

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. 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.

IISG is funded through NOAA, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University, but we also work with key organizations, institutions, and agencies in the Great Lakes region to multiply opportunities for success.

Shoring up coastal resilience



With two experts on staff, IISG is connecting coastal communities with resources that help them address beach erosion and other pressing management challenges. We also fund coastal resilience research that provides data and guidance for managing Illinois and Indiana beaches. And, IISG works closely with local partners to improve community coastal hazard preparedness along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Growing the aquaculture industry



The US seafood trade deficit is over \$20 billion per year, so IISG is helping consumers find local seafood farmers, including via a searchable online Fish Finder Map. We also train producers in fish processing and other skills to expand marketing opportunities. And, to introduce career ideas and enhance STEM education, IISG supplies high schools with aquaponics equipment, guidance, and a curriculum.

By the Numbers 2024



\$1.59 billion

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



\$2.8 million

in leveraged funding



We've reached

**8,500 people
at 132
public or
professional
events**

By the Numbers

2024



More than
\$4.35 million
supporting research



at 8
universities
in this 4-year omnibus cycle



1.4 million
gallons of rainwater
diverted to rain gardens



346,000
pounds of medicine
collected since 2008

Training tomorrow's workforce

IISG is helping build a community of scientists and outreach professionals focused on Lake Michigan and Great Lakes issues. Through our scholars program, we've funded 32 graduate students to enhance their research, plus take part in career development training. Since 2011, 60 undergrads have joined our summer intern program, working alongside program specialists.



Planting gardens to prevent floods

Green infrastructure, including rain gardens, can help reduce flooding and protect water quality. IISG is providing community resources, including several comprehensive toolkits for designing effective green infrastructure, the Rainscaping program that includes hands-on training to install rain gardens, and soon, a new curriculum for green infrastructure maintenance.



Tackling emerging contaminants

To prevent medicine from ending up in waterways or the wrong hands, IISG has helped over 50 communities establish takeback programs that 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 Lakes-wide PFAS research is focused on social and economic issues.

