

Fish to Dish Education & Internship Program Meets Aquaculture & Seafood Industries' Need

A skilled workforce is key to the continued growth and success of resilient fisheries' aquaculture and seafood (FAS) businesses. Educating and encouraging students to consider careers in FAS is integral to developing and providing the skilled workforce necessary for the FAS industries to grow. In 2018, New York Sea Grant's (NYSG) new Fish to Dish internship and education program addressed the lack of formal FAS trainings in New York State and throughout the U.S.

NYSG partnered with the Center for Aquatic Animal Research and Management (CFAARM) to initiate the Fish to Dish education and internship program. A program curriculum was developed and five interns were selected and matched with industry partners representing seafood processors, finfish and shellfish farmers, and commercial fishermen in New York.

The interns, selected from a pool of applicants from around the country, attended an education program once a week to learn about the various industry sectors. This approach provided participants a well-rounded education that integrated the historically siloed FAS sectors.



All five interns successfully completed the internship. Post-program evaluations indicated the program did or might affect the interns' future plans to pursue careers in fisheries, aquaculture and/or seafood.

This NYSG-developed internship program to assist in the creation of a skilled FAS workforce yielded five individuals with a better knowledge of the fruitful opportunities that exist in FAS sectors and the skills to pursue careers as FAS professionals.

Partners:

- Acme Smoked Fish, Brooklyn, NY
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Southold, NY
- Center for Aquatic Animal Research and Management, Wingdale, NY
- Great Atlantic Shellfish Farm, East Islip, NY
- Haskell's Seafood, Calverton, NY
- Hudson Valley Fish Farm, Inc., Hudson, NY
- Manna Fish Farms, Inc., Hampton Bays, NY



The NYSG Fish to Dish student internship program successfully graduated all five students. Photo: NYSG/Michael Ciaramella

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