

Bringing Shoreline Science to New York's Teachers & Students

By making science/environmental education a priority issue, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is ensuring a scientifically and environmentally informed citizenry for the future. NYSG's educational programming meets the goals and strategies outlined in its Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area.

In 2009, New York Sea Grant directly worked with 13,500 students and 1,065 teachers. Using a "teach the teacher" approach, NYSG reached an additional 26,625 students, making the statewide total more than 40,000 students who have learned about critical environmental issues such as water quality and invasive species.

Utilizing innovative approaches and fourth year funding for the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes, NYSG conducted four teachers' workshops, a week-long teachers' training on Tropical Marine Ecology, and several presentations at national education and scientific conferences.

The mission of COSEE Great Lakes is to foster lasting relationships through networks that link Great Lakes educators with ongoing science research in the region and connections between freshwater science and its marine equivalents.

COSEE Great Lakes is co-funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Sea Grant College Program.



New York Sea Grant coastal education programming often includes hands-on, shipboard training programs, such as this teacher training on Lake Erie in 2009. Photo: Helen Domske, NYSG

Other successful NYSG-coordinated Great Lakes educational programs in 2009:

- **Science Exploration Day**
800 high school students and teachers gathered at the University at Buffalo to learn from scientists on topics ranging from invasive species to environmental engineering
- **Lake Erie Workshop for Teachers**
NYSG assisted with the coordination of a week-long COSEE GL workshop along Lake Erie for 15 educators with more than 16 scientists
- **NYSG Distance Learning Program**
... introduced 1,100 4th grade students and their teachers to the impacts of invasive species through the Authentic Learning program at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

For a sampling of NYSG coastal education materials, go online to <http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/article.asp?ArticleID=51>.

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant's Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems focus area.

New York Sea Grant administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

This project summary was written by Helen Domske, Coastal Education Specialist,

716-645-3610, hmd4@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org.