



SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

MISSION

Generate and apply science-based information on issues and opportunities to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to foster a sustainable economy and environment.

BRIEFING MATERIALS

for the
FY21-22 Budget Hearing
Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee

KEY OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. James E. Clark
Chairman, S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Board of Directors
President, South Carolina State University
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January 13, 2021



S.C. Sea Grant Consortium
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SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

AGENCY: P26



AUTHORITY

The **South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium** (www.scseagrant.org), created as an independent state agency in 1978 through Act No. 643, Code of Laws of South Carolina, is charged with managing and administering the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and similar programs for the State of South Carolina and regionally.

MISSION

“Generate and apply science-based information on issues and opportunities to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to foster a sustainable economy and environment.”

APPROACH

The Consortium develops and supports balanced and integrated research, education, and extension programs for the state that provide for future economic opportunities, improve the social well-being of its citizens, and ensure wise use and development of its marine and coastal natural resources.

ORGANIZATION

- The Consortium is a **nationally certified** Sea Grant College Program under the auspices of the National Sea Grant College Program, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Consortium member institutions are Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina State University, The Citadel, and University of South Carolina.
- The Consortium Board of Directors consists of the CEOs of the Consortium’s member institutions:
 - Mr. James E. Clark, President, South Carolina State University – *Chair*
 - Dr. James P. Clements, President, Clemson University
 - Dr. David A. DeCenzo, President, Coastal Carolina University
 - Dr. Andrew T. Hsu, President, College of Charleston
 - Dr. David J. Cole, President, Medical University of South Carolina
 - Mr. Robert H. Boyles, Jr., Director, S.C. Department of Natural Resources
 - General Glenn M. Walters, President, The Citadel
 - Dr. Harris Pastides, President Emeritus, University of South Carolina

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium generates and provides **science-based information** to ensure the wise use of coastal and marine resources.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND IMPACTS

- The Consortium’s most recent listing of 50+ programmatic **impacts and accomplishments** located at www.scseagrant.org/fy19-20-impacts span five themes:
 - Healthy coastal ecosystems
 - Sustainable coastal development and economy
 - Weather and climate resilience
 - Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
 - Scientific literacy and workforce development
- The Consortium focuses its programmatic efforts on addressing critical issues and opportunities. The Consortium’s 2018-21 **strategic plan**, titled *The Changing Face of Coastal South Carolina: Building a Resilient Future*, can be found at www.scseagrant.org/strategic-plan.
- The Consortium employs a number of **stakeholder mechanisms** to ensure that program efforts are relevant and timely, including a 30-member Program Advisory Board and seven program-specific advisory committees.

