

NYSG & LISS Host Teacher Webinar Showcasing New Module on Climate Change Impact on Coastal Marshes

As schools across the U.S. went virtual in 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic, teachers and educators faced the difficult challenge of having to quickly adapt to teaching online. To help address this need, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) national estuary program partnered to share new virtual resources for educators.

NYSG and LISS hosted a virtual workshop to showcase a newly-developed science module focused on the effects of climate change and sea level rise on salt marshes. The workshop was led by ecologist Dr. Beth Lawrence of the University of Connecticut and New York State Master Teacher Kimberly “Ly” Williams, who collaborated to develop the module as part of a LISS Research Grant to Lawrence. The module included five days of interactive activities including a “mystery scientist” video series, and several online resources. The presenters highlighted many of these resources in the workshop.



Professor Beth Lawrence, right, and student Madeline Kollegger collect data on Barn Island salt marsh. Photo: Emily Couture/UCONN College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources

Fifty-five participants, most of them teachers and educators, participated in the webinar and took part in a lively Q&A with the presenters. Comments from participants included “Looking forward to accessing the materials, sharing them with colleagues, and using with students” and “Terrific! Thank you for the time and great resources and ENTHUSIASM!!!” The participating educators will be reaching an estimated 5,300 students.

This web-based workshop equipped teachers with useful new resources for bringing the science of climate change and salt marsh ecosystems into their virtual classrooms.

Project Partners:

- NEIWPCC
- Mercy College

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems.

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

Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.nyseagrant.org.

Project summary was written by Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, 631-632-9216, jbp255@cornell.edu.