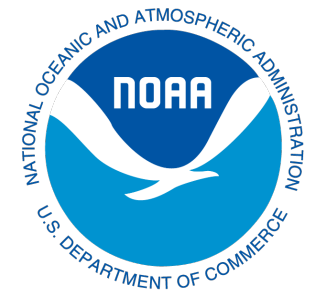

Texas Sea Grant

2026 GCOOS All-Hands meeting
April 14, 2026 - College Station, TX

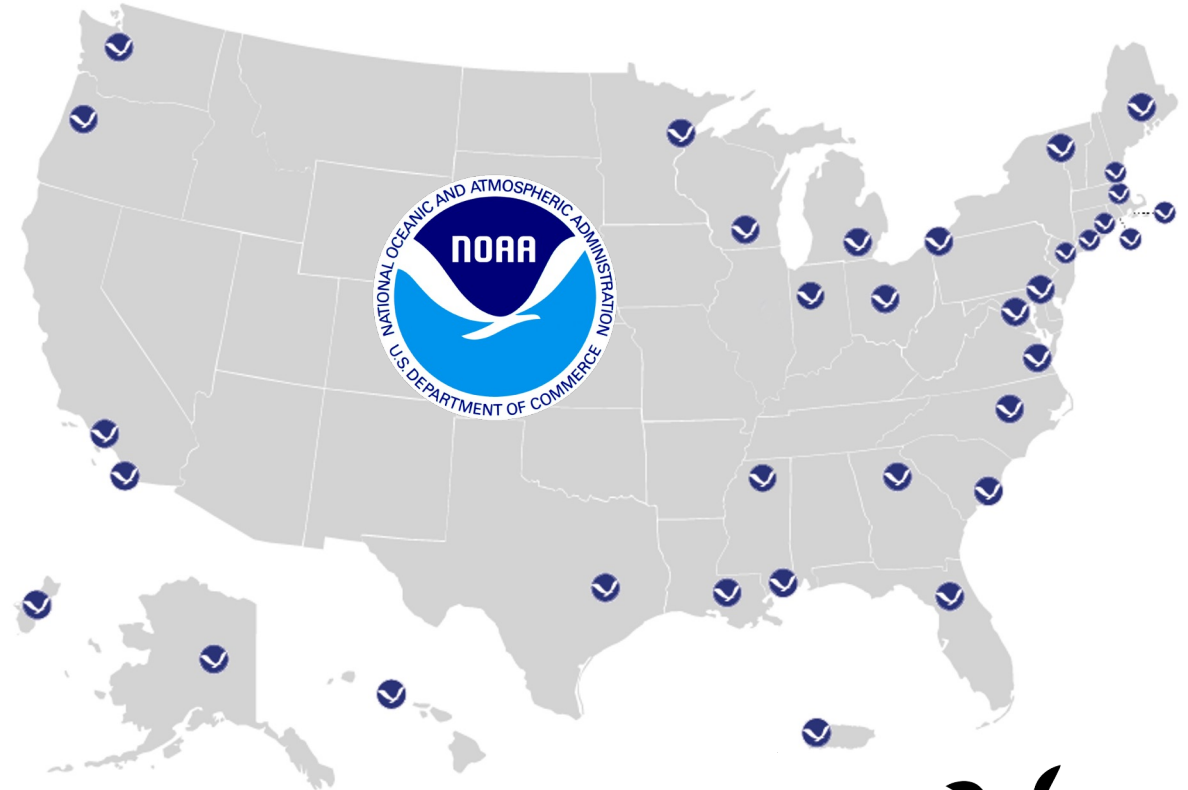
Laura Picariello
Director, TX Sea Grant



Texas Sea Grant

Organizational Overview

- **Partnership:** A collaboration between NOAA, the State of Texas, and Texas A&M University.
- **Network:** Part of 34 university-based Sea Grant programs nationally, including Puerto Rico and Guam.
- **Foundation:** Established by the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966.

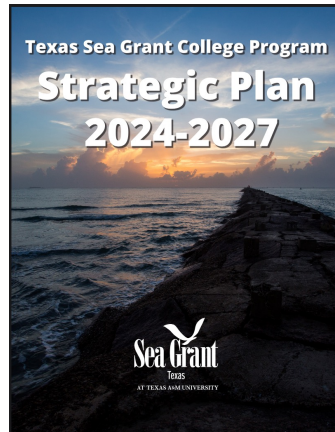


Texas Sea Grant

Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use, and stewardship of Texas coastal and ocean resources.

Texas Sea Grant

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- **4-year** strategic plan cycle
- aligned with National Sea Grant and NOAA
- informed by stakeholder engagement



Healthy Coastal
Ecosystems



Sustainable Fisheries &
Aquaculture



Resilient Communities &
Economies



Environment Literacy &
Workforce Development

Texas Sea Grant

Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use, and stewardship of Texas coastal and ocean resources.



