

New York Sea Grant initiated a Seafood Summit to build collaboration within the multifaceted seafood industry and to identify stakeholder issues and concerns for research and extension response.



2016 Seafood Summit: A First for New York

Efforts are needed to build a more inclusive and informed seafood industry throughout New York State and to enhance collaborative communication and efforts to develop strategic methods for enhancing the production, marketing, safety and quality of seafood produced by the industry.

NYSG Responds

In 2016, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) initiated a Seafood Summit to identify the key issues and concerns of seafood industry stakeholders as a foundation for developing research and extension programs that directly address current needs. The Summit facilitated an active discussion and collaboration among representatives of the multifaceted seafood industry.

NYSG worked with the Center for Aquatic Animal Research and Management (CFAARM) to identify Summit invitees and develop a survey to assess topics for discussion. Invitees provided input into the discussion topics to be covered at the event.

Twenty individuals attended the 2016 Seafood Summit and were engaged in 2.5 hours of lively discussion on the current issues/concerns of the seafood industry. The following five action points were identified for attention by NYSG and partners:

- Collaborative research to better understand *Clostridium botulinum* control in smoked fish
- Evaluation of the Ocean Executive platform as a novel Community Supported Fishery Model for enhancing the direct marketing potential of local seafood.
- Comparison of federal regulations on sustainability with third-party certifications to identify aspects of sustainability already addressed by fisheries in compliance with current regulations and development of a tool for fishermen and farmers to understand the additional measures necessary to attain third-party certifications and determine if such a certification is necessary to meet their clients demands.



NYSG initiated New York's first Seafood Summit and identified five key action areas for research and extension attention. Photo: M. Ciaramella/ NYSG

- Creation of a guide outlining the permitting process for urban aquaponics and offshore aquaculture. Currently, permitting and regulations are created by various agencies. This guide will be developed in collaboration with those industries at the forefront of these new farming practices to pave the way for future businesses and farming ventures.
- Development of a NY Seafood Network using the virtual meeting platform Slack to allow for active communication, transfer of ideas and needs assessment through the year.

Partners:

- Center for Aquatic Animal Research and Management
- Cornell Cooperative Extension

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Sustainable NY Fisheries & NY Seafood Businesses

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

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