



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 &
Workforce Development in NY**

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New York Sea Grant Provides Student Training Opportunities

NY Sea Grant programs provide undergraduate and law students with hands-on opportunities to address coastal issues.

The Sea Grant Community Engaged Internship (CEI) Program and New York Sea Grant (NYSG) New York Coastal Resilience Law & Policy Fellowship aim to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision- and policy-makers, and community members. Through the 10-week CEI program, undergraduate students obtain field experience, attend professional learning workshops, and generate products that enrich the communities in which they work. The Law and Policy fellowship program offers law students the opportunity to engage in research projects focused on coastal issues. Fellows present their findings to local communities and legal experts, building their professional skills and networks.

In 2024, NYSG staff provided mentoring to six CEI undergraduate students and two Law and Policy Fellows, ensuring new experiences, networking opportunities, and valuable skills gained over the course of their program time.

The CEI fellows prepared various products, including informational fliers, social media posts, outreach materials, and fact sheets, to educate residents in coastal communities across New York State. Topics included freshwater mussels in the Great Lakes, microplastic mapping, sampling and analysis, natural and nature-based features monitoring in New York City, hard clam genetics and breeding, and diamondback terrapin monitoring. One student reviewed municipal codes related to shoreline management around the Peconic Estuary; another created a case study and literature review on proposed legislation related to microfiber plastic pollution.

NYSG programming for undergraduate and law students provides valuable learning opportunities to address current coastal issues in local communities.

Project Partners/Funders:

- Bronx and Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- City University of New York School of Law
- Long Island Sound Study
- New York City Parks
- Suffolk County Cooperative Extension/Marine Environmental Learning Center
- University at Buffalo
- Funding: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Sea Grant Office
- Columbia University
- Friends of Flax Pond
- New Jersey Sea Grant
- Peconic Estuary Partnership

New York Sea Grant: Bringing Science to the Shore Since 1971



Law & Policy Fellow Stephanie Sistare Hill with NYSG Extension staff at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, Brooklyn.