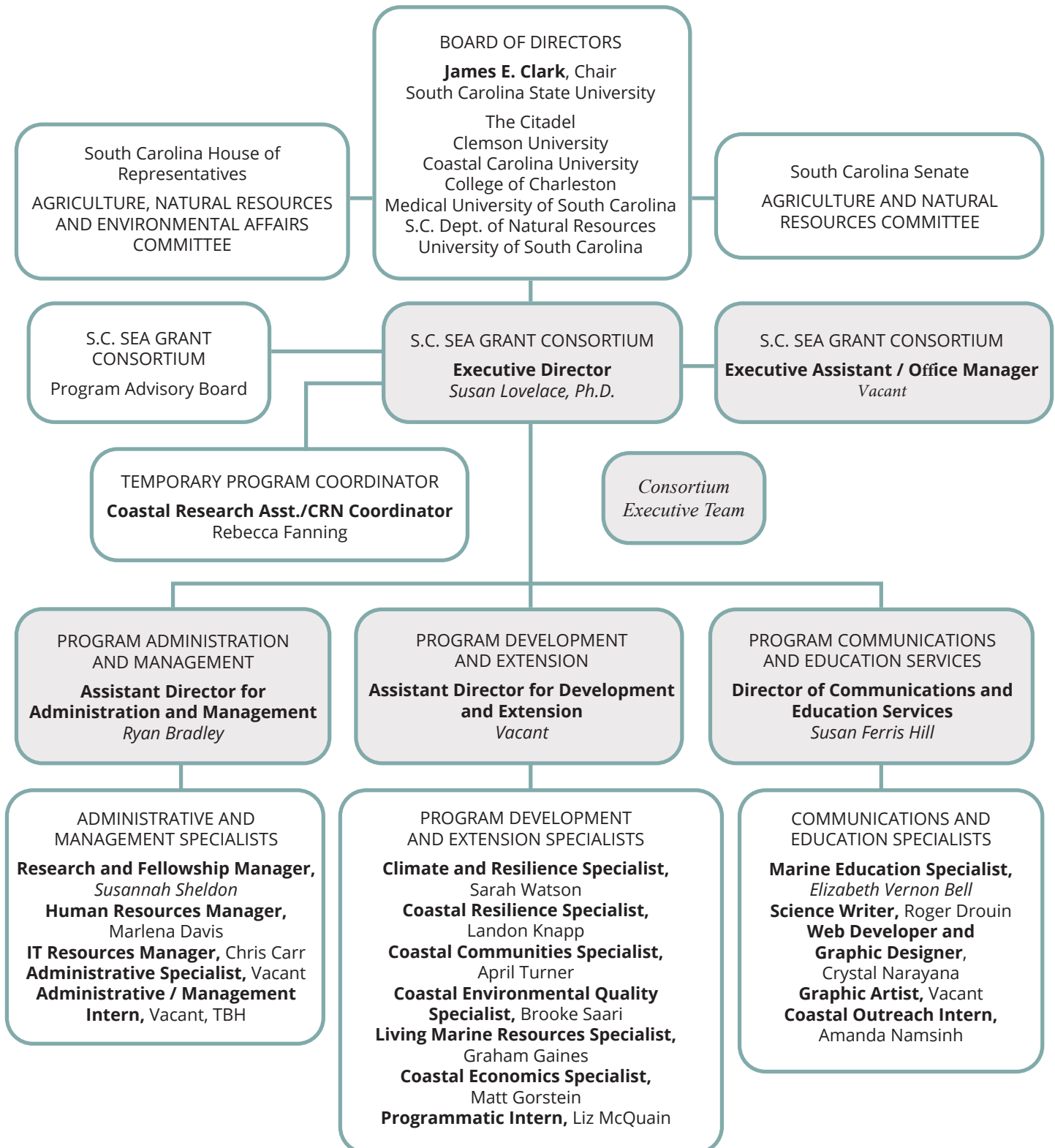
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S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Administrative Organizational Chart



PERFORMANCE UPDATE



The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is committed to optimizing the balance among the economic, social, and environmental potential of the state's coastal and marine resources through the support of integrated research, education, and extension programs. The Consortium also addresses the change and uncertainty found in the coastal region due to development, weather, and flooding challenges. It does so by engaging the talents and expertise found at South Carolina's leading academic and research institutions to increase our knowledge about the natural, cultural, economic, and social environments of South Carolina and the region for use in decisionmaking processes.

STRATEGIC AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is currently operating under its FY2018-21 Strategic Plan titled "The Changing Face of South Carolina: Building a Resilient Future" (www.scseagrant.org/Strategic-Plan).

The agency's strategic plan has specific performance measures and target metrics for its three administrative and management areas, which include:

1. Planning, Program Management, and Overall Performance,
2. Connecting with Users, and
3. Human Resources.

In addition, the Consortium has outlined specific vision statements, goals, objectives, strategies, performance measures, and metrics for each of the agency's five programmatic focus areas:

1. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems,
2. Sustainable Coastal Development and Economy,
3. Weather and Climate Resilience,
4. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and
5. Scientific Literacy and Workforce Development.

The Consortium's 2018-21 Strategic Plan was vetted through the agency's Program Advisory Board and formally approved by the Consortium Board of Directors on January 30, 2017. The Consortium's plan was then submitted to the NOAA National Sea Grant Program Office (NSGO) on February 8, 2017 for review, and approval was received from the NSGO on April 7, 2017. Programming related to the agency's updated plan was initiated February 1, 2018 with the receipt of our quadrennial Sea Grant omnibus program award from NSGO.

