



Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET)

Maine EPSCoR at the University of Maine received a five-year, \$20 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to build the Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET). Balancing wild fisheries, sustainable aquaculture and other coastal activities can assist Maine, the nation and the world in feeding a growing population, creating employment and economic development.



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University of Maine.





Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET)

What is SEANET researching?

- Buoy sensor systems and integrated field sampling will generate data for modeling aquaculture carrying capacity in Maine's multiuse working waterfront
- Research will focus on how environmental stressors will affect the implementation and sustainability of aquaculture systems
- Aquaculture innovation research will seek to expand the use of sea farms beyond current uses to incorporate value-added products, ecosystem services, community leasing, and innovative methods and gear
- Researchers will explore the economics, business models, perceptions and messaging behind cultured sea products, and provide insight into processes for communicating aquaculture's role in Maine's coastal economy

How is SEANET building Maine's research workforce? SEANET supports:

- Sixty current faculty and staff across 10 academic and research institutions in Maine
- Four new faculty, four new postdoctoral researchers, three new network staff at UMaine and University of New England
- Twenty graduate and 80 undergraduate students across educational institutions
- STEM workforce development opportunities for more than 4,000 students

Where is SEANET research happening?

- Three bioregions, with a range of social and physical characteristics
- Six areas representative of the variety of physical features that make up the coast of Maine
- More than 10 research-intensive farms will provide sites along the coast for testing innovations and studying the local marine environment
- Ten research institutions and numerous stakeholders will bring their local knowledge and expertise to the project



SEANET is:

- Building an aquaculture research network in Maine
- Increasing research and development, and providing training for the next generation of aquaculture scientists and entrepreneurs
- Gathering inshore environmental data through a buoy-based sensor system in six study areas to model Maine's dynamic coastal systems
- Leveraging research to support aquaculture innovation and entrepreneurial activity

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