

## **Marine Education and Training**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This proposal seeks funding to increase the science education training of interns, in-service teachers, and students, in a wide variety of marine science topics, including human uses of coastal resources and environmental water quality. This training will expand the pool of educators who are knowledgeable in marine affairs and can teach in public and private schools as well as informal settings (e.g., nature centers, aquaria, programs for the general public).

The Marine Education Center of the UGA Marine Extension Service has received important support from the Sea Grant College System for over ten years, for various programs. The Marine Education Center is often booked to capacity as much as a year in advance; it offered 8,445 students and teachers a total of 53,118 total instructional hours in 1999-2000. To a considerable degree, Sea Grant support has helped develop this interest in coastal marine science, a matter of considerable importance in a state which has some of the most pristine marine habitats in the Eastern U.S. It is vital to educate the citizens of the state in how to use these valuable marine resources wisely.

The proposed projects will expand the internship, teacher, and student education programs to include additional topics in environmental water quality, a critical subject in Georgia at present. A new summer course for in-service teachers will focus on this topic and a new outreach program taught by Sea Grant Interns, and aimed at K- 4<sup>th</sup> graders, will show young children the potential interactions between marine organisms, water quality, and human activities. Georgia public school students are well below the national average in science scores; this instruction will provide a valuable foundation for more specific science instruction in the upper grade levels.