The Consortium built upon this plan to develop a two-year strategic plan for 2022-2023, again vetted through the agency's Program Advisory Board and formally approved by the Consortium's Board of Directors on September 30, 2020. The two-year plan was requested by the NSGO as an interim to a larger planning process for 2024. When approved it will go into effect February 1, 2022.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND METRICS

The Consortium's current Strategic Plan includes several dozen performance measures and metrics which are tracked on an annual basis. The Consortium's FY19-20 State Accountability Report is focused on the goals and objectives, and the resultant outputs and outcomes, which make up its three strategic administrative and management areas. Updates on these metrics are presented to the Consortium Board of Directors (at its Board meeting), the State of South Carolina (through the agency's State Accountability Report), and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program (through formal reporting) on an annual basis.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium optimizes the balance among the **economic, social, and environmental potential** of the state's coastal and marine resources.



IMPACTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Consortium research, extension, education, and communications activities conducted through its five strategic program focus areas have resulted in more than 54 economic, natural resource, policy and management, and social impacts and accomplishments in the state and region during FY 19-20, but are too numerous to include in this report. However, they can be viewed at www.scseagrant.org/fy19-20-impacts.

INFORMATION DELIVERY

The Consortium has become a primary source of information for coastal and marine information and assistance. This occurs through the interactions of Extension staff with coastal constituents, through communications such as *Coastal Heritage* magazine and through the Consortium's website (www.scseagrant.org). During FY19-20, the Consortium website received 72,195 page views from 33,462 unique visitors (FY19-20 was the first year of tracking this new website). The Consortium's communications and education specialists produce award-winning and relevant products and services including a South Carolina Notable State Document award for *Susceptibility of Public Health Impacts from Flooded Water, Wastewater and Public Health Infrastructure: Guidebook for Community Level Assessment* (guides.statelibrary.sc.gov/sc-state-documents-depository/award). The Consortium continued its successful e-news brief called *CoastalScience@Work* to keep key state leaders and decisionmakers aware of Consortium programs, activities, and impacts.

AGENCY STAFFING

The Consortium holds 14 state FTE positions, four of which were vacant as of June 30, 2020. In addition, the Consortium currently possesses five temporary grant positions.

Two recent staffing developments related to our efforts to build the capacity of the Consortium staff and the faculty and students of our member institutions are of note:

1. The agency recently hired Graham Gaines in the position of Living Marine Resources Program Specialist. The funding for this position is provided by the National Sea Grant Office. Gaines is located in Beaufort, S.C. through a partnership with Clemson Extension.
2. The agency also recently hired Brooke Saari as our Coastal Environmental Quality Program Specialist, which is supported with recurring state funding for a position that focuses on stormwater ponds and other water quality efforts and is matched with funding from the National Sea Grant Office.

The Consortium's current agency organization chart is included at the end of this Report Submission Form.

BUDGET SITUATION AND FUTURE

The Consortium continues to foster efficiencies in its staffing. The agency has brought in young talent and fresh thinking to fill key staff vacancies and newly created positions, the new staff have complemented the remaining veteran staff, and the Consortium is providing more formal graduate student internship experiences to assist its administrative and professional staff with programming and projects. The Consortium has recently been able to secure budget increases in state recurring funds to leverage federal Sea Grant funding to enhance its capabilities and expertise in coastal resilience and resource economics. Despite a continuing resolution from the previous fiscal year, the Consortium's state appropriations increased from \$736,496 in FY19-20 to \$755,722 in FY20-21 (reflecting a budget increase to support costs associated with employer health insurance premiums, retirement contributions and employee pay plans, as well as an increase to the Agency Head salary line item).

Agency leadership recognizes that the state budget will be limited by resource availability, and thus discussions about means by which Consortium support can be sustained, increased, and diversified will continue with the Consortium's Board of Directors, Program Advisory Board, and the S.C. General Assembly.