- **4-year** strategic plan cycle
- aligned with National Sea Grant and NOAA
- informed by stakeholder engagement

TXSG is beginning our strategic planning NOW for 2028-2031



Healthy Coastal Ecosystems



Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture



Resilient Communities & Economies



Environment Literacy & Workforce Development

Texas Sea Grant

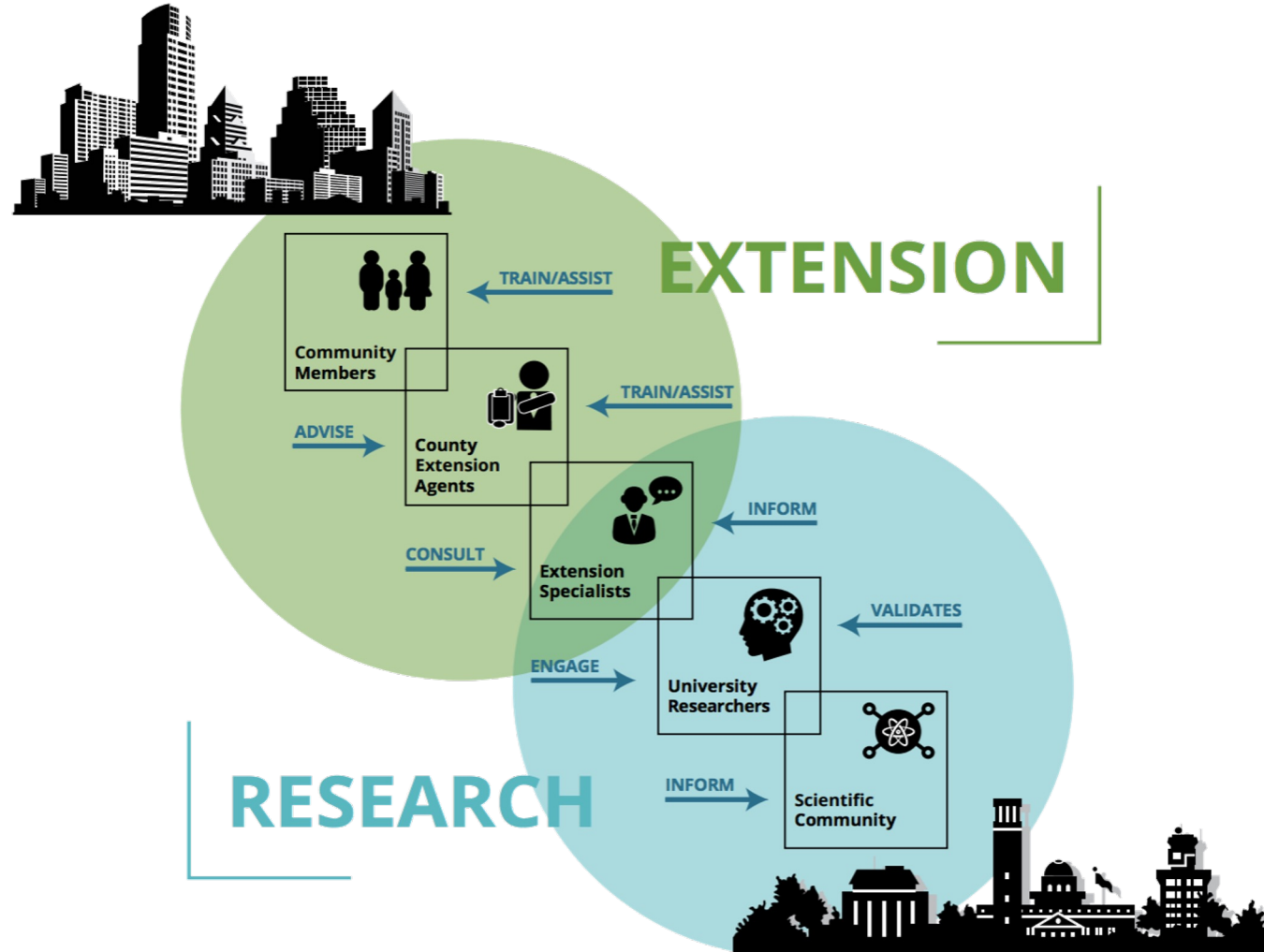
Texas Sea Grant's mission is to improve the understanding, wise use, and stewardship of Texas coastal and ocean resources.

Texas Sea Grant uses a three-tiered approach to achieving our mission:



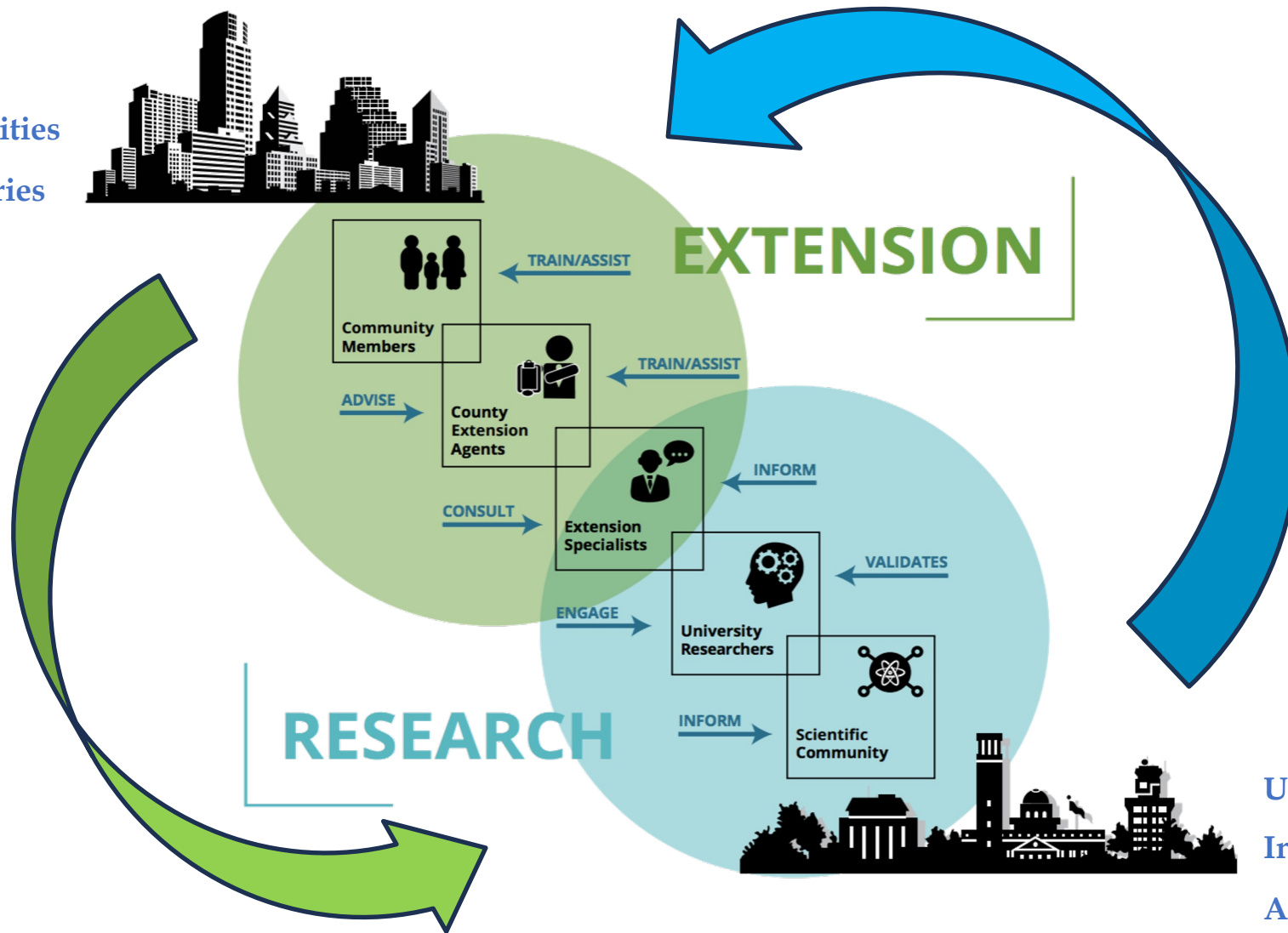
- **Research:** to expand knowledge and answer critical questions
- **Education:** to train a coastal and marine workforce
- **Extension:** to connect science to those who can use it

