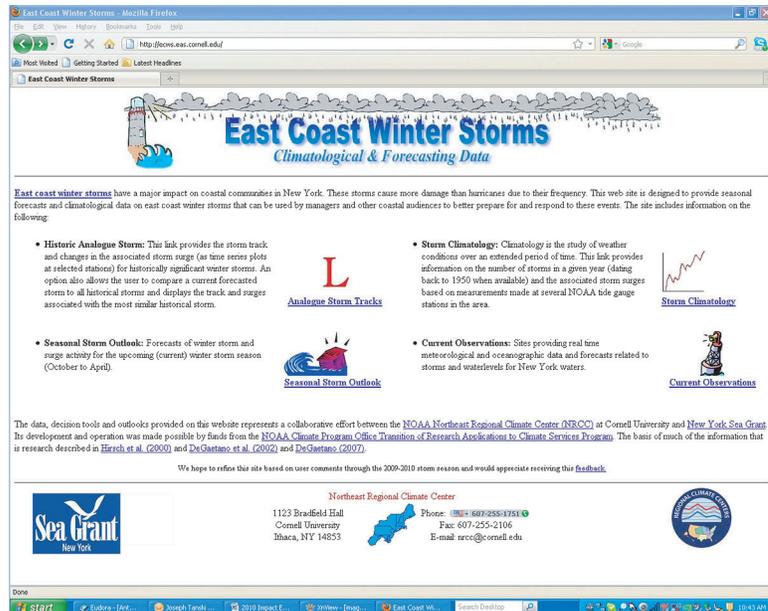


## New Web Site Helps Coastal Managers Respond to Nor'easters

While hurricanes get more attention, winter storms known as northeasters (or nor'easters) are more frequent, longer lasting, and much larger than hurricanes, and cause more damage on New York's coast. Unfortunately, coastal managers and planners did not have the information they needed to better respond to these destructive events. To help coastal communities deal with nor'easters, NY Sea Grant worked with NOAA's Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University to develop the East Coast Winter Storm Climatological and Forecasting Data Web site.



As part of a NOAA-funded project, NY Sea Grant assembled a team of coastal managers and emergency personnel to help guide Web site design and to ensure it provided needed information in a usable form. The resultant site provides:

- seasonal forecasts of storm activity,
- historical storm data,
- access to sites providing real-time environmental measurements, and
- a tool that automatically matches forecasted storms with the most similar historical events and provides information on the impacts of these events to help audiences better prepare for predicted storms.

NY Sea Grant held workshops, developed articles, and sent mailings about the site and its use to more than 550 Federal, state and local government officials, coastal managers, and emergency personnel.

The site has become an important tool for coastal communities. John Baroni, emergency

*The winter storm Web site at <http://nywinterstorm.org> gives coastal managers a variety of tools to help them better deal with northeasters.*

manager from East Rockaway Village, says, ***“We were surprised at how well the site worked during the past northeasters. It is being put to good use.”***

Three fire district battalions covering the entire south shore of Nassau County, six villages, and representatives of the emergency amateur radio operators association tasked by the Department of Homeland Security for assisting the Red Cross in emergencies now incorporate information from the Web site into emergency response plans.

Two municipalities used information from the site to obtain \$1 million for storm damage restoration and mitigation projects.

**Learn about East Coast winter storm forecasting & management at <http://nywinterstorm.org>**

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.

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