

## Advancing Effective Stormwater Management

**S**tormwater runoff is one of the top water quality issues on Long Island. A number of waterbodies no longer support shellfishing and swimming. The New York Sea Grant Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NYSG NEMO) Program helps municipalities improve stormwater management which protects public health, improves water quality, and supports the fishing, tourism, and recreation industries.

In urbanized areas throughout the country and Long Island, regulations arising from the Clean Water Act require municipal operators of stormwater conveyance systems to implement stormwater management programs to prevent pollutant discharges to waterbodies.

NYSG NEMO supports municipal stormwater management compliance through on-site visits, consultations, presentations, workgroups, an email listserv, and feedback on annual stormwater program reports. NYSG NEMO's efforts help Long Island communities to address such contaminants as disease-causing bacteria (pathogens), sediment, toxic chemicals, excess fertilizers, and debris. Municipalities achieve their goals by educating the public, eliminating illicit discharges, reducing construction and development impacts, and preventing municipal facility pollutant discharges.



*Above and below: Stormwater contaminants pose threats to public health and wildlife. Photos: Eileen Keenan, NYSG NEMO*

NYSG NEMO programming in 2010 included:

- co-chairing the Peconic Estuary Program Stormwater Workgroup,
- one-on-one consultations,
- on-site visits and reviews of municipal facilities,
- convening and speaking at a pathogens management seminar,
- participating as a panelist at the Peconic Estuary Program's Call to Action Conference,
- presentations to promote inter-municipal initiatives, to mitigate the impacts of construction and development, and to facilitate establishment of sustainable funding frameworks,
- increasing listserv subscriptions for dissemination of information pertaining to research, training and funding opportunities, and
- facilitating establishment of formalized inter-municipal initiatives in the Oyster Bay/ Cold Spring Harbor and Peconic Estuary drainage areas, both of which have received funding to hire coordinators.

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

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