DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH, EDUCATION, & POLICY IMPACT

75 Years of Impact: Research, Education and Policy in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

1st	No. 6	445+	30+
PhD program dedicated to resource economics (1969)	PhD program nationally, National Research Council (2010)	MS and PhD degrees granted by 2026	countries represented by our graduates

Executive summary

For 75 years, URI's Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics has turned rigorous economic research into real-world policy. Founded in 1950 as a small Agricultural Economics program, the department was transformed in the Sea Grant era of the late 1960s, when it launched the nation's first PhD program dedicated to resource economics (1969) and helped URI become one of the country's first four Sea Grant Colleges. Through the USAID-funded International Center for Marine Resource Development, it trained fisheries and coastal managers from Central America, West Africa and Southeast Asia, and for decades at least half its graduate students came from abroad.

ENRE's influence reaches well beyond campus. Faculty developed the approach adopted in federal regulations for assessing damages from oil and hazardous-substance spills, served as experts on cases from Exxon Valdez to the North Cape, informed federal offshore oil-leasing decisions, and advised the EPA Science Advisory Board, multiple National Research Council panels, the New England Fishery Management Council, and Rhode Island commissions on sea-level rise, aquaculture, seafood marketing, and renewable energy siting. The department founded *Marine Resource Economics*, now the leading international journal in fisheries and coastal economics. ENRE faculty have also led professional associations at every level, from regional to international (e.g., IIFET, NAAFE, AERE, and NAREA) and served as editors of the flagship journals in environmental and natural resource economics.

The department has also earned sustained national recognition, including a No. 6 PhD ranking from the National Research Council (2010) and a No. 2 ranking in natural resource economics from College Raptor (2026). It has granted more than 445 MS and PhD degrees to graduates from over 30 countries, whose honors include five AAEA Outstanding Thesis Awards and seven Knauss Fellowships.

Today ENRE continues to evolve. Recent milestones include an Accelerated Bachelor's–Master's program, a Graduate Certificate in Econometrics and Data Analysis, STEM designation for all three degrees, and New England regional tuition. With research spanning coastal adaptation, water, energy, land conservation, and data-driven causal analysis, the department enters its next quarter-century building on a legacy of research that matters.

Policy Impact & Distinctions

How ENRE faculty and graduates have shaped policy, the profession, and the University

What began in 1950 as a small program in Agricultural Economics has grown into a department whose research has been written into federal regulation, whose faculty have advised the nation's top scientific, regulatory, and environmental bodies, and whose graduates now work across academia, government, and industry around the world.

The department–then called the Department of Resource Economics (REN)–actively responded to the many opportunities developed in the 1960s under the leadership of John Knauss, Dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography, and Senator Claiborne Pell. We instituted academic research, degree and outreach programs in resource economics that quickly established the department as an international leader in fisheries economics and policy. The department and other URI programs led URI, in a short period of time, to become the Ocean University in the Ocean State.

Research legacy and policy influence

Over 75 years, ENRE faculty and their students have made sustained contributions across environmental and natural resource economics, especially in the following areas.

Fisheries, seafood economics and ocean policy.

Faculty helped establish URI as a global center for fisheries economics, covering bioeconomic analysis, regulation, compliance, co-management, seafood markets, aquaculture, eco-labeling, and consumer behavior.

Starting in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Virgil Norton, John Gates, Andreas Holmsen, Jon Sutinen, Cathy Roheim, James L. Anderson, Hiro Uchida and others made URI a leading center for the economics of fisheries management, from bioeconomic analysis to compliance and regulation to fisheries comanagement and governance, a legacy anchored by the journal *Marine Resource Economics*.

James L. Anderson's research on seafood marketing, trade and aquaculture shaped understanding of global seafood markets. Cathy Roheim pioneered research on eco-labels for seafood products, linking consumer markets to sustainable fisheries. Hiro Uchida carries this legacy forward with his experimental approach to study consumer behavior and new ways for fishermen to add value.

