



NYSG is piloting a statewide community science tool that engages New Yorkers in documenting and sharing their experiences with floods, storm damage, and coastal changes through photos

MyCoast New York: Engaging Communities to Document Floods & Storm Damage

As increases in precipitation, storm frequency and intensity, and sea level accelerate, New York's communities are challenged with documenting and communicating flood risk with limited resources. Residents commonly take photos during and after flood and storm events; however, there is no statewide system for collecting photos that is readily available to the public as a way to document storm impact.

In July 2022, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) partnered with the New York State Water Resources Institute to launch a two-year pilot of MyCoast NY, a portal for collecting photos of flooding, changing shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts. Photos submitted through the Flood Watch (tracking flooding state-wide) and Storm Reporter (reporting storm damage) options of the MyCoast NY tool are matched to real-time environmental conditions to create reports to help emergency managers, local planners, residents, and state agencies better understand the changing environment and make informed decisions for response. Additionally in 2022, CoastSnap phone cradle posts were installed at Ferry Landing in Stuyvesant and the Beach 91st boardwalk ramp in the Rockaways to capture shoreline changes over time through the MyCoast NY tool.

Fifty-five people attended an introductory webinar that provided an overview of the project, demonstrated the MyCoast NY tool, and answered audience questions in October 2022. Attendees represented a range of perspectives from emergency managers to concerned citizens and weather enthusiasts. As of December 2022, MyCoast NY registrations totaled 215 New Yorkers. This tool proved valuable for documenting the storm surge inundation and impact of Winter Storm Elliot on December 23rd, with more than 100 photo reports submitted from Long Island, New York City, and throughout the Hudson River Estuary.



Flooding at Esopus Meadows after the Christmas Day storm of 2020. Photo: Angela Schimizzi

The MyCoast NY app and website are available to anyone interested to help inform future risk communications statewide for New York's coastal and inland communities.

Partners/Funders:

- New York State Water Resources Institute
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- National Sea Grant Office

MyCoast NY:
<https://mycoast.org/ny>

High tide flooding in Kingston, NY. Photo: Jessica Kuonen/NYSG

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient 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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