

Michigan Sea Grant

Marine Advisory Services



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Serving Michigan's Coastal Communities

Michigan, the Great Lakes State, sports a plethora of water wonders: 3,288 miles of stunning shoreline on four of the five Great Lakes, 11,037 picturesque inland lakes and vast areas of natural wetlands.

Tremendous resources and enormous responsibility: that's why the Michigan Marine Advisory Service.

The Marine Advisory Service (MAS), an outreach arm of the Michigan Sea Grant Program, seeks to generate public awareness of the issues and problems affecting Michigan's water resources and to promote their wise use. It also provides opportunity for individuals to develop leadership skills.

Educational programs of the MAS are carried out by the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University. Field agents located in shoreline areas link the work of researchers and administrators at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and other Michigan universities with people in coastal communities throughout the state. They are assisted in a major way by local County Extension staffs.

Your MAS is funded by the National Sea Grant Office in the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Legislature of the State of Michigan.

People in MAS

MAS relies heavily on the skills and backgrounds of many people, including:

- **a basic field staff**, composed of five District Extension Marine Agents (called Sea Grant agents), a part-time agent in recreation and tourism and a temporary 4-H Great Lakes Heritage Program agent in one urban county.
- **A Program Leader**, based at MSU, who assists agents in development of programs.
- **An Information Specialist**, at MSU, who supervises development of media information and educational publications.
- **Researchers and Extension Specialists** who work on Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Northern Michigan University and other Michigan campuses and represent such speciality areas as:
 - sport and commercial fisheries
 - new uses of fish products
 - fisheries economics

A Sea Grant agent helps a marina owner install a floating tire breakwater in Southeast Michigan.



Marine Advisory Services helps commercial fishing operations by introducing new types of gear. Above, a fishing boat in Leland, Michigan with trap net.

- cold water drowning, hypothermia and diving safety
 - 4-H projects
 - wetlands and coastal resource management
 - toxic substances
 - education and curriculum development
 - Great Lakes Resource Policy
 - information and communications
 - underwater parks and historic education
 - marina and recreation management
 - port development and Great Lakes transportation
- **A Communications staff** at Michigan Sea Grant headquarters in Ann Arbor provides professional media assistance for field staff.
 - **Administrators** at MSU and U of M who provide leadership and develop support for all Michigan Sea Grant Programs.

How it Works

Working with individuals and large groups, large and small businesses, industry and environmental groups, MAS seeks to identify needs of people who use the Great Lakes resources. Keeping the public informed about water resources and identifying problems which result in research are important functions of Sea Grant agents.

Sea Grant agents help through educational programs, demonstrations and individual assistance. Some groups are brought to campus for workshops and seminars. There, they have a chance to meet and discuss problems with campus specialists as well as representatives from various regulatory agencies including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Educational and training meetings and conferences are held at local levels.

Newsletters, press releases, fact sheets, radio and television announcements are additional ways MAS alerts the people in Michigan to Sea Grant activities and events. A wide assortment of instructional publications on Great Lakes related topics are readily available to those who contact the Sea Grant agents (see map).

Who it Serves

MAS programs are open to all who have an interest in the Great Lakes resources. There are also several specific groups whose concerns have been addressed by special education and training.

Among these groups are:

- commercial fishermen
- charterboat operators
- anglers
- marina operators
- divers and swimmers
- home and family living groups

- professional resource managers
- recreational boaters
- shoreline property owners
- persons employed in the shipping industry
- 4-H and school groups
- local and regional planners and officials
- minorities and low income groups

Programs of MAS

If you are concerned with the Great Lakes, there is probably a Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service Program for you. Some of these have become annual activities, providing a constant exchange of ideas and interaction among Sea Grant personnel and coastal residents.

A FISHERIES BIOLOGY SHORTCOURSE, held annually at MSU, explains fisheries management and the reasons for controlling the catch of certain species. Originally designed for commercial fishermen, it now includes charterboat operators and is followed by other specialized training during the year.

A MARINA MANAGER'S CONFERENCE brings marina owners and employees from all



During an on-campus workshop, commercial fishermen and charterboat operators are shown how to examine fish to determine age and other characteristics.

areas of the state together to discuss new developments and examine problems which affect the marina industry.

UNDER-UTILIZED FISH DEMONSTRATIONS are offered to home economists around the state to introduce lesser-used species of Great Lakes fish and to explain the ways in which they can become a low-cost source of protein in the family diet.

PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMS inform local citizens about the ways that they can become involved in decisions which affect water resources and other natural resources in their area.

FISH PREPARATION AND PRESERVATION DEMONSTRATIONS are offered throughout the year by Sea Grant agents to show people proper methods of cooking and preserving Great Lakes fish. These programs also include information about contaminants and ways to reduce their presence through proper trimming and cooking.