Environmental valuation and conservation

ENRE faculty advanced methods for measuring recreation and other non-market environmental values, valuing spill damages, studying land-use and conservation decisions, and assessing tourism and offshore-energy impacts.

Kenneth (Ted) McConnell's work on the economics of recreation advanced the methods economists use to measure non-market values of environmental resources. Timothy Tyrrell brought economic analysis to marine tourism and its role in coastal economies. Corey Lang's work on impact of off-shore energy on rental prices.

James Opaluch and Thomas Grigalunas developed methods for valuing environmental damages from oil and chemical spills, later adopted in federal regulations. This scholarship has shaped public decisions. James Opaluch and Thomas Grigalunas developed approaches incorporated into federal rules for assessing natural-resource damages from oil and hazardous-substance spills. Their work also informed federal offshore oil-leasing decisions. Faculty have served on EPA advisory bodies, National Research Council panels, fisheries-management committees, Rhode Island commissions, Department of Energy advisory projects, and editorial boards of major academic journals.

Stephen Swallow's work on the economics of land use, including those with Robert Johnston ('97), informed conservation and development policy at the rural–urban fringe. Corey Lang's work on how communities value and decide on land use and who benefits from land conservation.

Water, development, energy and data science

Emi Uchida's interdisciplinary research at the nexus of environment and development, including conservation of coastal wetlands, climate risks and coastal adaptation, and payments for ecosystem services.

Todd Guilfoos's work on water resources, groundwater and nonpoint source pollution and how people cooperate to manage shared resources. Pengfei Liu (MS '11)'s work on water quality impacts from agriculture and Emi Uchida's work on impact of water salinization on coastal communities.

Pengfei Liu (MS '11) and Hui Zhou apply large-scale data and causal inference methods to environmental, energy and resource economics, from valuing ecosystem services to measuring the economic and environmental impact of data centers.

Global leadership in ocean and fisheries economics

URI has long been recognized for its leading role in fisheries economics and policy spheres. In the 1960s and early 1970s, work by ENRE (then Resource and Environmental Economics, REN) faculty had significant impacts on fisheries policy. Notable and impactful studies by Virgil J Norton, John M Gates, Joel Dirlam and other faculty were very influential. In 1969, UNFAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) invited A. Holmsen to present a paper on fishermen's remuneration to the International Conference on Investment in Fisheries. Ted McConnell developed novel research on non-market valuation of recreational activities including fisheries.

A field-defining journal. Jon Sutinen founded *Marine Resource Economics* in 1982 and served as its first editor, followed by ENRE editors Cathy Roheim (1996) and James Anderson (1999). The journal, now published by the University of Chicago Press, is widely regarded as the leading international journal in fisheries and coastal economics.

Professional societies. Sutinen chaired the Executive Committee of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) from 1990 to 1997 and served as the first President of the North American Association of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE) from 2003 to 2005. Cathy Roheim served as the President of IIFET (2006-2008). Hiro Uchida served as a NAAFE board member (2011-15), IIFET Executive Committee member (2018-22) and served as its President from 2024 to 2026.

Global ocean stewardship. Cathy Roheim served on the Marine Stewardship Council Board of Trustees (2006) and the National Geographic Society Oceans Advisory Council (2010). Emi Uchida was named a Pew Marine Fellow by The Pew Charitable Trusts in 2024 for her research on mangrove and seagrass conservation in Indonesia..

Shaping national environmental policy

Damages from oil and chemical spills. Jim Opaluch and Tom Grigalunas developed the approach adopted in federal regulations for assessing liability for damages from spills of oil and hazardous substances. Opaluch worked as an expert on natural resource damage assessments for a couple of dozen spills of oil and hazardous substances, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the BP oil spill, and both major Rhode Island oil spills (World Prodigy in 1989 and North Cape in 1996).