Texas Sea Grant Model- Integrating Research & Extension



Texas Sea Grant Model- Integrating Research & Extension

Coastal
Communities
& Industries



Universities, Research
Institutions & Resource
Agencies

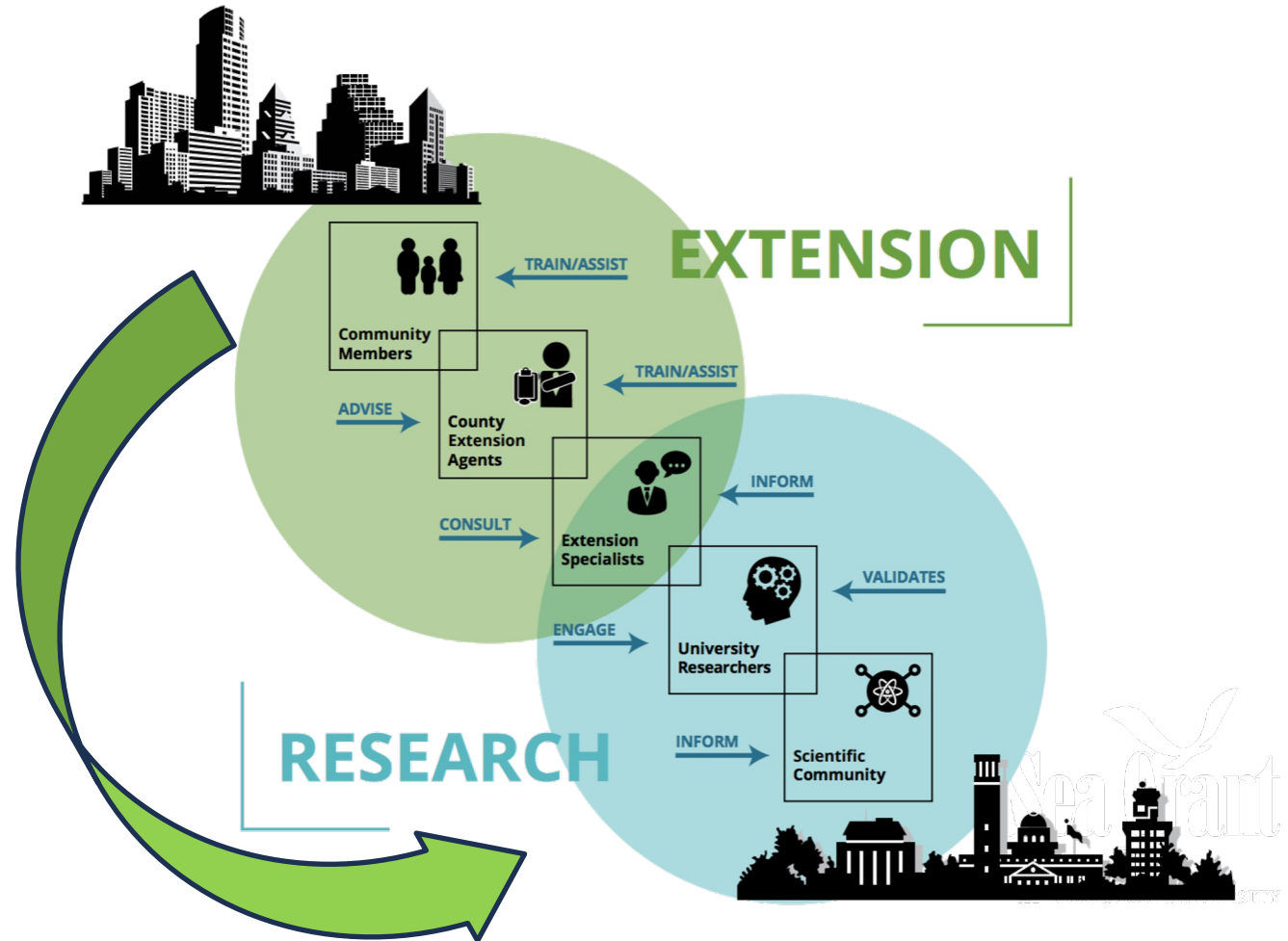


Texas Sea Grant- Research

COMMUNITIES INFORM RESEARCH PRIORITIES

TXSG Research:

- 40% of Texas Sea Grant's NOAA Omnibus Budget is dedicated to **competitive research**.
- Every other year, TXSG issues an RFP for research, typically funding 4-6 awards.
- Research priorities are established for each RFP cycle based on input from Texas stakeholders and partners.



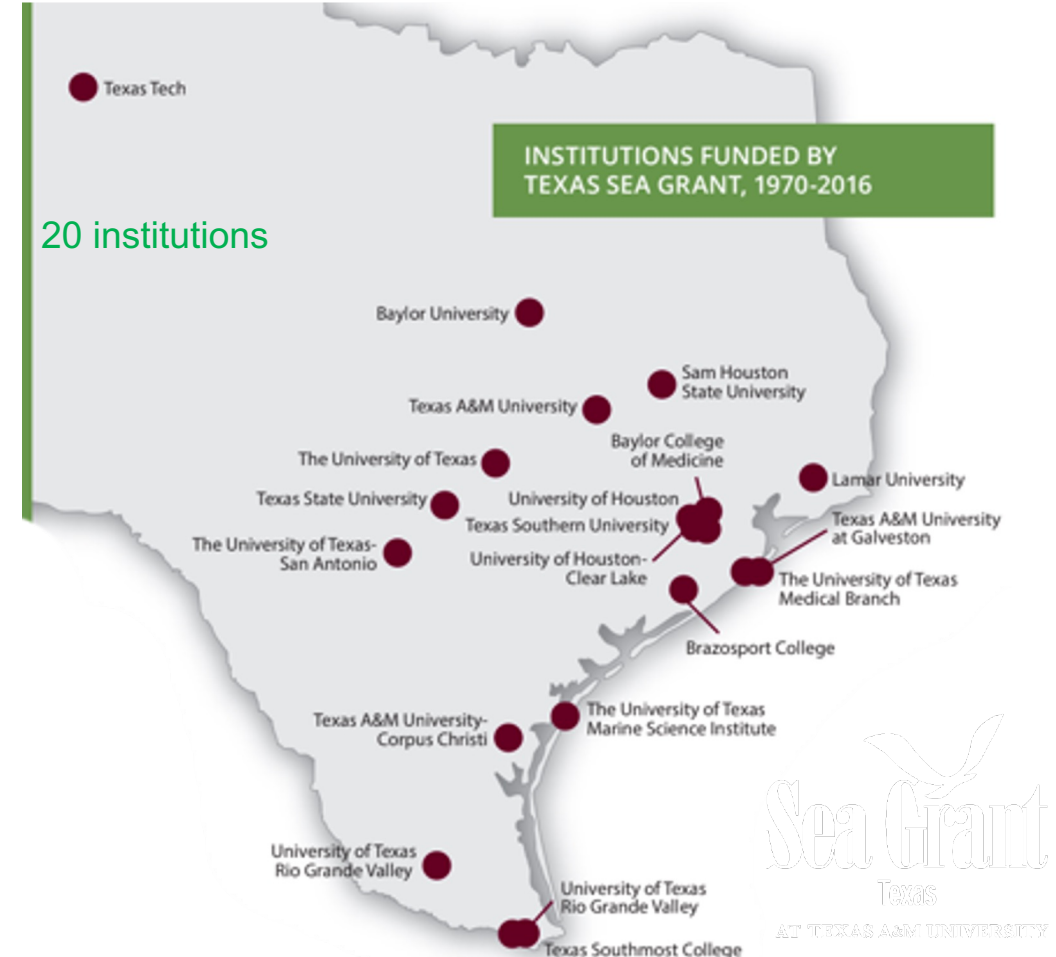
Texas Sea Grant- Research

Community Engaged/Cooperative Research

What Research Does TXSG fund?

