

NYSG Facilitates Regional Sediment Management

Regional Sediment Management (RSM) is a growing trend in coastal management that recognizes coastal sediments are a valuable resource and proper management of sediment is essential to protect and enhance natural resources while allowing economic and recreational uses of the shoreline. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program determined RSM practices will have to be implemented on the local, regional, and national level to protect the environment and reduce existing coastal risks and future challenges associated with climate change. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided to employ RSM on Long Island's ocean coast, they sought New York Sea Grant's assistance in gaining state and local stakeholder input.



Regional Sediment Management brings local, state and federal partners together to conserve coastal sediments, an important resource, and to transport processes to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts of erosion and sea level rise on New York's coast. Photo: J. Tanski, NYSG, based on NASA Visible Earth Satellite imagery

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and a researcher from Stony Brook University established a team of representatives of local, state and federal agencies and organized regular meetings to provide input and guidance on RSM needs in New York. With support from the Corps, they organized and held a two-day technical workshop that brought experts from the U.S. and Canada together with New York coastal managers to address concerns associated with the use of offshore sand resources in erosion management projects. They also brought 35 stakeholders and decision makers together for an informational meeting and workshop to introduce them to the Corps RSM initiative and get their input on priority dredging and erosion management problems.

At the technical workshop, previously contentious groups reached a consensus on several key issues associated with the use of offshore sands for beach nourishment. Agencies actually began developing a proposal for a monitoring program that would allow a proposed multimillion dollar project to move forward. The stakeholder meeting resulted in the Corps reprioritizing RSM objectives and the formation of a stakeholder workgroup to provide ongoing input to this \$5 million Corps project.

Through efforts like these, NYSG ensures regional management needs are recognized and addressed.

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant's Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities focus area. 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 & Facilities Specialist, 631-632-8730, jjt3@cornell.edu, www.nyseagrant.org.