EXTRAMURAL FUNDING AND THE STATE BUDGET

The Consortium continues to demonstrate its ability to secure competitive extramural funding for its programs, which tempers its need to approach the S.C. General Assembly for state funding. At the federal level, the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program received a FY20 appropriation of \$87 million, \$7 million more than its FY19 appropriation. Of that amount, Congress directed Sea Grant to allocate \$13 million to aquaculture research and outreach. The Consortium has been successful in obtaining additional competitive grant funding from the NSGO during this period to support workshops and programmatic activities.

Total extramural support secured by the Consortium during FY19-20 was a modest \$1.9 million; however, the first half of FY20-21 has yielded significant increases in its extramural support and growth is expected to continue as additional resource proposals

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are pending decisions at the federal level.

RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT

The Consortium continues to be successful in securing additional state recurring funds over the past five years which enables it to meet both the administrative and programmatic needs of the agency, and thus address the growing needs of its diverse constituencies. Over the last 10 years, the Consortium has secured ~\$25,033,254 in non-state competitive funding from a state investment of ~\$5,655,086, a **443% return** to the state.

Over the last five years, the Consortium's annual Return-on-Investment is as follows (*FY14-15 state recurring appropriation does not include \$100,000 in non-recurring programmatic funds received that year):

Fiscal Year	State	Non-State	Total	ROI
2014-15	\$ 559,288*	\$ 2,138,346	\$ 2,797,634	382%
2015-16	\$ 611,881	\$ 2,649,008	\$ 3,260,889	433%
2016-17	\$ 651,881	\$ 2,212,493	\$ 2,864,374	339%
2017-18	\$ 671,118	\$ 2,271,354	\$ 2,966,037	338%
2018-19	\$ 727,461	\$ 1,802,795	\$ 2,530,256	248%
2019-20	\$ 736,496	\$ 1,891,076	\$2,627,572	257%

443%
10-Year Return on State Investment

EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE S.C. SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium was last evaluated by the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, which consisted of a Site Visit by six external evaluators, August 6-8, 2019 in Charleston, S.C. This was part of a programmatic review of the Consortium (and the other 34 state Sea Grant College programs). The Consortium's success in the review will generate an estimated (and non-binding depending on federal appropriations) merit funding from the NSGO of \$173,619/year for FY2022-27 funding cycles. As usual this funding requires a 50% match. The review team announced four findings:

Finding (1): The FPO finds that the Program meets the *Standards of Excellence* expected of all Sea Grant programs.

Finding (2): Through meeting with 15 panels comprised of diverse partners and stakeholders, it is apparent that SCSGC is recognized as an intellectual leader within the State. SCSGC is nimble, flexible, adaptable, and relevant. The Program works seamlessly across jurisdictional boundaries to address issues of regional importance. SCSGC is recognized as an honest broker of information and assistance for coastal and ocean issues, and recognized for its non-advocacy.

Finding (3): The SCSGC remains a program of excellence in its organization, team approach, and support.

Finding (4): SCSGC is effectively partnering with its Consortium institutions to utilize joint appointments to leverage SG funding.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Consortium is constantly engaged in short-term and long-term analyses of its programs, activities, and accountability measures. Despite recent federal administration proposals to "zero-out" the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, the strength of the program to the states has been an important factor in continued funding and increased service to our businesses, communities, and residents. The agency is building awareness among state and national leaders to the Consortium's numerous, extremely diverse, and supportive cast of stakeholders, constituents, and communities, including the state's General Assembly and our U.S. Congressional delegation, with whom we partner, serve, and depend on. It is with this support that the National Sea Grant College Program and the Consortium survive such challenges, and it has made the agency much stronger.

What the state would lose with the Consortium's demise would be what the National Sea Grant Site Visit team stated: the Consortium is recognized as an intellectual leader within the State; is nimble, flexible, adaptable, and relevant; is recognized as an honest broker of information and assistance for coastal and ocean issues; and recognized for its non-advocacy. The state and its citizens would also lose a significant return on its investment, both in financial and societal terms.

RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATIONS

We have no recommendations for restructuring at this time.

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**SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM
FTE BREAKDOWN BY FUNDING SOURCE**

Fiscal Year 2020-21					
Funding Sources	State	Earmarked	Other	Federal	Total
Authorized FTE Levels	7.26	0.00	0.00	6.74	14.00
Utilized FTE Levels (as of 06.30.2020)	5.60	0.00	0.00	4.40	10.00

**SOUTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM
PREVIOUS VS. CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Fiscal Year 2019-20		
Funding Sources	Budget	Expenditures (end of year)
General Fund Appropriations, Recurring (as ratified)	\$ 736,496	\$ 736,496
General Fund Appropriations, Non-recurring**	\$ 6,574	\$ 6,546
General Fund Appropriations, Carry-forward	\$ 73,650	\$ 737
Earmarked Funds Authorization	\$ 450,000	\$ 21,612
Other (Restricted) Funds Authorization	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds Authorization	\$ 4,550,000	\$ 2,097,479
TOTALS	\$ 5,816,720	\$ 2,862,870

** FY2014-15 Special Projects Proviso 118.16 carry-forward balance from Stormwater Pond Research Initiative

Fiscal Year 2020-21		
Funding Sources	Budget	Expenditures (as of 12.31.2020)
General Fund Appropriations, Recurring (continuing resolution)	\$ 755,722	\$ 392,217
General Fund Appropriations, Non-recurring** (removed)	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Appropriations, Carry-forward	\$ 75,572	\$ -
Earmarked Funds Authorization	\$ 450,000	\$ 2,226
Other (Restricted) Funds Authorization	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds Authorization	\$ 4,550,000	\$ 890,106
TOTALS	\$ 5,831,294	\$ 1,284,549

** FY2014-15 Special Projects Proviso 118.16 carry-forward balance from Stormwater Pond Research Initiative

FY 21-22 Prioritized Budget Request Summary

Agency Name

BUDGET REQUESTS				FUNDING					FTEs			
Priority	Request Type (recurring, non-recurring, capital)	Request Title	Brief Description	General - Recurring	General - Nonrecurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
1	Recurring	Meeting the Cost Increase of Leased Office Space	The Consortium requests \$35,000 in state recurring funds to help offset anticipated lease rate increases the Consortium will face as it seeks to renew its lease in May 2021. As it now stands, the Consortium's budget is sufficient to cover the costs at the current rate; however, it is anticipated that the new lease rate at our current location will increase by an average of about \$35,000 annually over a five-year term. The anticipated increase of roughly 3% annually would increase our lease to approximately \$24/sqft by 2025, a rate which will still represent an excellent value to the Consortium and the State. Support for this request will allow the agency to either maintain our current location or move to a new location without significant disruption in our capacity to provide our customers and constituents with the best service possible.	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	-	-	-	-

FY 21-22 Prioritized Budget Request Summary

Agency Name

BUDGET REQUESTS				FUNDING					FTEs			
Priority	Request Type (recurring, non-recurring, capital)	Request Title	Brief Description	General - Recurring	General - Nonrecurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
2	Recurring	Establishment of an Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program	The Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program will support all five statewide enterprise strategic objectives as the issues of undergraduate education and diversification of the emerging workforce, resilience (including public health and safety, security, and critical infrastructure) to the threats of changing climate and weather, and the efficient delivery of sound scientific information to support government decision-making and an informed citizenry. More specifically, the Program will enhance agency performance efforts to meet the mission and programmatic goals of the Consortium, will address needs of the Consortium's diverse constituencies throughout the state, and will generate highly qualified and well-trained professions to enter the workforce in this emerging field. Measures of success will be generated in consultation with the undergraduate research offices of the Consortium's member institutions.	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	-	-	-	-

