

# Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant's Role in Supporting Rural Communities

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## Our Mission

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provides research, education, training and science-based outreach to assist Georgia in solving problems and realizing opportunities for its coastal and marine environments.



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# UGA helps coastal communities:

- Prepare for weather events, such as hurricanes
- Mitigate potential damage caused by flooding
- Protect water quality from stormwater runoff



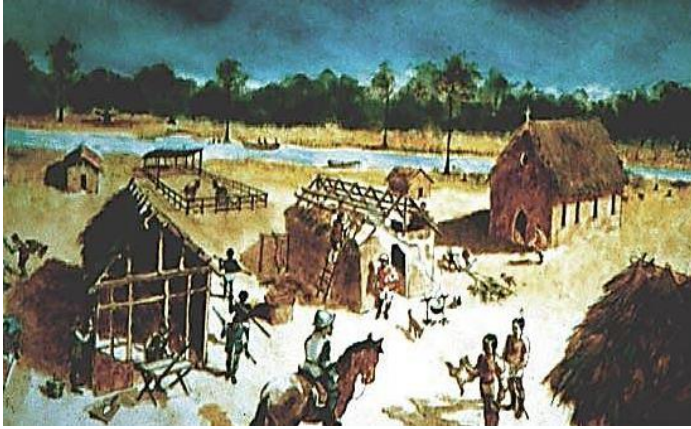


# Supporting Sustainable Coastal Tourism

- Blessing of the Fleet events
- Coastal Stewards Program
- Ocean to Table Program
- Birding Certification for water-based ecotourism groups
- Georgia Coastal Tourism Conference
  - April 17, 2020



# A Rich Culture and History



Images courtesy of Buddy Sullivan



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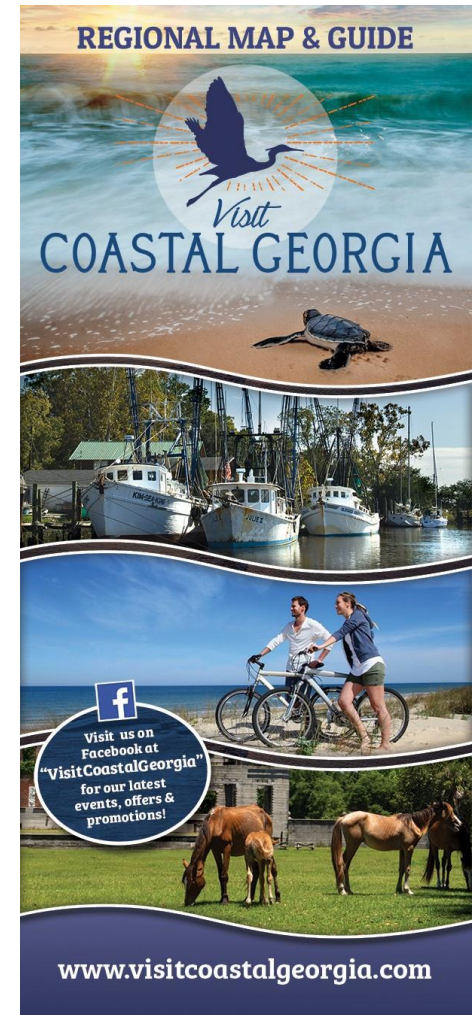
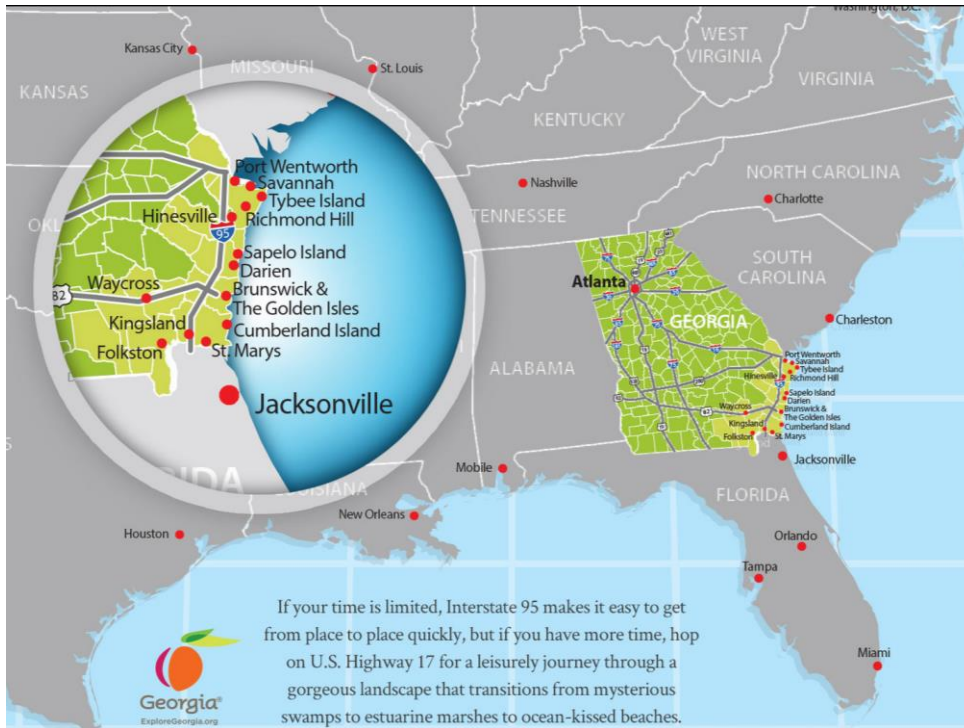