- **Generate long-term impacts** in Texas.
- Aligned with Texas Sea Grant **Strategic Plan** (goals of the 4 focus areas)
- Addresses one of Texas Sea Grant's **research priorities**.
- **Research that integrates community engagement through extension partnerships.**

Bridging Knowledge to Action: Integrating Research and Extension to Support Coastal Texas



Texas Sea Grant- Research

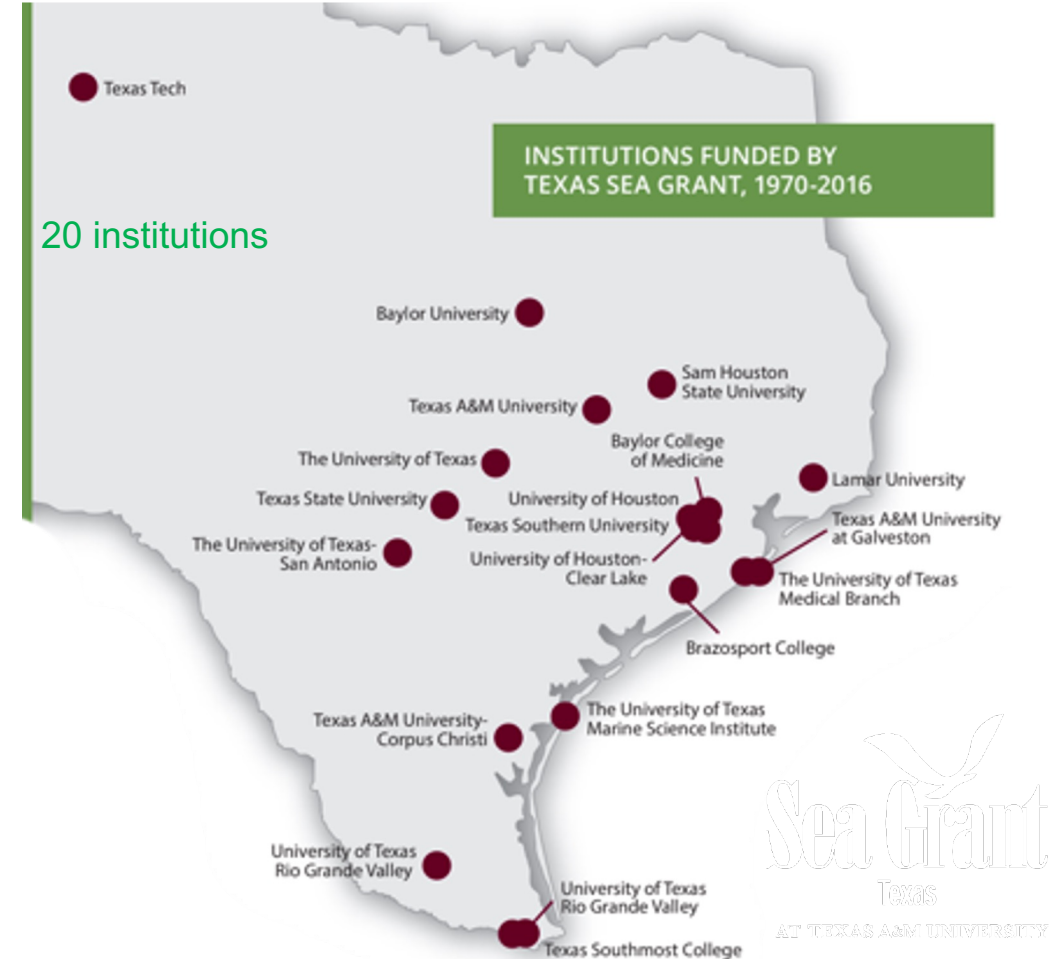
Community Engaged/Cooperative Research

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Bridging Knowledge to Action: Integrating Research and Extension to Support Coastal Texas

**NEXT RESEARCH COMPETITION:
RFP anticipated December 2026**





TXSG 2026-2028 Research Funding


Just
Announced!!

-  • “Integrating Economic, Genetic and Insights to Strengthen the **Texas Oyster Aquaculture Industry**,”
PI: Dr. Yuri Clements Daglia Calil, Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service

-  • “Beyond Storm Surge: AI-Driven Predictions of Groundwater-Influenced **Coastal Flooding** on Texas Barrier Islands,”
PI: Dorina Murgulet, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

-  • “Life in the PFAS lane: the Impact of **Per/Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** on Coastal communities in Texas,”
PI: Dr. Antoinetta Quigg, Texas A&M University - Galveston

-  • “Impacts of **PFAS** exposure on spotted seatrout populations,”
PI: Dr. Frauke Seemann, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