Offshore oil leasing. Opaluch and Grigalunas helped develop analyses used in the federal regulatory process for the five-year offshore oil leasing plan covering 1987–92. Jim Opaluch served on a National Academy of Science National Research Council panel to assess the adequacy of environmental information for making oil and gas leasing decisions on the Outer Continental Shelf. The conclusions of the report were indicated by President George H. W. Bush as the rationale for a placing moratorium on OCS leasing until information gaps were filled.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Opaluch served two three-year terms on the EPA Science Advisory Board and three terms on its environmental economics advisory committee, including a term leading the committee (co-chair, 2015-) Swallow served on the EPA Advisory Board's Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (2013-16).

U.S. Minerals Management Service. Grigalunas served on the agency's Scientific Committee and chaired it for one year.

The National Academies. Opaluch served on three National Research Council panels, on offshore oil (1988), on the adequacy of information for offshore oil production in Alaska, California and South Florida (1989), and on remediation of PCB contamination sites (1999). Jon Sutinen was appointed to the NRC's Ocean Studies Board in 2001. Anderson co-chaired the NRC committee on the introduction non-native oysters (2003) and served on the committee investigating opportunities for marine aquaculture in the US (1991).

Editorship in flagship journals. ENRE faculty contributed as editors of flagship journals in environmental and natural resource economics and the legacy continues. For the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* (JEEM), Jim Opaluch (1987-90) and Stephen Swallow (1994-95) served as the Associate Editors and Corey Lang is currently on the Editorial Council (2025-) . For the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (AJAE), Jim Opaluch served as the Associate Editor, Stephen Swallow served as the Co-Editor (2004-07), and Pengfei Liu is currently an Associate Editor (2025-). Emi Uchida served as an Associate Editor of *Environmental and Development Economics* (2010-13). Corey Lang was an Associate Editor of *Land Economics* (2021-26). Todd Guilfoos serves as Associate Editor of *Water Resources and Economics* (2020-).

Leadership in professional societies. Jim Opaluch served as the Vice President and Stephen Swallow served as a Director of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE), the flagship association in environmental and resource economics. Jim Opaluch (1992-95) and Stephen Swallow both served as the President of the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA), and E. Uchida (2015-18) and Guilfoos (2017-20) served as its board members. Through the USDA Agricultural Experiment Station (AES), Guilfoos served as the Chair of the working group W3190 (water economics, 2016-17) and Corey Lang served as the President of the working group W5133 (nonmarket valuation, 2024-25.)

Regional and state policy

ENRE expertise has informed Rhode Island's Legislative Commission on the Economic Effects of Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding (Opaluch, 2015), the New England Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (Hiro Uchida, 2018-), the establishment of its Social Science Subcommittee (Hiro Uchida, 2025-), the Rhode Island Aquaculture Commission (J Anderson, 1995-97), the Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative (Hiro Uchida, 2011-), and renewable energy siting through RI legislation, Maryland Public Utilities Commission, and the U.S. Department of Energy advisory committees (Corey Lang, 2021-2024).

Firsts and pioneering programs

ENRE launched the **first PhD program dedicated to the study of resource economics** (1969). URI became **one of the first four Sea Grant Colleges** in the nation (1971), with Niels Rorholm directing the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program from 1971 to 1984. The USAID-funded International Center for Marine Resource Development (1972) brought students from developing countries to the department, and for decades at least half of our graduate students came from abroad, making ENRE arguably the most culturally diverse program at URI. In 2001 the department opened a state-of-the-art **Experimental Economics and Policy Simulation Laboratory (SIMLAB)**, and in 2020 it launched an **Accelerated Bachelor's–Master's program**, one of the very first of its kind in the college.

National recognition

ENRE ranked **No. 4 in research productivity** among all agricultural and resource economics programs in the nation (2007) and **No. 8 among the "Best Places to Go to Graduate School"** in agricultural and natural resource economics (2008). In 2010 the National Research Council ranked the ENRE PhD program **No. 6 in the country** (No. 4 in research). Most recently, ENRE was ranked by College Raptor as the **No. 2 Best College in Natural Resource Economics in the US** (CollegeRaptor, 2026). Our students have earned five AAEA Outstanding Thesis Awards and seven Knauss Fellowships, and undergraduate enrollment grew from 8 majors in 2003 to 100 in 2013.

