

Helping Local Leaders Understand Hudson River Shoreline Environments

New York Sea Grant Extension is part of the Hudson River Research Reserve's Shorelines Project Team, a group of agencies and organizations conducting research and outreach with funding from NOAA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Hudson River Research Reserve (HRNERR). The Shorelines Project aims in part to understand how climate change may impact the river's edge. River community boat launches, parks, beaches and the estuary's tidal marsh habitats may all be impacted by sea level rise and possible flooding due to changing precipitation patterns, and communities will need to adapt to these changes.

In 2010, in partnership with the NYSDEC HRNERR and the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, New York Sea Grant Extension served on the planning committee and participated in a National Sea Grant Law Center-sponsored Pace University Land Use Law Center training program. The workshop, made possible by Sea Grant resources, focused on existing land use law in the



The Hudson River and shoreline at Poughkeepsie, NY. Photo: Nordica Holochuck, NYSG

context of meeting challenges brought by climate change. Shoreline Project Team members presented a clear and concise overview of climate predictions for the river valley, and the status and state of the river's shoreline habitats. Workshop organizers brought in guest speakers from NOAA's Northeast Regional Climate Change Center at Cornell University, and Coastal Resource managers for the New York State Department of State.

Approximately 40 Hudson Valley community leaders residing and working in the counties directly bordering the Hudson River (from Albany south to Rockland County) participated in the four-day workshop. Municipal officials, town supervisors, planning board members, and environmental educators from nongovernmental organizations now have resources and understand who best to contact to obtain the most current scientific research-based information to aid them in important decisions regarding their shoreline.



This child enjoys a sunny day along the Hudson River in Ulster County, NY. Photo: Nordica Holochuck, NYSG

This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant's Sustainable Coastal Development focus area.

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