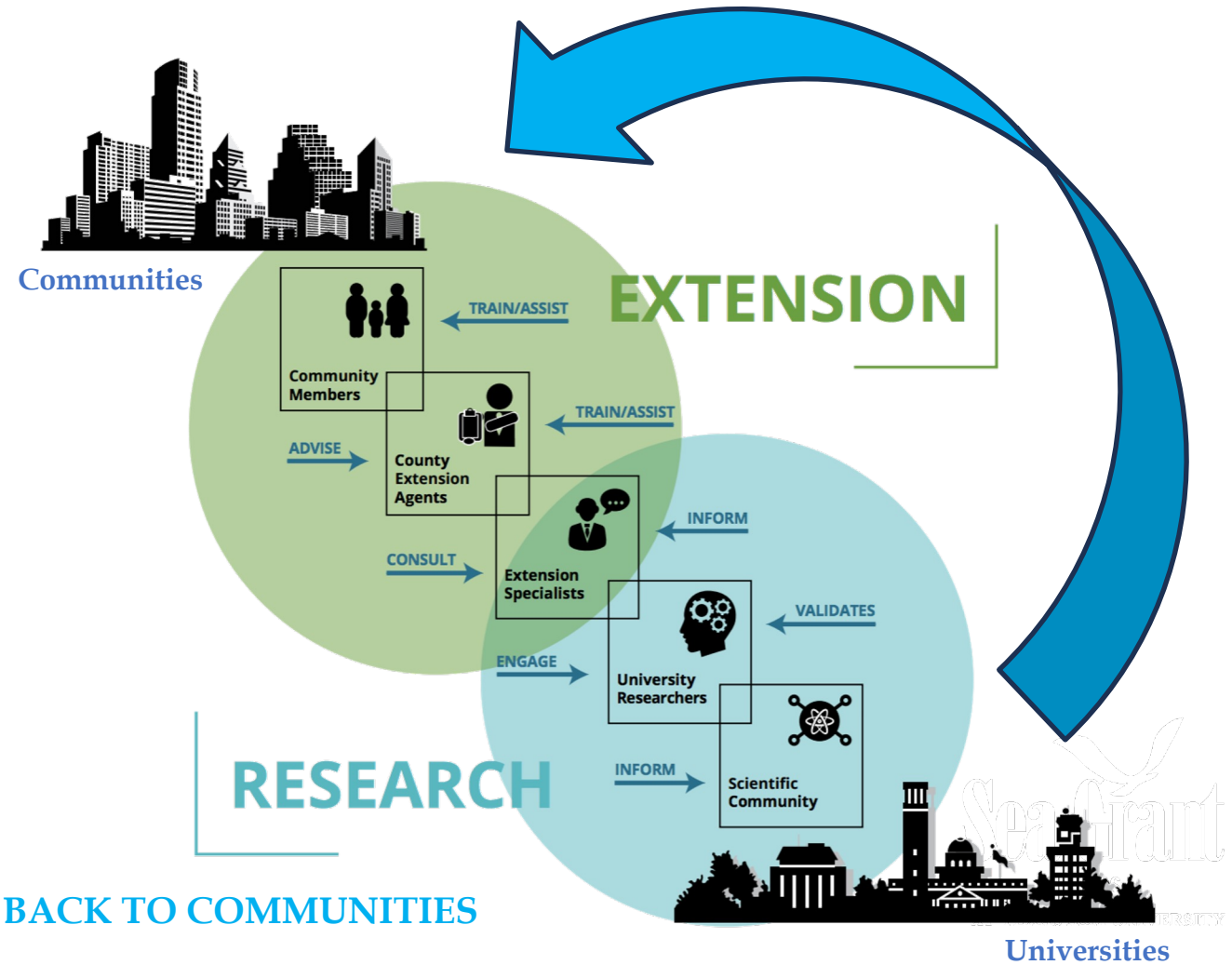
-  • “Integrating geospatial and participatory approaches to enhance **flood resilience** through private land conservation in the Texas Coastal Prairie,” Gerard, Kyle, Texas A&M University AgriLife Research

Texas Sea Grant- Extension

Science into Action

TXSG Extension:

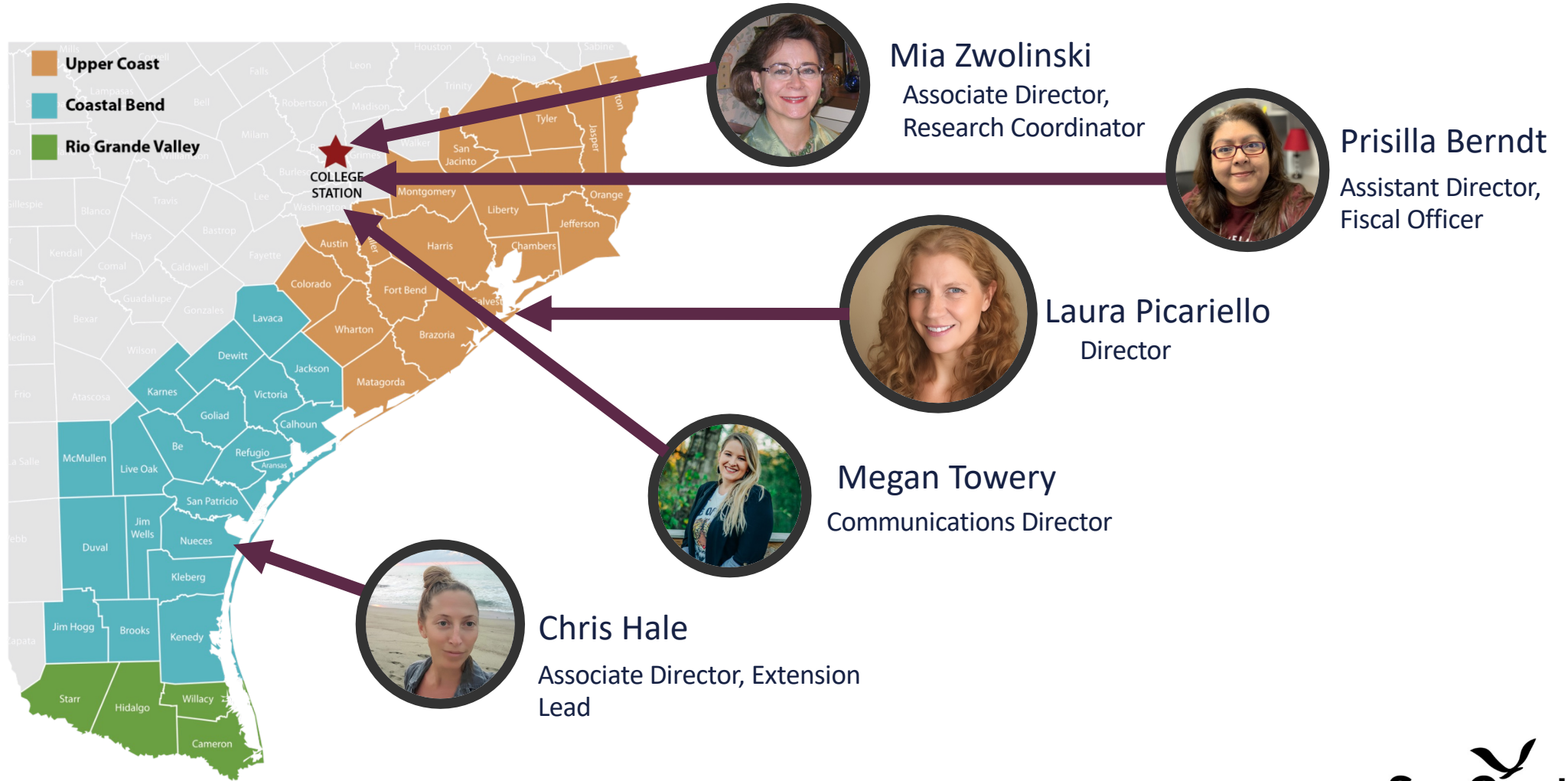
- Texas Sea Grant deploys **boots-on-the ground** Extension personnel throughout the coast, who live and work in the communities they serve.
- **Translating research to real world application** to bridge the gap between research and communities.
 - Seminars/Webinars
 - Meeting facilitation
 - Hands on training: workforce development and technical assistance
 - Citizen science
 - Restoration activities
 - Workshops



