



New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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**NYSG Focus Area**  
for this project summary:  
**Environmental Literacy**  
and **Workforce Development**

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## New York Sea Grant Provides Training Opportunities to Seven Undergraduates

*NY Sea Grant supports hands-on training and mentorship to undergraduates underrepresented in coastal professions through opportunities that address timely issues*

The Sea Grant Community Engaged Internship (CEI) Program's goal is to encourage and broaden participation by students underrepresented in coastal professions by providing hands-on training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision-makers, and industry employees.

New York Sea Grant's (NYSG) participation in the CEI Program provides on-the-ground learning experience that includes professional development and completion of a project that extends the knowledge of community stakeholders to address a coastal, marine, or Great Lakes issue of environmental, economic, and/or social importance.

In 2021, NYSG supported its first CEI fellow. In 2022, the program grew to include two fellows. In 2023, NYSG staff mentored four students in the CEI Program, ensuring new experiences, providing networking opportunities, and developing valuable skills over the course of the 10-week experience. Each CEI fellow worked with a NYSG Extension Mentor to plan hands-on field projects. This field training was supplemented with professional development workshops and national networking opportunities.

The CEI fellows prepared various products to educate residents in coastal communities across New York State. Topics were focused on natural and nature-based feature monitoring in New York City, development of phytoplankton monitoring training resources for citizen scientists along the Great Lakes, creating outreach cards that identify plant species for shoreline stabilization, and a video describing ongoing research of the early stages of fish in the Atlantic Ocean.

Through 2023, NYSG has hosted a total of seven CEI participants, providing valuable learning opportunities to undergraduate students to work in communities and laboratories across New York to address current coastal issues.

**Project Partners:** • Cornell University • Long Island Sound Study • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Hollings Marine Laboratory • Natural Areas Conservancy • New York City Parks • SUNY Maritime College • Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Science



*NYSG's 2023 CEI student participants worked in diverse areas. Photos from top: NYSG, NOAA, NYSG, NYSG.*