Aquaculture is the fresh or salt water farming of fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants. Balancing wild fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, and other coastal activities can assist the state of Maine, the nation, and the world in feeding a growing population, creating employment, and economic development. Maine EPSCoR at the University of Maine has received a five year, $20 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish the Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET) to address these research opportunities.

SEANET will:
• Build a research network to mobilize existing expertise and increase research in the state
• Increase research and development activity to support aquaculture industry development in the state, including doubling aquaculture faculty at UMaine, and providing training for the next generation of researchers and entrepreneurs
• Gather inshore environmental data of value through a buoy-based sensor system in three bioregions and in six bays to understand Maine’s dynamic coastal ecology
• Implement support for innovation and entrepreneurial activity

Funding will:
• Support approximately 60 existing faculty and staff across 9+ academic and research institutions in Maine.
• Hire 4 new faculty, 5 new post-doctoral researchers, 3 new network staff at UMaine and University of New England
• Support 20 graduate students and approximately 80 undergraduates across the state
• Create STEM and workforce development opportunities across the K-20 pipeline
• Support inshore buoy and sensor systems to aid business-led development in the coastal zone
• Develop new demonstration farms and support business-led research activity through a new research farm network

SEANET Partner Organizations:
University of New England
University of Southern Maine
University of Maine Machias
Bowdoin College
St. Joseph College
Maine Maritime Academy
College of the Atlantic
Southern Maine Community College
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

For more information visit our website at www.umaine.edu/epscor/seanet or email maine.epscor@maine.edu

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