EXTENSION DELIVERS RESEARCH FINDINGS BACK TO COMMUNITIES

Universities

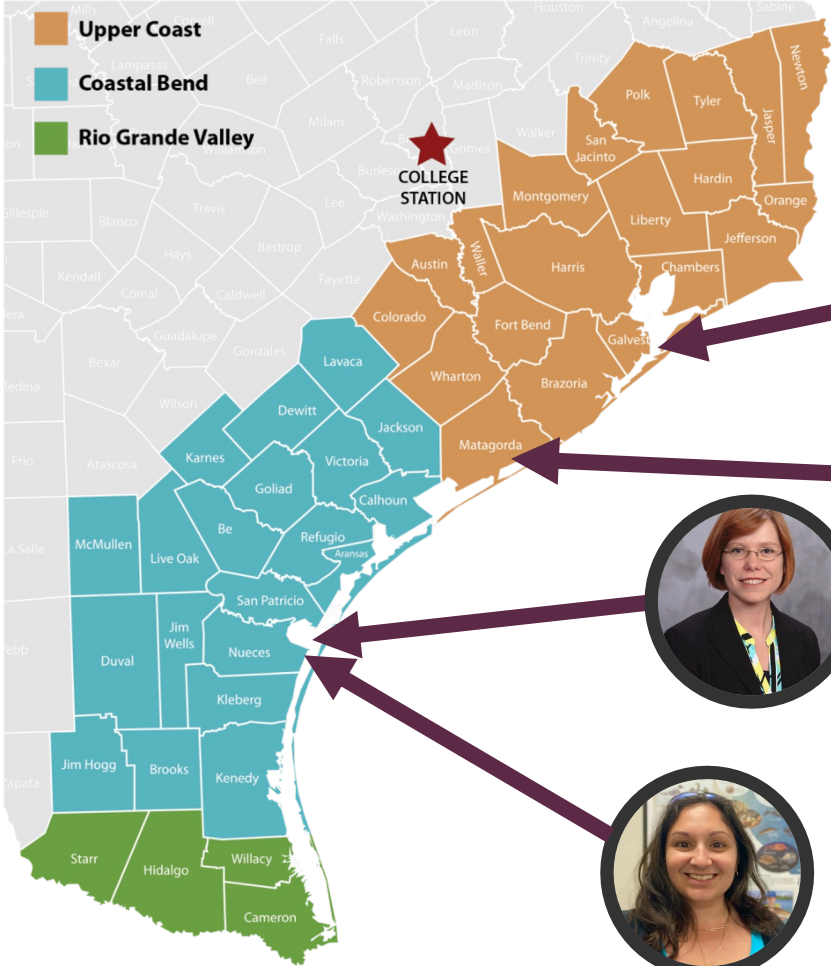
Texas Sea Grant Leadership



Coastal and Marine County Agents



Extension Specialists- coastwide



Madgellen Cleary
Coastal Resilience



Mario Marquez
Aquaculture



April Taylor
Coastal Resilience



Alexis Sabine
Fisheries
SFA Program Manager



TXSG Resilient Communities & Economies (RCE)

GOAL 7: Texas coastal communities have the capability and resources to prepare for, adapt to and recover from extreme and chronic weather, coastal hazards, economic disruptions and other threats



Recent/Current TXSG RCE work



Disaster
Preparedness and
Response



Community Planning
for Resilience



Applied
Research/Extension
partnerships: water-
level sensors/AI



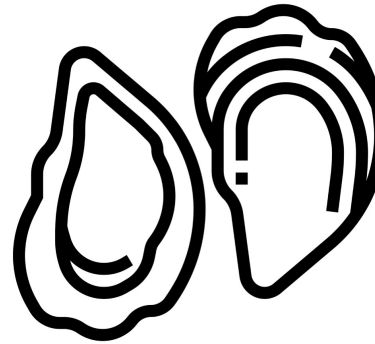
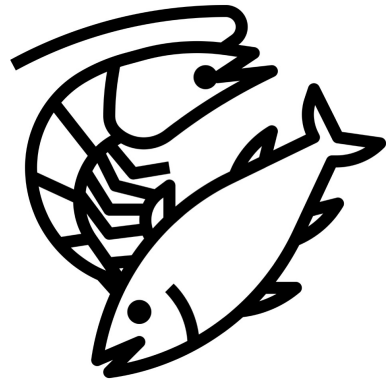
TXSG Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture (SFA)