Global legacy and impact

Founded at URI in 1969, the USAID-funded International Center for Marine Resource Development, housed in Woodward Hall within what was then the College of Resource Development (now the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, or CELS), and the International Sea Grant initiative provided numerous opportunities for ENRE (then REN) faculty to develop programs at universities abroad and to develop the capacity for managing fisheries and coastal resources in developing countries. ENRE faculty and students were involved in developing research and training programs for fisheries development and management in Central America, West Africa and SE Asia. ENRE and other URI departments created degree programs, short courses and non-degree special programs to train international students interested in fisheries and marine resources. Faculty from ENRE and several other URI departments performed research and provided advisory services to the developing countries in the regions where ICMRD was involved. These and other activities quickly made URI a global leader in fisheries and marine management and policy.

A home built against the odds: the Coastal Institute

The Coastal Institute building exists because of the vision and persistence of Professor Thomas Weaver. In the late 1980s the department was housed in a deteriorating building with a failing heating system. A USDA program officer visiting URI through a fisheries research grant told the department about a USDA program for constructing buildings devoted primarily to research. Tom Weaver took the idea from concept through planning, design and funding: after the proposal was selected competitively by USDA, he worked with Rhode Island's Congressional delegation to secure special appropriations in stages across several fiscal years, as the building was repeatedly dropped from and restored to the Congressional bill. Final approval of the **$12 million USDA facilities grant** came in 1995, more than a decade after the idea was born.

Tom Weaver died suddenly on April 1, 1996, only months after the funds were secured. The department carried the project through an architecture firm's bankruptcy, a second round of construction bidding, and a moment when USDA considered rescinding the project, which was saved by a trip to Washington to reaffirm the department's commitment. ENRE moved into the Coastal Institute building in 2001, and its auditorium is dedicated in Tom Weaver's memory.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

History of Our Degree Programs

Undergraduate and graduate programs, from the first degrees to today

From its formative years the department offered a small undergraduate program and a Master of Science program in Agricultural Economics. More than 20 MS theses were completed between 1950 and 1967, on land use and on the dairy, poultry and fishing industries. The Sea Grant era of the late 1960s and 1970s turned the department toward doctoral education, and later decades added new undergraduate majors, certificates and pathways.

Graduate programs

Year	Milestone
1950	Graduate study begins with the MS in Agricultural Economics.
1954	**First MS degree conferred:** Robert Martin, "Forage Utilization on Dairy Farms," advised by Fred Taylor.
1969	**PhD in Economics – Marine Resources established**, jointly administered by the Department of Resource Economics, the Department of Economics and the College of Business. It was the first PhD program dedicated to the study of resource economics.
1972	**First PhD degree conferred:** Christopher Newton, "Tariff Reduction and Fish Processing," advised by John Gates.
1976	**First PhD awarded to a woman:** Nancy Bockstael, "Fisheries Investment and Market Behavior," advised by Darrel Hueth.
1977	The department takes over administration of the PhD program, renamed Resource Economics – Marine Resources.
1995	The PhD is renamed Environmental and Natural Resource Economics.
2001	The department has granted more than 200 MS and 100 PhD degrees, to graduates representing more than 30 countries.
2010	The National Research Council ranks the ENRE PhD program No. 6 in the country.
2020	**Accelerated Bachelor's–Master's (ABM) program** welcomes its first cohort, letting ENRE majors earn the BS and MS in five years; it later expanded to Economics majors, with about 20 students completed or enrolled to date.
2024	**Graduate Certificate in Econometrics and Data Analysis** welcomes its first cohort.
2025	ENRE PhD and MS approved as **STEM degrees**, allowing international students to apply for three-year OPT.

