



NYSG facilitates the prioritized planning of CSMI research on the Great Lakes to add to the critical understanding of the world's most complex freshwater system.

2023 Cooperative Science & Monitoring Initiative: Science Priority Planning for Lake Ontario

In 2002, the U.S. and Canada began a program aimed at promoting, unifying, and organizing integrated research and long-term monitoring efforts in the Great Lakes. The program, known as the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI), cycles through the lakes on a 5-year rotation. New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is involved with the planning that occurs prior to the tours on Lake Ontario. This planning effort engages scientists, lake managers, and a broad group of public stakeholders to guide the concentrated design of research and projects to learn about the Great Lakes' ecosystem, its fisheries, the food web, water quality, invasive species, and the unique contributions of each lake to the health of the system that is the largest freshwater system in the world.

In June of 2021, NYSG, alongside partners from Cornell University, cohosted a virtual workshop to collect input from partners and stakeholders to identify the science priorities for the 2023 CSMI field year on Lake Ontario. Over the course of the 2-day workshop, more than 130 participants from the U.S. and Canada provided their expertise and experiences to this critical information gathering. The conclusions from the workshop were published in a report co-authored by NYSG and Cornell University. In New York State, CSMI results are applied to update the Lakewide Action and Management Plan for Lake Ontario.

The *Lake Ontario Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative 2023 Science Priority Planning Report* and NYSG-developed fact sheets and videos about the CSMI on Lake Ontario are online at <http://nyseagrant.org/csmi>.

Project Partner:

- Cornell University



The federal (Environmental Protection Agency) research vessel R/V Lake Guardian on a CSMI tour on the Great Lakes. Photo courtesy of Michael Milligan and the Great Lakes Research Consortium.

“Lake Ontario is a constantly changing ecosystem. We have to get a comprehensive understanding of what’s happening in the lake and what the response is to the various management actions that we’re taking by the governments on both the U.S. and the Canadian side of Lake Ontario. New York Sea Grant and others are playing a vital role in translating the information to helping the public understanding.”
— Donald Zelazny, Great Lakes Programs Coordinator,
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

NYSG Focus Area for this project: 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 written by NYSG Great Lakes Fisheries & Ecosystem Health Specialist Stacy Furgal, 315-312-3042, slf85@cornell.edu.