

Educating Students & Teachers About Seafood & Aquaculture

To sustainably advance the seafood industry now and into the future, students of all ages need to be introduced to seafood science and aquaculture. It is important for people to understand where their seafood comes from and how they can make sustainable seafood choices.

Due to a lack of formal education programs surrounding seafood science and aquaculture, younger generations are unaware of the opportunities in, and sustainability aspects of, seafood production.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) developed and conducted a series of workshops to address this need by introducing students and teachers from middle school through college to sustainable seafood practices and production.

A Sustainable Seafood workshop engaged 39 college students and introduced them to local sustainable seafood and common farming practices on Long Island. Nearly 50% of the college students indicated they would at least consider a career/job in sustainable seafood production as a result of the workshop.

SUNY Suffolk Biology Professor Pamela Lynch notes, *“This workshop was veteran-friendly and the majority*



Middle and high school teachers from Long Island build their own fish farms as part of their new NYSG-inspired seafood and aquaculture lesson plans. Photo: Michael Ciaramella, NYSG

of the participating students are military veterans and returning students through the GI Bill.”

Two teacher workshops introduced eight educators to two new seafood science and aquaculture curriculums and lesson plans, and supplied them with the supplies and knowledge necessary to easily incorporate the curricula and activities into their classrooms. Two of the eight teachers report already incorporating the seafood science and aquaculture curricula into lessons reaching 208 students.

Partners:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Suffolk County Community College
- Widow’s Hole Oyster Farm, Greenport



Suffolk County Community College marine biology and culinary degree students and their sustainability-focused professors and college staff try fresh oysters at Widows Hole Oyster Farm after touring the farm. Photo: Michael Ciaramella, NYSG

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

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

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