FY 21-22 Prioritized Budget Request Summary

Agency Name

BUDGET REQUESTS				FUNDING					FTEs			
Priority	Request Type (recurring, non-recurring, capital)	Request Title	Brief Description	General - Recurring	General - Nonrecurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
3	Recurring	Convert Temporary Grant Positions to FTEs & Realignment	This transition request will support the Consortium's overall mission and corresponding goals and objectives. These three TGE positions have been staffed for a number of years and their conversion to FTE positions will stabilize agency staff capabilities to support increasing demands for agency products and services. In addition, due to challenges in retaining professional staff due to relatively low compensation, transition of these TGEs into FTEs will increase the stability and marketability of these positions going forward. No funding is necessary to implement this conversion; staff in these positions will continue to be evaluated through the EPMS process as they have been evaluated in the past.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.09	-	2.91	3.00
TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTS				\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	0.09	-	2.91	3.00

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Meeting the Cost Increase of Leased Office Space
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$35,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$35,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</p> <p>This base increase request will support Sea Grant's overall mission and all of its corresponding goals and objectives. These funds would allow the Consortium to maintain the appropriate office space required for its staff and visitors as well as maintain and enhance its ability to serve the state of South Carolina. Otherwise, the agency will likely not have the resources needed to physically house the agency and its staff.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	<p>The Consortium's landlord will be the recipient. The Consortium's current lease will expire in May 2021 and negotiations for a lease renewal are currently underway.</p>
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

through the state's Division of General Services – Real Property Services office. The Real Property Service's office has circulated a request for proposals to solicit bids for providing space for the Consortium. Funds will be allocated/expended per the final lease provisions as negotiated by Real Property Services at the Department of Administration: Division of General Services.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Consortium requests \$35,000 in state recurring funds to help offset anticipated lease rate increases the Consortium will face as it seeks to renew its lease with its current landlord or enters a new lease with a different landlord. The Consortium currently pays roughly \$20 per square foot – a significantly low rate for downtown Charleston and anywhere in coastal South Carolina – under its current lease with the Washington Light Infantry. However, our current five-year lease will expire in May 2021, lease renewal will be negotiated between the Real Property Services at the Department of Administration: Division of General Services and either our current landlord (WLI) or, alternatively, a new landlord.

Support for this request will allow the Consortium to either maintain our current location or move to a new location without significant disruption in our capacity to provide our customers and constituents with the best service possible. Without these funds, the Consortium will not be able to secure the amount and quality of leased space it needs to efficiently function in terms of providing staff with the facilities and location they need to conduct their business and our constituents with the access to agency personnel, technology, and services that they ever-increasingly are seeking.

The Consortium's state recurring budget, as it now stands, is sufficient only to cover the costs of our current lease rate; it is anticipated that the new lease rate at our current location will increase by an average of about \$35,000 annually over a five-year term. The anticipated increase of roughly 3% annually would increase our lease by approximately \$3.75/sq. ft. to about \$24/sq. ft. in 2025, a rate which will still represent an excellent value for the Consortium and the State.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Establishment of an Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$30,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$30,000</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</p> <p>The Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program will support all five statewide enterprise strategic objectives as the issues of <u>undergraduate education and diversification</u> of the emerging workforce, <u>resilience</u> (including public health and safety, security, and critical infrastructure) to the threats of changing climate and weather, and the efficient delivery of sound scientific information to <u>support government decision-making and an informed citizenry</u>. More specifically, the Program will enhance agency performance efforts to meet the mission and programmatic goals of the Consortium, will address needs of the Consortium's diverse constituencies throughout the state, and will generate highly qualified and well-trained professions to enter the workforce in this emerging field. Measures of success will be generated in consultation with the undergraduate research offices of the Consortium's member institutions.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

The agency would be the recipient of these funds; which will be then be made

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

available to Consortium member institutions to support up to 10 undergraduate resilience scholars per year from diverse backgrounds via a competitive nomination and selection process. The Consortium Agency Head is now working with the undergraduate research offices at six of its member institutions to develop the implementation strategy and nomination process for selecting successful scholars.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Request

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and its member institutions will initiate and support the **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program** to engage students from diverse backgrounds in novel aspects of resiliency research and outreach projects and activities in South Carolina.

