

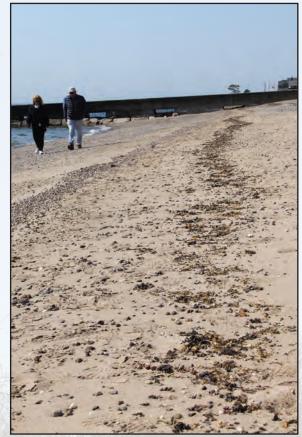
## TALK TO US

Send comments and questions about this issue to: judy.benson@uconn.edu

We'll share as many as possible, along with our responses, at: seagrant.uconn.edu



Sheila Stiles, research geneticist at the Milford lab, describes her work on blue mussels to a Sea Grant group on a recent tour of the facility. Photo: Judy Benson



A couple walks near the wrack line at Woodmont Beach in Milford in April. Photo: Judy Benson

## What's in our names?

What are wrack lines? The word wrack is a term for various kinds of seaweed, and wrack lines are the collections of organic matter (sea grass, shells, feathers, seaweed and other debris) that are deposited on shore by high tides. More generally, wrack lines are where the sea meets the land.

With our magazine *Wrack Lines*, we tell stories about the intersection of the land, sea and Connecticut Sea Grant. So what is Connecticut Sea Grant? One of 34 Sea Grant programs across the country, it helps residents make the most of our coastal resources and inland waterways.

It addresses the challenges that come with living by the water or within the Long Island Sound watershed, in a state with 332 miles of shoreline and three major tidal rivers. This NOAA-state partnership based at UConn's Avery Point campus works with aquaculture farmers, fishermen and seafood purveyors to help their businesses prosper.

It funds research essential to understanding and managing our changing coastal and inland environments. It provides communities and local leaders with the information they need to make better land and shoreline decisions that result in more resilient communities and healthier watersheds. It educates students as well as teachers and adults of all ages about the marine environment.

Connected to experts and residents who live, work and recreate in the Sound and its watershed, it brings diverse interests together around a common purpose of working for mutually beneficial solutions to problems.

Small in staff but big in impact, Connecticut Sea Grant is like a pilot boat that navigates the way for large vessels toward safe harbors. Since 1988, Connecticut Sea Grant has supported "Science Serving the Connecticut Coast."



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Conch pots and lobster traps are stacked on the docks in Bridgeport, where the commercial shellfish businesses owned by Paul Henriques and Dave Hopp are based. Photo: Nancy Balcom

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