Undergraduate programs

Year	Milestone
1950	Undergraduate study begins in Agricultural Economics.
1989	**Resource Economics and Commerce (REC)** major established.
1997	**Environmental Economics and Management (EEM)** major established with the Department of Natural Resource Science.
2012	**Green Business double major** introduced in partnership with the College of Business.
2013	ENRE undergraduate majors reach 100 for the first time, up from 8 in 2003 and 29 in 2007.
2017	**Undergraduate Certificate in Energy Economics and Policy** approved, with first certificates awarded after the Spring 2017 semester.
2020	**Accelerated Bachelor's–Master's (ABM)** program launches.
2025	ENRE BS approved for **regional tuition** for students from most New England states, and designated a **STEM degree**.

Our names through the years

1950	Department of Agricultural Economics
1965	Department of Food & Resource Economics
1969	Department of Resource Economics (REN)
1995	Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE)

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Department Chairs

The leaders who have guided the department since 1950

	Chair	Years	Notes
1	Fred Taylor	1950–1956	Department of Agricultural Economics
2	Niels Rorholm	1956–1972	Longest-serving chair; also directed the RI Sea Grant College Program, 1971–84
3	Ronald Cummings	1972–1976	
4	Darrel Hueth	1976–1978	
5	Thomas Grigalunas	1978–1983	
6	Thomas Weaver	1983–1996	Led the effort to build the Coastal Institute; its auditorium is dedicated in his memory
7	John Gates	1996–1997	Interim chair following Thomas Weaver's death
8	Cathy Roheim (formerlyWessells)	1997–2001	First woman to chair the department; led the move into the Coastal Institute building
9	James L. Anderson	2001–2009	
10	James Opaluch	2009–2018	Led the effort to expand the undergraduate program, including the creation of Double Degree with Business and the Certificate in Energy Economics and Policy
11	Hirotsugu (Hiro) Uchida	2018–2023	Led the effort to start the Accelerated BS-MS 5-year program in ENRE
12	Emi Uchida	2023–2026	Led the effort to: recognize BS, MS, PhD as STEM degrees; move BS to regional tuition; elevate ENRE faculty to Group D; create the Graduate Certificate in Econometrics and Data Analysis;
13	Corey Lang	2026–present	

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Milestones, 1950–2026

Key moments in the life of the department

1950–1967 · The formative years

A small undergraduate and MS program in Agricultural Economics, with research on land use and the dairy, poultry and fishing industries.

1950	The Department of Agricultural Economics offers undergraduate and MS programs.
1954	First MS degree conferred to Robert Martin.
1965	Department renamed Food & Resource Economics.
1966	The National Sea Grant College and Program Act establishes the Sea Grant Program.

1968–1980 · The Sea Grant era

Sea Grant catalyzed rapid growth and a shift toward graduate education, with research centered on fisheries and coastal economics.

1968	First grants awarded under the Sea Grant Program.
1969	Department renamed Resource Economics.
1969	PhD in Economics – Marine Resources launched, the first PhD program dedicated to resource economics.
1970	9 full-time faculty and 7 graduate students.
1971	URI becomes one of the first four Sea Grant Colleges in the nation.
1972	First PhD conferred, to Christopher Newton.
1972	URI's USAID-funded International Center for Marine Resource Development becomes a major source of support for students from developing countries.
1975	12 full-time faculty and 24 graduate students.
1976	Nancy Bockstael becomes the first woman to earn a PhD in the program.
1977	The department takes over administration of the PhD, renamed Resource Economics – Marine Resources.
1980	13 full-time faculty and 25 graduate students.

1981–1991 · Broadening the agenda

New faculty expanded the department's focus beyond fisheries to water quality, land use, pollution, tourism, aquaculture and international trade.

1982	Jon Sutinen founded the journal *Marine Resource Economics*.
1985	13 full-time faculty and 28 graduate students.
1988	Thomas Weaver begins planning a new building with an experimental economics laboratory (SimLab).
1989	Resource Economics and Commerce (REC) undergraduate major established.
1990	11 full-time faculty and 41 graduate students.