The Consortium requests \$30,000 in state recurring funds to support the **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program**. The Consortium will provide an additional \$20,000 in federal Sea Grant College Program funds, available through its FY18-21 quadrennial Sea Grant College Program award.

Background and Justification

All communities face the risk of being impacted by hazardous events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts. How quickly and successfully an impacted community can recover from such an event determines its resiliency. Rather than just reacting to an event and recovering slowly, a resilient community plans ahead in order to reduce its disaster risk. This includes identifying a community's vulnerabilities to hazards and increasing its adaptive capacity or its ability to respond to hazards or changing conditions in a flexible manner. An informed and prepared community that has decreased its vulnerabilities by increasing its adaptive capacity will face fewer natural, societal, and economic impacts in the face of a hazardous event compared to a less resilient community.

Resiliency in coastal communities is especially important in the southeast United States, as these communities face a multitude of stressors, including coastal storms, heavy precipitation, tidal and nuisance flooding, sea level rise, and increasing pressure from growing populations, development, and gentrification. More than 50% of the U.S. population now lives in coastal watershed counties, a 45% increase from 1970-2010. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, average population growth in South Carolina from 2010-2013 was 3.2%, with much higher rates in coastal counties. In fact, three of the eight S.C. coastal counties are among the fastest growing in the nation (between 6.5 to 9.1%). Along with growing populations comes increasing pressure of development. Developing coastal lands can place more and more critical infrastructure and people at risk to hazards in both urban and rural settings, and impact the ecosystems which provide natural risk reduction.

The South Carolina coast is the center of the state's \$16.5 billion tourism industry and supports seaports that contribute over \$45 billion in annual economic activity. For these economic reasons, along with many others, it is vital to maintain and increase our coastal communities' resiliency in a manner that supports continued population and economic growth and diversification. While many local communities have recognized the need to be resilient and are taking steps to identify their vulnerabilities and increase their adaptive capacity, there are still many knowledge gaps and limited ideas which serve as barriers to their actions. Cutting-edge research in a variety of areas, such as marine-related energy sources, climate change, coastal processes, energy efficiency, hazards, storm water management, and nature-based tourism, can provide communities with information needed to increase their resiliency.

Finally, and more importantly, there is a growing need to train the next generation of natural and social scientists, engineers, and technicians to assume jobs in both the public and private sectors to serve the needs of municipalities, communities, and neighborhoods. Exposing undergraduates to opportunities to conduct relevant, cutting-edge resilience research will foster increased interest in such job opportunities. Thus, the need for diversifying the workforce to enhance our ability to reach these wide-ranging audiences becomes more critical each and every day.

The **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program** will address questions important to resilient communities and economies. Resilience Scholars will conduct projects to address contemporary resilience issues and opportunities as identified, for instance, by the Governor's Floodwater Commission, the State Water Plan initiative, local government planning, and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium in its strategic plan titled *The Changing Face of Coastal South Carolina: Building a Resilient Future*.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Board of Directors reviewed and approved this request at its meeting on August 6, 2019. In addition, this request is consistent with a suggestion provided by an external National Sea Grant Site Team in its quadrennial

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

performance review draft report (dated September 9, 2019) of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, that the agency create undergraduate and graduate state fellowship programs to further workforce development and capacity building efforts in the state.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Convert Temporary Grant Positions to FTEs & Realignment
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$0 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$0
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	3.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</p> <p>This transition request will support the Consortium’s overall mission and corresponding goals and objectives. These three TGE positions have been staffed for a number of years and their conversion to FTE positions will stabilize agency staff capabilities to support increasing demands for agency products and services. In addition, due to challenges in retaining professional staff due to relatively low compensation, transition of these TGEs into FTEs will increase the stability and marketability of these positions going forward. No funding is necessary to implement the conversion; staff in these positions will continue to be evaluated through the EPMS process as they have been evaluated in the past. No funding is required to realign our FTE distribution within the continuing resolution of the FY2019-20 Appropriations Bill.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