Goal 5: *Texas seafood industries meet public demand through sustainable and profitable operations.*

Goal 6: *An informed public demands sustainable and locally sourced seafood in support of Texas industries.*



Recent/Current TXSG SFA Work:



Commercial
Fisheries

Seafood
Safety

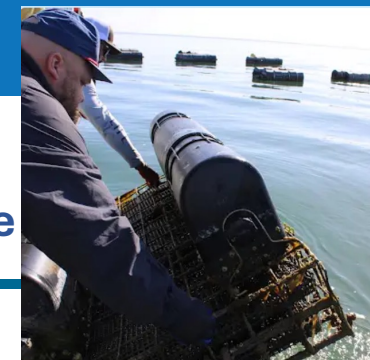
Aquaculture

Recreational
Fisheries

Better Bycatch
Reduction



Oyster
Mariculture





TXSG Healthy Coastal Ecosystems (HCE)

Goal 3: Habitat, ecosystems, and the services they provide are monitored, enhanced and/or restored.

Goal 4: Natural resources are sustained to support coastal communities and marine-dependent industries, including recreational and commercial fisheries, and tourism.



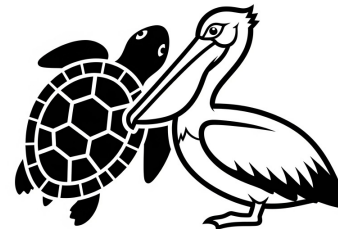
Recent/Current TXSG HCE work



Marine Debris
Prevention &
Removal



Citizen Science
Coastal Monitoring
Initiatives



Wildlife
Response



Habitat
Restoration



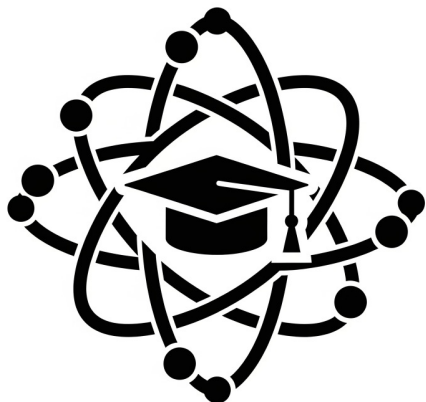
TXSG Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development (ELWD)

Goal 1: A STEM-literate public is informed by a continuum of formal and informal educational opportunities.

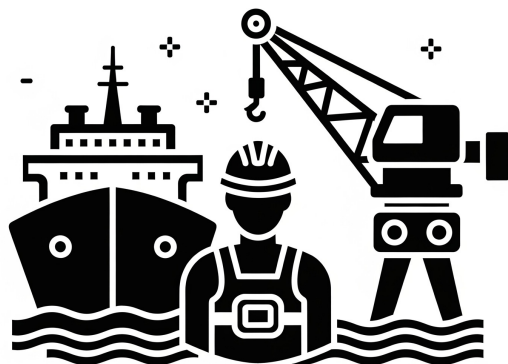
Goal 2: A skilled workforce is engaged and able to address critical local and state needs.



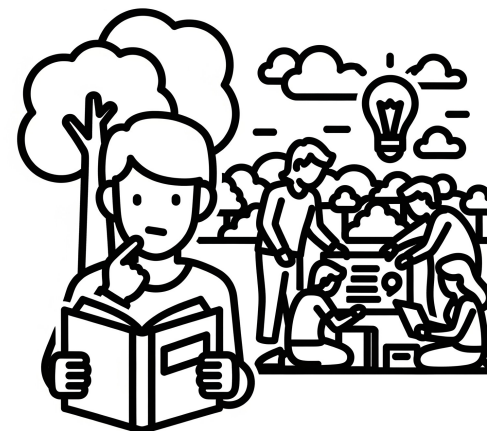
Current TXSG ELWD work



Student Support-
University STEM
Workforce Development



Coastal Industries
Workforce
Development



Environmental
Literacy – Formal &
Informal Education

John A. Knauss Sea Grant Marine Policy Fellowship- FY27 Applications- OPEN NOW! Due June 3rd, 2026

Texas Sea Grant 2024 Impacts



837

ACRES OF COASTAL HABITAT RESTORED, ENHANCED OR PROTECTED

407

RESOURCE MANAGERS USED ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES



233

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED A RESILIENCE TRAINING OR EDUCATIONAL EVENT

34

COMMUNITIES ADOPTED/IMPLEMENTED SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

Total
Economic Benefit
\$125.1M

More than **\$3.1 million** in federal research funding dedicated to **6 research projects** in 2024 - 2026



1,377

FISHERMEN, SEAFOOD INDUSTRY, OR AQUACULTURE PERSONNEL MODIFIED THEIR PRACTICES

\$5.2M

ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF **6** MARICULTURE BUSINESSES



68K

ENGAGED IN TXSG-SUPPORTED INFORMAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



450

TXSG-SPONSORED MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



47K

K-12 STUDENTS REACHED



66K

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED



\$2.2M

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

Questions?



Contact Information

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Texas A&M University

lpicariello@tamu.edu
361-371-4207




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