1992–2000 · Building for the future

A decade of exceptional productivity in funding, publications and advising, and a long campaign for a new home.

1995	Department renamed Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE); the PhD is renamed to match.
1995	Final approval of the $12 million USDA facilities grant for the Coastal Institute building.
1995	10 full-time faculty and 33 graduate students.
1996	Thomas Weaver dies suddenly on April 1.
1997	Environmental Economics and Management (EEM) major established with Natural Resource Science.
2000	12 full-time faculty and 37 graduate students.

2001–2010 · A new home and national rankings

By 2001 the department had granted more than 200 MS and 100 PhD degrees to graduates from more than 30 countries.

2001	ENRE moves from Lippitt Hall to the new Coastal Institute building; the auditorium is dedicated in memory of Thomas Weaver.
2001	The Experimental Economics and Policy Simulation Laboratory (SimLab) opens; Christopher Anderson and Jonathan King run its first experiments.
2006	Emi Uchida joins the faculty.
2007	ENRE ranked No. 4 nationally for research productivity among agricultural and resource economics programs.
2008	Hiro Uchida joins the faculty.
2008	ENRE ranked No. 8 among the "Best Places to Go to Graduate School" in its field.
2010	National Research Council ranks the ENRE PhD program No. 6 in the country.

2011–2026 · Renewal and new directions

Faculty turnover opened the door to new expertise in environmental, energy, water, agricultural and data-driven economics.

2011	Corey Lang and Tom Sproul join the faculty.
2012	Green Business double major launched with the College of Business.
2013	Todd Guilfoos joins the faculty through the Water Cluster hire.
2013	Undergraduate majors reach 100 for the first time.
2016	Simona Trandafir appointed to a tenure-track faculty position.
2017	Undergraduate Certificate in Energy Economics and Policy approved.
2019	James Opaluch retires after more than 40 years of service; Pengfei Liu (ENRE MS 2011) joins through the Big Data Cluster hire.
2020	Accelerated Bachelor's–Master's program (ABM) welcomes its first cohort.
2023	Hui Zhou joins the faculty.
2024	Graduate Certificate in Econometrics and Data Analysis welcomes its first cohort.
2025	ENRE BS approved for New England regional tuition; ENRE degrees designated STEM; ENRE faculty approved to rise to Group D beginning in 2027.
2026	ENRE celebrates its 75th Anniversary & Graduate Reunion, October 9–11. ENRE ranks No.2 to study Natural Resource Economics by RaptorCaptor. 7 full time faculty and 15 graduate students.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Awards & Honorary Positions

Recognition earned by ENRE faculty and students, listed by year

Faculty

Year	Faculty member	Award or position
1981	James Opaluch	AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award (newly hired faculty)
1982	Jon Sutinen	Founder and first Editor, *Marine Resource Economics*
1984	James L. Anderson	AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award (newly hired faculty)
1987–90	James Opaluch	Associate Editor, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*
1988	James Opaluch	National Research Council Panel on Offshore Oil
1989	James Opaluch	National Research Council Panel to Assess Adequacy of Information on Offshore Oil Production in Alaska, California and South Florida
1990	James Opaluch	Vice President, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
1990–97	Jon Sutinen	Chair, Executive Committee, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade
1991	James Anderson	National Research Council Panel to assess Opportunities for Marine Aquaculture in the US
1992–93	Timothy Tyrrell	President, New England Chapter, Travel and Tourism Research Association
1994–95	Stephen Swallow	Associate Editor, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*
1995	Tomislav Vukina (‘92) & James Anderson	Article of the Year, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*
1996-1998	Cathy Roheim	Editor, *Marine Resource Economics*
1997–2001	James Opaluch	Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
1997	Stephen Swallow	Director, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
1998	Thomas Grigalunas	Director, Korean-American Joint Marine Policy Research Center
1999-2011	James Anderson	Editor, *Marine Resource Economics*

