

# Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET)

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.



*Clam juveniles*

**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](http://www.umaine.edu/epscor/seanet) or email [maine.epscor@maine.edu](mailto:maine.epscor@maine.edu)

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