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# Economic Importance of Tourism in Coastal Georgia

Coastal tourism in Georgia drives significant growth and prosperity for its local communities and helps support a **\$63 billion** industry across the state.



# UGA Supports the Seafood Industry








- Marketing and promotion of GA products
- Raising consumer awareness (georgiaseafood.org)
- Providing seafood safety training
  - 200 companies in GA
  - \$1 billion in annual sales
  - Local food movements and restaurants

## Georgia Seafood Directory

Choose the **Retail** or **Wholesale** buttons below to find listings of Georgia Seafood Providers, or **Search** for specific types of seafood. If you are a retailer or wholesaler and would like to add your information to the seafood directory, [please fill out this form](#).

Find listings for <keywords>   [Advanced Search](#)

**RETAIL** (28) **WHOLESALE** (66)

 Shrimp  Fish  Oyster  Whelk  Blue Crab  Clam  Specialty Products



# Economic Impact of Georgia's Seafood Industry

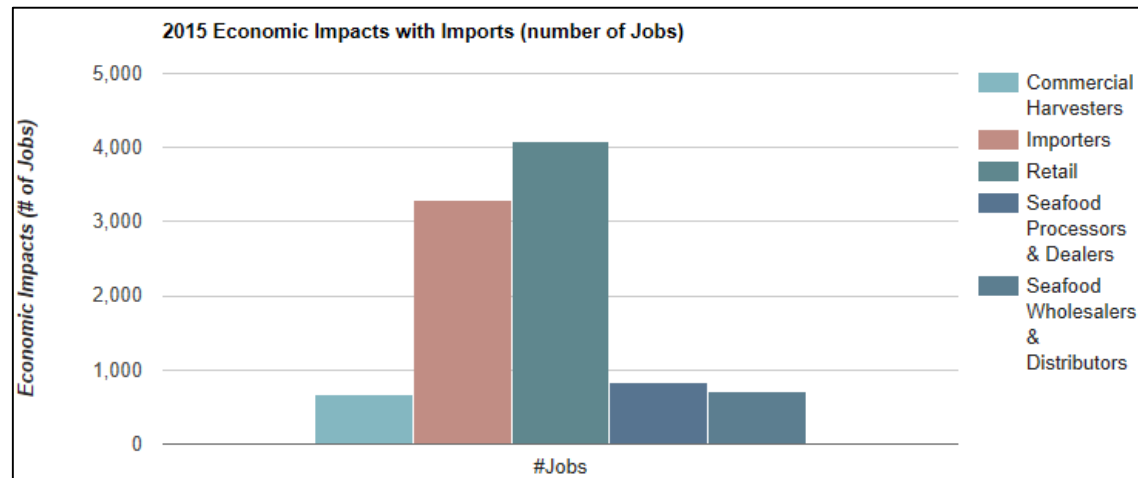
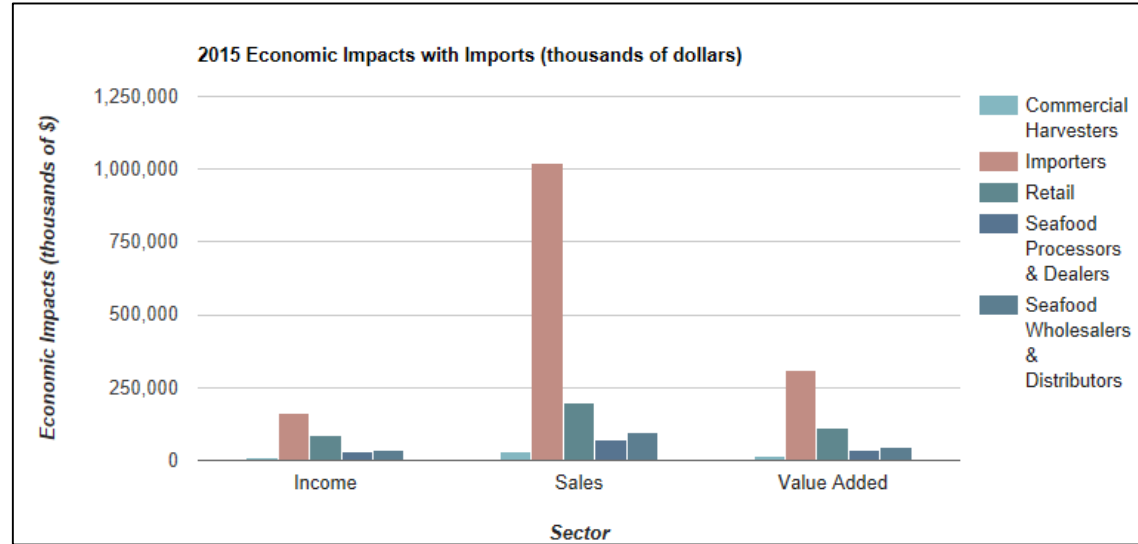
## Total Impact

