring up coastal resilience



Recent record high and low Lake
Michigan water levels reveal that
variability is a concern going forward—
it can lead to beach erosion and local
flooding. IISG has created resources
to connect coastal communities with
regional experts for input on management
strategies. We also funded two coastal
resilience research projects that provide
insights for managing Illinois and Indiana
beaches. We now have two experts
on staff with the goal of enhancing
community coastal hazard preparedness
along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Growing the aquaculture industry



With the US seafood trade deficit at over \$20 billion per year, IISG is making it easier for consumers to find local aquaculture producers, including with a searchable Fish Finder Map on the Eat Midwest Fish website. Plus, we are providing training to help producers process their fish, opening new market opportunities. And, in six high schools, IISG has provided equipment, guidance, and a new curriculum, to support handson aquaponics training to enhance STEM education and introduce career possibilities.

By the Numbers



\$828.3 million

in economic benefits from an \$94 million federal investment in Sea Grant in 2023



More than \$3.7 million

supporting research



at 20 institutions

in Illinois and Indiana since 2018



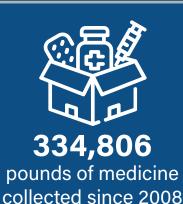
1,356teachers engaged
Great Lakes Literacy
resources



helping to reach **63,388**K-12 students since 2017



2024



Training tomorrow's workforce

IISG is helping build a community of scientists and outreach professionals focused on Lake Michigan and Great Lakes issues. Through the IISG Scholars program, 17 graduate students have received funding to further the impact of their research, plus take part in career development training. Since 2011, 54 undergrads have joined our summer intern program, working alongside IISG specialists. They learn valuable skills, get real-world experience, gather careers insights, and focus their goals.



In 2021, the cost for Great Lakes cities and towns to fix infrastructure damage due to flooding was estimated at nearly \$2 billion. Installing green infrastructure, including rain gardens, can help reduce flooding and protect water quality. IISG is providing community resources, including Illinois Groundwork, a comprehensive online toolkit for designing effective green infrastructure, the Rainscaping program that includes on-the-ground training to install rain gardens, and a hazard mitigation planning toolkit focused on green infrastructure.



Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands, but when flushed or thrown in the trash, these medicines can end up in local waterways. IISG has helped 51 communities establish takeback programs that altogether have collected nearly 335,000 pounds of medicine for proper disposal. When it comes to PFAS, our research found these "forever chemicals" in every Lake Michigan fish sampled. New Great Lakeswide PFAS research is focused on a range of social and economic issues.







