

The lower Hudson River includes a 153-mile tidal estuary from Troy, NY, to the Battery in New York City. The estuary supports a vital recreational boating industry. From fishing tournaments for striped bass each spring to fall foliage cruises, the Hudson is a popular tourism destination. While some communities along the Hudson have interpretive centers where residents and visitors alike can learn about the rich cultural, historical and ecological importance of the River, many people access the waterway through commercial marinas where there is little or no interpretive information.

Public education through interpretation encourages stewardship of New York's natural resources. In partnership with the Hudson Valley Marine Trades Association (HVMTA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson Estuary Program, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) developed a series of interpretive signs centering on cultural, historic and ecological issues specific to the marina location. NYSG worked directly with marina managers, operators and staff to scope the project. These boating community leaders were engaged and involved in selecting sign topics, text, images and sign material. The selection of sign placement locations at marinas was based on existing information kiosks at marinas, areas of high visibility and rates of customer foot traffic.



Above:  
Harbormaster  
Krystal Cerna  
displays sign panels  
at Haverstraw Marina  
(with approx. 1,000  
boat slips, the largest  
marina on the  
Hudson). Right: an  
interpretive panel  
featuring common  
Hudson River plants  
and stewardship tips.  
Photos: Nordica  
Holochuck, NYSG



By September of 2006, 30 signs were installed at nine marinas in four counties (Rockland, Orange, Ulster and Greene) bordering the Hudson. Thousands of marina customers now have access to basic information on ecological research and Hudson River stewardship. The sign designs are available - for use in public education projects - to HVMTA members (representing more than 35 marina-related businesses), boat clubs, and Hudson River environmental organizations.