



NYSG and MARACOOS have developed a network of professionals who collaborate to improve the forecasting, understanding, and prevention of surf-related hazards.

Development of the Surf Hazards Awareness and Research Coordination

Surf hazards, such as dangerous waves and currents, pose a significant, and sometimes fatal, threat to beachgoers. Rip currents alone kill more than 100 people each year nationally. Improving prediction models and raising awareness can help reduce ocean rescues and fatalities.

In 2021, a partnership of New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) created a Surf Hazards Awareness and Research Coordination (SHARC). SHARC's local, regional, and national partners include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Weather Service, local emergency management, academic researchers, lifeguards, and community leaders.

The goals of this specialized network are to:

- 1) create a space for expert, professional, and stakeholder collaboration within surf hazard reporting, information sharing, outreach, and education;
- 2) improve surf hazard forecasting through coordinated data collection;
- 3) promote surf hazard awareness and education; and
- 4) prevent surf-related incidents and fatalities.

SHARC's effort is increasing collaboration and communication between local surf hazard experts and on-the-ground professionals. **The network will lead to enhanced and more localized data collection that will inform prediction and forecasts of risk and hazard predictions, and, in so doing, increase beach safety.** This network will also improve communication with and education of beachgoers about how to avoid hazards specific to impacted beach areas.

Project Partner:

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System



SHARC

Surf Hazard Awareness
& Research Coordination

SHARCnetwork.org

NYSG has co-created a network of professionals who are working together to research and develop educational outreach targeted at reducing the number of injuries and fatalities due to surf hazards.

NYSG Focus Area for this project: Resilient New York 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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