

# PRESS RELEASE

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**For more information, contact:**

Louella Losinio  
Science Communicator  
University of Guam Sea Grant  
Tel: (671) 735-0301  
Email: [losiniom@triton.uog.edu](mailto:losiniom@triton.uog.edu)

## **UOG Sea Grant achieves landmark institutional status**

The University of Guam Sea Grant program has achieved institutional status after receiving a unanimous recommendation from the National Sea Grant Advisory Board and the official designation from senior leadership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which funds the National Sea Grant College Program.

UOG Sea Grant started as a small project more than two decades ago and now advances from its prior status as a Sea Grant Coherent Area Program.

The program passed through a two-week comprehensive review in October 2021, during which the National Sea Grant Advisory Board evaluated the Guam program on the following criteria: leadership, organization, relevance, programmed team approach, education and training, extension and advisory services, relationships, productivity, support, and continuity of high performance.

NOAA officially approved UOG Sea Grant's institutional designation in the spring of 2022.

“Guam Sea Grant has earned Sea Grant Institutional Program status by demonstrating excellence in research, education, and public service dedicated to the environmentally responsible management and development of Guam’s marine and coastal resources,” said Jonathan Pennock, director of the National Sea Grant College Program, in a [July 26 release](#). “Congratulations to the University of Guam, Guam Sea Grant leadership, and all of the staff involved in the remarkable growth of Guam Sea Grant over the past several years that made this designation a clear and well-earned advancement.”

To celebrate this achievement, UOG Sea Grant will host a graduation ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 11, at the UOG Calvo Field House. Pennock and other dignitaries including UOG President Thomas W. Krise will be at the event.

“This year is the University of Guam’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it also marks our 50<sup>th</sup> year as a Land Grant institution,” Krise said. “Earning the official designation as a Sea Grant institution is a transformational accomplishment for us. Reaching this milestone gives us another reason to celebrate this year.”

A community celebration will follow the ceremony featuring outreach tables, musical performances by TAJ, Joe Guam, and The John Dank Show, and a chance to win a paddleboard.

“We are thankful to the National Sea Grant College Program for recognizing us as a trusted leader and partner in our community capable of executing effective programs relevant to local, regional, and national priorities,” said Austin Shelton, UOG Sea Grant director. “We look forward to celebrating this achievement with our community.”

UOG Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Sea Grant College Program — a partnership among universities and NOAA that seeks to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. The Sea Grant network includes more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students.

With the new designation, UOG is now both a Land Grant and Sea Grant institution.

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**Photo captions:**



*2018-uog-sea-grant-portland*

(From left) Rebecca Elmore; Philip Cruz; Fran Castro; Cathleen Moore-Linn; and Austin Shelton of the University of Guam with Jonathan Pennock, Joshua E. Brown, and Nikola M. Garber of the National Sea Grant Program at Sea Grant Week 2018 in Portland, Ore. Pennock, the director of the National Sea Grant College Program, will officially award the University of Guam institutional Sea Grant status at a ceremony to be held on Aug. 11 at the Calvo Field House.



*2019-uog-sea-grant*

University of Guam Sea Grant team members and researchers outside the Sea Grant house in 2019. Following a comprehensive review by the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, the UOG Sea Grant program has graduated from its prior coherent area program status to institutional status. (From left) Austin Shelton, director, UOG Sea Grant; Dalia Hernandez-Ortiz, graduate student and research assistant; Peter Houk, associate professor, UOG Marine Laboratory; Thomas W. Krise, president, UOG; Ujwalkumar Patil, assistant professor, UOG School of Engineering; Meagan Catahay, undergraduate student and research assistant; Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president and provost, UOG; and Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost of research and sponsored programs, UOG.



*2021-uog-sea-grant-trailer-1*

The outreach team of the University of Guam Sea Grant program in 2021 with their new grant-funded outreach trailer, which has allowed them to bring lessons on coastal and marine conservation to villages throughout the island. (From left) Teddy Concepcion, Leilani Sablan, Phillip Cruz, Addie Ferguson, and Josh Muña.

*Photos courtesy of University of Guam*