N/A; no additional funds are required to support the transition of these positions from

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

TGE to FTE employees, nor the minor realignment from State to Federal of the FTE account within the continuing resolution of the FY2019-20 Appropriations Bill.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Demands for the Consortium's products and services (information, assistance, and guidance) continue to increase as more people move to the coast, additional development pressures results, and the use of the state's economically important coastal and marine resources increases. As a result, the Consortium has been able to justify the creation of new professional positions in an attempt to meet this demand. Through creative approaches and frugal spending, the Consortium has obtained the resources necessary to support and sustain these positions through our core federal funding obtained through our quadrennial Sea Grant College Program budget and, in some cases, from recurring State Appropriations.

The three positions to be converted cover critically important core competencies which are in increasing demand by our diverse stakeholders; the three Consortium positions are the (1) Coastal Climate and Resilience Program Specialist, funded by National Sea Grant and the CISA program at the University of South Carolina since 2006, (2) Marine Education Program Specialist, which has been supported by the Consortium with National Sea Grant and the National Science Foundation from 2008 to 2015 and with National Sea Grant support since, and (3) Coastal Resilience Program Specialist, a newer position established with additional funding provided by National Sea Grant and the College of Charleston's Lowcountry Hazards Center starting early in 2019 to build its capacity to address critical issues with respect to flooding issues related to changing climate and weather impacts.

These positions, as all Consortium positions, are unique in their own right and represent critical components of the Consortium's core programmatic functions as detailed in the agency's strategic plan. The plan, which is written and updated every four years, is formally approved by the Consortium's Board of Directors and the NOAA Sea Grant College Program, and available via the agency's website (<https://www.scseagrant.org/wp-...>). The incumbents of these positions perform vital mission support functions and are embedded in the agency's long-term programmatic plans in the areas of climate and weather resilience and scientific literacy and workforce development; topics that reflect critical core competencies requires of all Sea Grant College programs nationwide.

The Consortium has had a total of 14 FTE positions since its inception in 1980; and has never (to our current recollection) requested an increase in the number of state FTE positions. However, the need to build additional capacity, supported with a mix of state recurring appropriations and long-term federal NOAA Sea Grant funds, to address the ever-increasing demands by our stakeholders for our products, services, and assistance is as strong as it's ever been. The agency has recently filled its two remaining FTE position vacancies with the hiring of its Information Technology Specialist and its Resource Economist Program Specialist (with partial support provided by the state of South Carolina) and thus has no more FTE vacancies available. And to emphasize, the Consortium is not requesting any additional state recurring funding funds to convert the three positions from TGEs to FTEs.

The staff employed as TGEs within our agency are hired as full-time, and all TGE incumbents are provided similar state benefits programs as our FTE employees. However, we feel that the employees we have hired into these TGE positions deserve to receive the full suite of benefits that accrue to staff in FTE positions; this transition will provide more stability and comfort deserving of these employees, and enhanced marketability when these positions become vacant in an ever-increasing time of employee turnover (both here at the Consortium and elsewhere).

Lastly, the Consortium is requesting a slight realignment of its State and Federal Full-time Employee (FTE) positions within the continuing resolution of the Appropriations Bill from FY2019-20 (currently 7.26 State and 6.74 Federal). These three additional FTE positions plus the minor funding adjustment will accurately reflect the agency's FTE needs (at 7.35 State and 9.65 Federal) and require no additional resources in FY2021-22.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

**Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee
Proviso Request Summary**

FY 20-21 Proviso #	Renumbered FY 21-22 Proviso #	Proviso Title	Short Summary	FY of Proviso Introduction/ # of years in budget	Recommended Action	Proviso Language
48.1	TBD	SGC: Publications Revenue	Revenues collected on the sale of various scientific research documents produced by the Consortium.	Pre-1995/1996	Retain	Funds generated by the sale of pamphlets, books, and other promotional materials, the production of which has been paid for by non-state funding, may be deposited in a special account by the Consortium and utilized as other funds for the purchase of additional pamphlets, books, and other promotional materials for distribution to the public.