9,616 jobs

\$1,416,098,000 sales

\$320,447,000 income

\$523,190,000 value added



Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States Report, NOAA, 2017

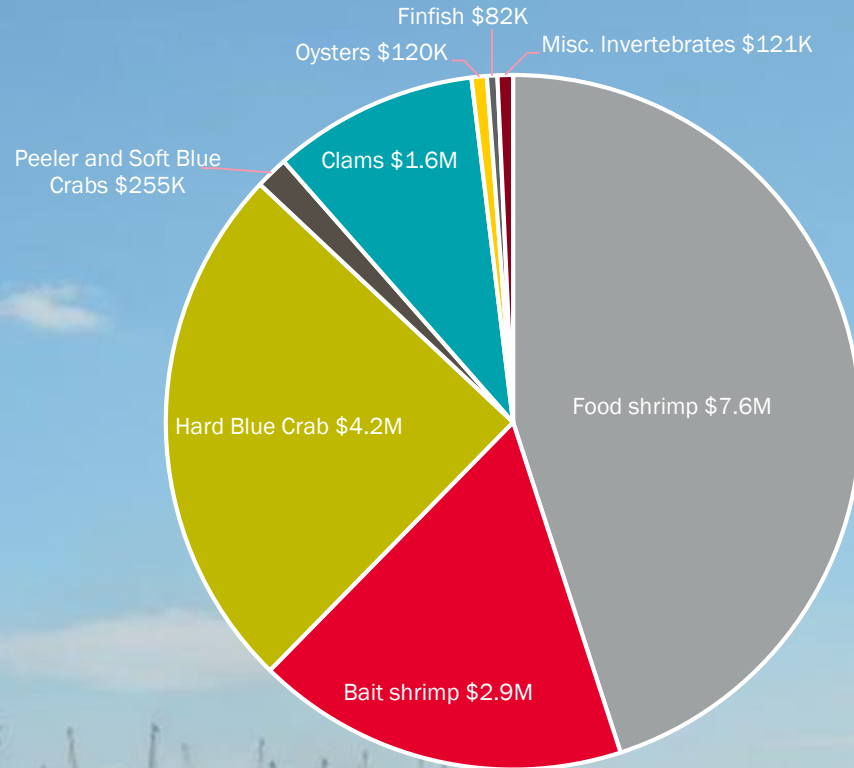




# Seafood Values

2017 Landings:  
**7.7 million pounds**

2017 Dockside Value:  
**\$16.8 million**



# Economic Impact of Georgia's Recreational Fisheries (2015)



- Jobs: 1,433
- Sales: \$142,292,000
- Income: \$58,661,000
- Value added: \$93,408,000
- Total state trip and durable goods expenditures: \$131,841,000





# Responding to Change



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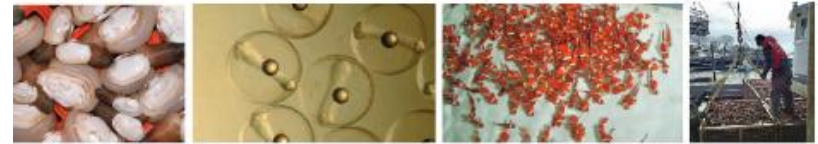
# Adam Stemle, UGA's First Marine Economist

- Senior Research Associate for NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service SEFSC Lab in Miami FL.
- Fisheries Economics Program Manager of the North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries.
- Initial work will focus on oyster aquaculture economic impact and feasibility studies
- Recreational and commercial fisheries economic analysis
- Impacts of Golden Ray
- Developing novel and safe food ingredients from cannonball jellyfish



# Aquaculture Vision

- 95% of seafood consumed in US is imported
- Seafood is needed to feed the world
- NOAA and USDA are pushing initiatives with aquaculture.
- Sea Grant has a \$12 million RFP to support Cooperative Aquaculture projects this year
- In addition to Oysters, aquaponic systems and other applications have potential.



## 10-YEAR NOAA SEA GRANT AQUACULTURE VISION

March 2016

Prepared by the  
Sea Grant Association



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# Charlie Phillips, owner

Phillips Seafood, Sapelo Sea Farms, Fish Dock







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## Georgia's Clam Industry

**1995**

- \$64,973

**2016**

- \$2.4 million

This is a 37-fold increase in the value of the crop.

## Virginia's Oyster Industry

**2004**

- \$196,125

**2016**

- \$36.2 million





