



NYSG programming is actively engaging communities in support of New York's aquaculture industry and its oyster farming small businesses.

NY Sea Grant Hosts Summer Science Series 2021: Meet Your Oyster Farmer

Oyster farming is a growing sector in New York's seafood industry and represents the state's most farmed seafood product. As this sector of the industry continues to expand, it is important to ensure that markets are growing to support it. Community support is crucial to promote the growth and resilience of local small businesses. New York Sea Grant (NYSG) programming actively engages local communities in support of the state's fisheries, aquaculture and seafood businesses statewide.

In 2021, NYSG initiated a Summer Science Series showcasing New York's oyster farmers in collaboration with two Long Island breweries. Each of four "Meet Your Oyster Farmer" events held over the course of the summer highlighted the efforts of at least one oyster farm and provided public participants the opportunity to learn from and engage with the farmers. Attendees observed farmers shucking oysters on site and were able to purchase oysters for consumption at each event.

The two local breweries - Six Harbors Brewing Company in Huntington and Destination Unknown (DUBCO) in Bay Shore - hosted the events over the course of the summer. Patrons were engaged and learned about the history and sustainability of oysters and became more familiar with the operation and importance of New York's growing aquaculture industry. Other project partners shared ongoing research and conservation efforts for NY's oysters. These events offered farmers the opportunity to market their farm and products, and to interact with their local communities.

Project Partners:

- Seatuck Environmental Association • Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- Gino Macchio Foundation • Little A's Oysters • The Neguntatogue Project • Fitall Shellfish • Shellworks
- Shamrock Oyster Company • Scrimshaw Oysters



Oyster shucking at Six Harbors Brewing Company, Huntington, NY. Photo: Emma Forbes/NYSG

The NYSG-coordinated series of "Meet Your Oyster Farmer" events highlighting the growing oyster industry on Long Island has increased oyster farmer-consumer engagement within local communities and is enhancing the market for Long Island shellfish.

NYSG Focus Area for this project: Sustainable NY Fisheries, Aquaculture & Seafood Businesses in New York.

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 written by NYSG Aquaculture Specialist Emma Forbes, 914-285-4620, ef375@cornell.edu, and NYSG Seafood Safety & Technology Specialist Michael Ciaramella, Ph.D., 631-632-6580, mc2544@cornell.edu.