

New Resource Assists Coastal Stakeholders with Shoreline Management Decisions

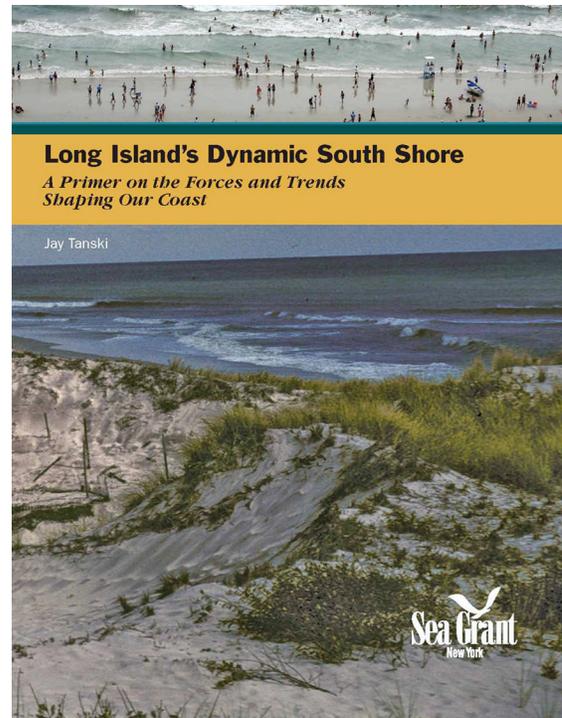
The dynamic nature of New York's Atlantic coast coupled with high population density presents many management challenges. Presently, a number of efforts are being undertaken by federal, state, and local interests to develop erosion management and storm damage reduction plans for the south shore of Long Island. Decision makers, coastal stakeholders, and the public are being asked to review and approve these measures which can cost tens of millions of dollars and are often controversial. These audiences require science-based information about the processes and forces shaping the shoreline and the effect of these changes on both the natural and built environment in a form understandable to the layperson.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) obtained a \$19,000 grant from the National Park Service to produce *Long Island's Dynamic South Shore: A Primer on the Forces and Trends Shaping our Coast*. This 27-page, illustrated booklet uses objective, science-based information and provides a layman's overview of the natural and anthropogenic processes that control shoreline erosion and how they impact our coast.

The publication was designed to educate coastal audiences so they are better equipped to evaluate and choose among the many management alternatives being considered.

This new booklet is being used by a wide range of audiences:

- Fire Island National Seashore is distributing it to park visitors and using it to develop a long-term General Management Plan



New York Sea Grant provides objective, science-based information on complex topics in a form that the layman can understand and use to make decisions.

- the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is incorporating the booklet in training programs for Coastal Erosion Hazard Area program staff, and
- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used and cited the publication in developing its official biological opinion on a proposed multimillion dollar federal shore protection project.

Through efforts like these, NYSG provides the foundation of factual information needed to help coastal stakeholders select the best strategies for managing this precious resource based on the best available science.

New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. This project summary was written by Jay Tanski, Coastal Processes and Facilities Specialist, 613-362-8730, jjt3@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org..