



## COSEE Great Lakes Makes a Splash in New York!

**N**ew York Sea Grant has helped to make the first year of the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes (GL) a productive and exciting one for educators. COSEE GL is co-funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Sea Grant College Program.

As the Lake Ontario leader and Lake Erie co-leader, Sr. Extension Specialist Helen Domske spent the first year working with teachers and scientists involved with two day-long workshops, two week-long courses, and a web-based computer workshop.

The first course for teachers was offered aboard the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's research vessel, the *R/V Lake Guardian*. This maiden voyage for 16 teachers, six scientists and four Sea Grant educators focused on Shipboard and Shoreline Science on Lake Erie.

Two day-long Erie Canal workshops were held in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources office. More than 40 educators were involved in learning about invasive species and the role that the Erie Canal plays as a vector for the movement of exotic species.



*Helen Domske (far right) is shown teaching about invasive species aboard the R/V Lake Guardian during the COSEE Great Lakes course for teachers.  
Photo: Lauren Makeyenko, NYSDEC*

In August, a week-long course taught nine Great Lakes educators about tropical marine ecology in Roatan, Honduras. With the ocean focus of COSEE, NYSG wanted to show a connection between the Great Lakes and the ocean. The teachers immersed themselves into coral reefs, tidal pools and other ocean environments.

The year ended with a web-based inservice program that NYSG helped provide to more than 400 educators. The evaluations and follow-ups have been very positive and teachers have shared their COSEE experiences with students and other teachers. Teachers have used PowerPoint presentations and other educational materials to transfer what they learned through COSEE GL to their students.

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*New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University.  
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