SHORTCOURSES FOR MARINA EMPLOYEES, held in Southwest Michigan, these classes instruct marina employees in methods of electrical and fiberglass boat repair.

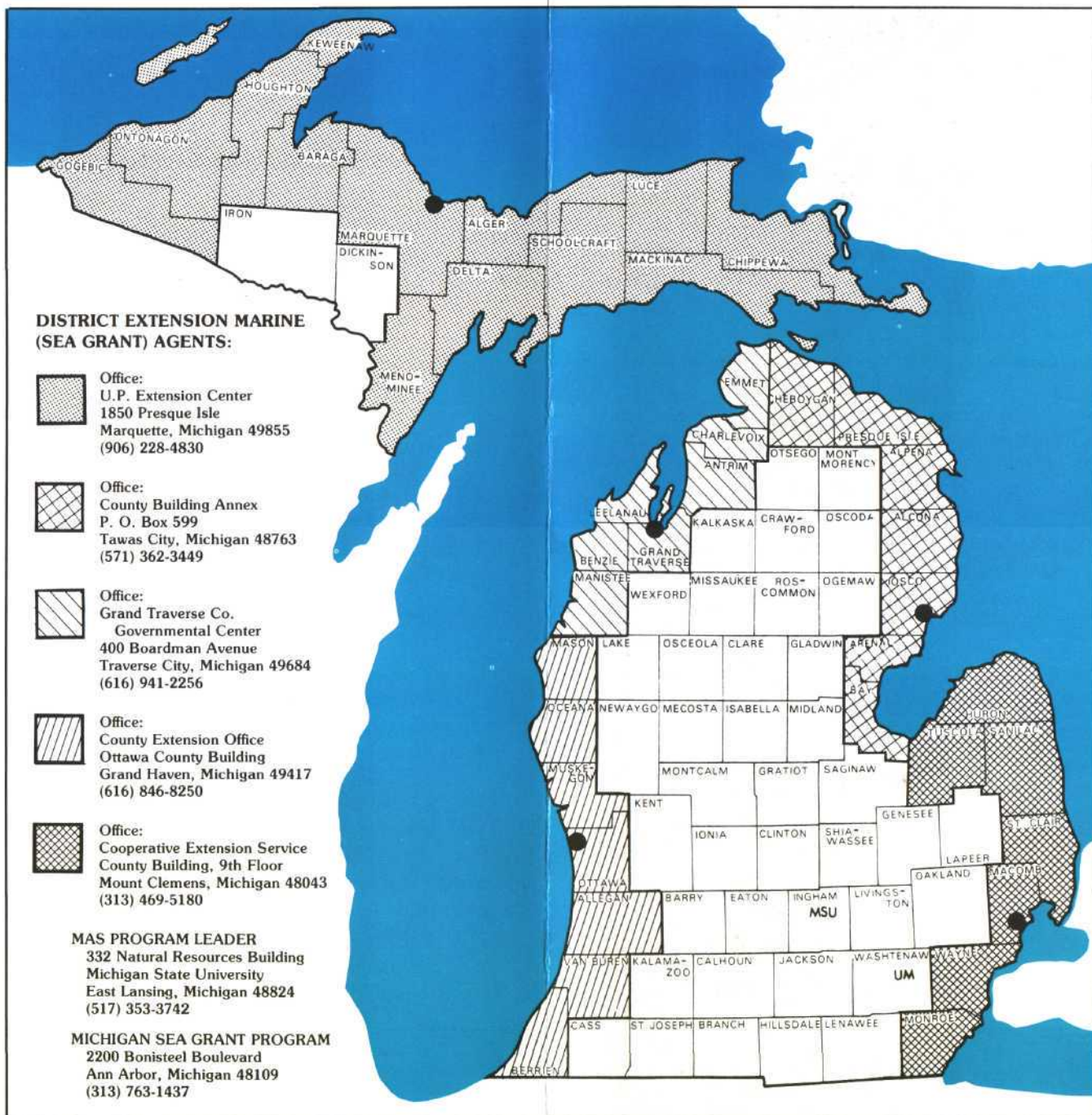
GREAT LAKES CAREER PROGRAMS are introduced to 4-H leaders and high school counselors as the agents work with youth throughout Michigan.

GREAT LAKES HERITAGE PROGRAMS in the Detroit area offer urban 4-H groups a chance to learn about their environment and the waterways around the city that have affected its growth and development.

HYPOTHERMIA AND COLD WATER SAFETY presentations are frequently given by agents to medical groups, rescue units and the general public to reduce cold water drownings.

(Programs are constantly changing to meet new needs. For further information, contact your MAS agent or local Cooperative Extension Service Office.)





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(SEA GRANT) AGENTS:**

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