



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 Area for this project:
Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development
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New York Sea Grant Engages Students in Unique Hands-on Summer Learning Experiences

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

The Sea Grant Community Engaged Internship Program and the New York Sea Grant New York Coastal Resilience Law & Policy Fellowship 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 internship program, undergraduate students gain field experience, attend professional development workshops, and engage in outreach to enrich the communities in which they work. Law and Policy Fellowship students engage in research on coastal issues and present their findings to local communities and legal experts, building their professional skills and networks.

In 2025, New York Sea Grant staff mentored eight student interns and two Law and Policy Fellows, creating opportunities for them to engage in new experiences, learn valuable skills, and apply knowledge in the field. The interns produced deliverables, including information flyers, podcast episodes, outreach materials, and social media posts, to educate residents in coastal communities across New York State. Topics included natural and nature-based features monitoring in New York City, tourism and recreation along Lake Ontario, freshwater mussel research, tracking contaminants in Great Lakes fish, and microplastic mapping, sampling, and analysis. One Law and Policy fellow analyzed the policy landscape for microfiber filtration laws, identifying barriers to adoption. The other assessed how Peconic Estuary communities could adapt town codes for increased compatibility with living shoreline projects.

This New York Sea Grant programming for undergraduate and law students provides valuable learning opportunities to address current coastal issues in local communities.

Project Partners:

- Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University
- CUNY School of Law
- Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University
- Genspace
- Hart's Hatchery
- H. Lee White Maritime Museum
- Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Hudson River Park
- Long Island Oyster Growers Association
- Long Island Sound Partnership
- Natural Areas Conservancy
- New Jersey Sea Grant
- New York City Parks
- New York State Department of State
- New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- SDGs Today
- SUNY ESF
- The Education and Microplastics Science Community River Assessment Project
- University at Buffalo
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Bronx/Harlem
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



Community Engaged Internship students (front to back) Genesis DaCosta, Janice Yohannan, Miradyn Feist, and Crow Idnani carry a seine net at Norrie Point Environmental Center. Photo: Jessica Kuonen/ New York Sea Grant