Year	Faculty member	Award or position
1999	James Opaluch	National Research Council Panel on Remediation of PCB Contamination Sites
2000	Timothy Tyrrell	President's Award, Travel and Tourism Research Association
2001	Jon Sutinen	Ocean Studies Board, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences
2001-03	Cathy Roheim	CELS Associate Dean for Research
2003	James Opaluch	US EPA Science Advisory Board, Environmental Economics Advisory Council
2003	James Anderson	Co-Chair, National Research Council on the Introduction of Non-Native Oysters
2003	Stephen Swallow	Distinguished Member Award, Northern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
2003–04	Stephen Swallow	President, Northeast Association of Agricultural and Resource Economists
2003–05	Jon Sutinen	First President, North American Association of Fisheries Economists
2004	Stephen Swallow	Co-Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
2005	James Opaluch	Chair, National Science Foundation Site Visit Panel
2006	James Opaluch	Second term, US EPA Environmental Economics Advisory Committee
2006	Cathy Roheim	Board of Trustees, Marine Stewardship Council
2008	James Anderson	Director, International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade
2009	James Opaluch	Chair, National Science Foundation Site Visit Panel
2010	Cathy Roheim	Oceans Advisory Council, National Geographic Society
2010	James Opaluch	Chair, National Science Foundation Site Visit Panel, University of California, Berkeley
2010	Emi Uchida	Associate Editor, *Environmental and Development Economics*
2011	James Opaluch	Chartered Board, US EPA Science Advisory Board
2011	Hiro Uchida	Board of Directors, North American Association of Fisheries Economists
2011	Hiro Uchida	Advisory Council, Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Collaborative
2012-25	Emi Uchida	Associate Director, URI Coastal Institute
2012	James Opaluch	Chair, National Science Foundation Site Visit Panel, Arizona State University
2013	Hiro Uchida	Board Member, Marine Resource Economics Foundation

Year	Faculty member	Award or position
2014	James Opaluch	Second term, Chartered Board, US EPA Science Advisory Board
2014	Emi Uchida	Abe Fellow, Social Science Research Council
2015	James Opaluch	Co-Chair, US EPA Environmental Economics Advisory Committee
2015	James Opaluch	Rhode Island Legislative Commission on Economic Effects of Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding
2015	James Opaluch	Chair, National Science Foundation Site Visit Committees, Carnegie Mellon University and Columbia University
2015-18	Emi Uchida	Board Member, Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
2016	James Anderson	Article of Enduring Significance for Anderson (1985) *Marine Resource Economics*
2016	Hiro Uchida	Abe Fellow, Social Science Research Council
2017	Todd Guilfoos	Chair, USDA Agricultural Experiment Station W3190
2017-20	Todd Guilfoos	Board Member, Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association
2018	Hiro Uchida	Scientific and Statistical Committee, New England Fishery Management Council
2018	James Anderson	Fellow, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade
2018	Cathy Roheim	Fellow, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade
2018	Hiro Uchida	Executive Committee, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade
2021-26	Corey Lang	Editorial Council, *Land Economics*
2024-26	Hiro Uchida	President, International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade
2024-25	Corey Lang	President, W5133 (USDA Multi-state working group)
2024-	Emi Uchida	Pew Marine Fellow, The Pew Charitable Trusts
2025-	Corey Lang	Editorial Council, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*
2025-	Pengfei Liu	Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
2025	Simona Trandafir	Interim Associate Dean, College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS)
2026	James Anderson	Fellow, World Aquaculture Society
Undated	Thomas Grigalunas	Scientific Committee, US Minerals Management Service (Chair for one year)

