

National Sea Grant Law Center Legal Research Services

Do you have a question related to ocean and coastal law or are you working on a project that would benefit from a legal research component? The National Sea Grant Law Center (NSGLC) offers a range of research services to provide legal information and analysis to the Sea Grant Community, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations or associations through a variety of products and services. Cost, response time, and expertise will depend on the complexity of the research question and staff availability. In some instances, the NSGLC may work with a requesting entity to develop funding requests or grant proposals to secure the necessary resources to complete the research. Please [contact the NSGLC staff](#) to learn more!

Request Type	Standard	Moderate	Intermediate	Complex
Research Level	Straightforward legal questions that can be answered through NSGLC's Advisory Service.	Moderately complex legal questions focused on a single state or topic area.	Complex legal questions relating to developing areas of law or a regional comparative analysis.	Very complex legal questions in developing areas of law requiring a comparative analysis, workshops, or model language.
Staff Time	Up to 40 hours of law student research assistance with NSGLC attorney supervision.	320 hours of law student research assistance (e.g., 8-week summer internship) with NSGLC attorney supervision.	Up to 25% of NSGLC law fellow effort.	Up to 20% of NSGLC staff attorney effort.
Cost	No cost for Sea Grant Programs and Qualifying Agencies.	\$20,000	\$27,000	\$35,000+
Deliverables	Short memorandum of law; fact sheets/explainers.	Long memos, white papers.	Reports, legal compilations, data spreadsheets, or infographics.	Reports, data spreadsheets, workshops, model language.
Examples	A memo prepared for a state Sea Grant program discussing whether a new state law will result in a regulatory taking.	A white paper prepared for a nonprofit agency summarizing various land-use tools to facilitate managed retreat.	A regional research project comparing several states' aquaculture laws that results in multiple written products or presentations.	A comparative analysis of PFAS regulation in the Great Lakes region involving state legal scans, regulator workshops, and case studies.

Disclaimer: The NSGLC is prohibited from providing legal advice or becoming involved in litigation. The information provided by NSGLC attorneys and law students is intended for informational purposes only. Entities requesting legal information should always seek independent, professional legal advice prior to taking action.

