



New York Sea Grant assists communities in increasing their resilience to coastal storms through providing data to inform coastal policy and permitting/management practices

NYSG Helping Communities Plan a More Resilient Coast

New York's coastal communities faced significant challenges after Superstorm Sandy due to the increased demand for public and private shore restoration and protection projects, including the use of hard structures, to mitigate future storm damages.

Responding to storm impacts is extremely important, but if communities are to develop and implement successful coastal resiliency and climate adaptation plans, community leaders must be able to properly assess proposed strategies both in terms of effectiveness and their effect on coastal processes. New York Sea Grant (NYSG) fills a critical education role in assisting both public and private interests with efforts to inform more resilient coastal policy and local permitting and management practices. NYSG provides data resources and facilitates the science-based understanding of coastal processes.

NYSG worked with the Town of East Hampton and local non-government organizations in 2014 and 2015 to identify information, data and tools on coastal processes and shoreline response that would better enable them to evaluate the effect of planning, policy, management and permitting decisions on coastal resiliency.

NYSG initiated collaboration with the Town and a national consulting company to develop a proposal for a demonstration project to identify and collect data necessary to inform coastal resiliency planning in East Hampton and to build tools that would allow the information to be well-used in local decisionmaking.

The proposal was funded for \$220,000 by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority under their Climate Change Adaptation Opportunities program. In 2016, NYSG will serve as a technical advisor to the program. The project will improve coastal resiliency planning in East Hampton and serve as a model for other communities.



Coastal erosion control structures in the Town of East Hampton, NY. Photo: Jay Tanski/NYSG

Through projects such as this in East Hampton and a diversity of other well-informed educational efforts, New York Sea Grant is helping communities find better ways to manage their coastal areas and obtain the resources required to do so properly.

Partners:

- Town of East Hampton
- Dewbury Engineers, Inc.
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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