Graduate students

Year	Student	Award
1977	Nancy Bockstael	AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award, “Fisheries Investment and Market Behavior” (adv. Darrel Hueth)
1982	Steven Edwards	Sea Grant Best MS Thesis Award, “Welfare Analysis of Sea Scallop Markets” (adv. Nancy Bockstael)
1983	Ed Richardson	NAARE Outstanding MS Thesis Award, “Bioeconomics of the Lobster Fishery” (adv. John Gates)
1984	Jean-Louis Zeller	AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award, “Optimal Timing of Pesticide Application” (adv. John Gates)
1989	John Gauvin	Sea Grant Outstanding MS Thesis Award, “Compliance Behavior in the Lobster Fishery” (adv. Jon Sutinen)
1989	William Emerson	Appelbaum FDRS Best PhD Thesis Award, “Spatial Allocation in New England Fisheries” (adv. James Anderson)
1991	Naomi Zeitouni	AAEA Outstanding PhD Thesis Award, “Efficient Management of Groundwater Quality” (adv. James Opaluch)
1992	Marisa Mazzotta	AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award, “Complexity Effects in Contingent Valuation Surveys” (adv. James Opaluch)
1992	Di Jin	Sea Grant Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award, “Economics of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry” (adv. Thomas Grigalunas)
1993	Exequiel Gonzalez	AAEA Outstanding MS Thesis Award, “Economics of Mangrove Conversion for Shrimp Aquaculture” (adv. Jon Sutinen)
2001	Reena Shaw	NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship
2003	Ramesh Baskaran	Knauss Fellowship
2005	Gina Shamshak Joshua Wiersma	Knauss Fellowship NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship
2006	Matthew Freeman	NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship
2007	Yong Jiang Jingjie Chu Elizabeth Smith	Knauss Fellowship Knauss Fellowship NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship
2009	Simona Trandafir	Best Dissertation Award, URI Transportation Center
2009	Karen Sullivan	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (adv. Emi Uchida) NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute The Russell Sage Foundation’s Small Grant Program in Behavioral Economics; China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Small Grant

Year	Student	Award
2010	Gina Shamshak	PhD Dissertation Award, International Association of Aquaculture Economics and Management, "Economics of Bluefin Aquaculture in the United States" (adv. James Anderson)
2010	Jackey Haskell	Knauss Fellowship
2011	Andrew Scheld	NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship
2012	Mihoko Tegawa	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (adv. Chris Anderson & Hiro Uchida)
2012	Andrew Scheld	Honorable Mention, Outstanding Article Award, *Marine Resource Economics*, for "The economic effects of catch share management: The Rhode Island fluke sector pilot program" (with Christopher Anderson and Hiro Uchida)
2013	Gabriel Dunham	Knauss Fellowship
2013	Tingting Liu and Nathaniel H. Merrill	NAREA *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* Young Scholar Award (adv. Emi Uchida)
2014	Brandon Elsner	Knauss Fellowship
2015	Patrick Cavanagh	NAREA Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, "Unintended Consequences of Environmental Cleanup: Evidence from a Voluntary Brownfield Remediation Program" (adv. Corey Lang)
	Andrew (Lou) Carr-Harris	NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship (adv. Hiro Uchida)
2019	Michael Weir	NAAFE Best Student Paper Award, "National bioengineered food disclosure standard and the polarizing effect of market information on demand for genetically modified seafood" (with Hiro Uchida)
2025	Aida Pauls	NMFS - Sea Grant Marine Resource Economics Fellowship (adv. Hiro Uchida)

Undergraduate students and postdoctoral fellows

Year	Recipient	Award
2002	Jayne Merner	Morris K. Udall Scholarship (undergraduate)
2010	William Anderson	Metcalf Fellow (undergraduate)
2011	Karen Sullivan	AAAS Postdoctoral Fellowship
2022	Maricarmen Serna	NOAA Hollings Scholar (undergraduate)
2023	Vasundhara Gaur	Economic Fellow, Institute for Policy Integrity, NYU

Last revised: October 7 2026. For any corrections, please contact Emi Uchida (euchida@uri.edu).