## History of Georgia's Oyster Industry

- In the 1930s, Georgia led the country with 13 canneries along the coast
- Overharvesting and market changes led to decline
- Natural wild production results in clumped oysters







## Oyster Reefs

- Oysters naturally grow in clusters
- Good to eat, but not pretty
- Oyster hatchery will grow single oysters





## Oysters on the Half Shell

- Georgia chefs and restaurants want local oysters
- Water quality along the Georgia coast is very good
- Georgia single oysters are high quality
- Demand exists—market is there!





# Oyster Aquaculture



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**Shellfish Research Laboratory**



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## UGA Oyster Hatchery

- UGA hatchery is Georgia's first and only
- Spat, or baby oysters, are created and distributed to growers to be grown to market size
- Single oysters have a higher market value than clumped





## UGA Hatchery Growth

- Provided 4 million spat to growers last year
- Worth \$1 million to \$1.8 million at market size
- Produced about 11 million spat this year
- This year we also produced clams, blood arcs and triploid oysters for the first time







## Oyster Maintenance

- Grown in mesh bags on racks in coastal estuaries
- Labor intensive to clean and grade oysters as they grow
- Multi-state project comparing floating gear with bottom year shows very promising results in all four states.





# Field Nursey/Grow-out



# Additional needs and feedback

## Grower Concerns

- Regional seed sourcing
- Triploids
- Summer harvest
- Approval of floating gear

## Other Stakeholders

- Backlog of lease permits requested
- Financial data and risk of starting an operation or hatchery
- Streamlined regulations specific to aquaculture
- Impacts on recreational fisheries
- Public perception and acceptance





# Oyster Roast for a Reason

Nov. 17, 2019 on Skidaway Island





**THANK YOU!**

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