



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

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



NYSG provides research, education, and extension services enhancing coastal community economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of NY's marine and Great Lakes resources.

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NYSG Focus Areas:
Sustainable New York
Fisheries, Aquaculture
and Seafood Businesses/
Environmental Literacy
and Workforce Development

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January 2026

Fisheries Biology for Anglers Workshop

New York Sea Grant provides unique learning experiences to increase stakeholders' knowledge about and support of science-based decision-making for the management of New York's economically important fisheries.

Fishing and fisheries are important to the coastal communities of New York's Great Lakes region, contributing to the local economy and the long fishing culture heritage of the area.

In 2025, scientists with New York Sea Grant, the State University of New York at Oswego, and the U.S. Geological Survey hosted a hands-on Fisheries Biology for Anglers Workshop. The workshop taught anglers about some of the techniques and methods that fish biologists are using to study and manage the fisheries of Lake Ontario.

The twenty-one anglers who attended the workshop came from multiple counties. They gained hands-on experience in how scientifically-collected data are used by lake managers to make important decisions about stocking. For example, one method demonstrated how otoliths (a bony structure in the fish's anatomy) are used to estimate the age of fishes. The data on the different age classes of fish in the lake help fisheries managers adjust stocking programs and analyze the balance of predator and prey fish populations. Participants noted in post-workshop surveys that they now have a deeper understanding of how science-based methods are used to help sustain and strengthen the fisheries in Lake Ontario.

The Fisheries Biology for Anglers Workshop provided participants with a unique hands-on opportunity to better understand scientific methods and techniques that are used to inform decision-making about Lake Ontario fisheries. The experience helped develop a more informed angler population that is supportive of science-based decision-making for fisheries management.

Project Partners:

- Cornell University fisheries researchers
- State University of New York at Oswego
- U.S. Geological Survey Lake Ontario Biological Station



Fisheries Biology for Anglers workshop participants gather around as New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist Stacy Furgal demonstrates how to remove otoliths from an alewife.
Photo: Nick Sard/State University of New York