



New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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NYSG Focus Area
for this project summary:
Environmental Literacy
and **Workforce Development**
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Day in the Life Debuts in Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Region

NYSG and partners engaged more than 650 middle school students in hands-on environmental stewardship learning along the shoreline of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River region

“Day in the Life” (DITL) programs offered throughout New York State’s watersheds provide opportunities for youth to better understand environmental science and water quality. Prior to 2022, students in the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River (LOSLR) areas lacked such opportunities to connect with and learn about their local watersheds.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG), with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and other partners, implemented a 2-year “Day in the Life of the Lake Ontario-

St. Lawrence River Watershed” program. The program began with training workshops for teachers and educators and culminated with Student Summit events in October 2022 and 2023, at which students performed hands-on data collection to monitor water quality and the health of their local watershed.

Modeled after NY’s longstanding DITL programs, this new outreach over two years engaged 12 teachers and more than 650 middle school students from 8 school districts in classroom and field-based activities on land use, water quality, and environmental health. With 25 environmental education partners, 9 successful Student Summit events in 2023 served as a platform for students to engage with professionals while conducting their own monitoring activities to foster a better understanding of the watershed. Learn more about DITL at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/125689.html>.

Project Partners:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



Top: DITL teacher-educator training workshop at Webster Park; photo: DEC/E. Fell. Left: DITL Student Summit activity at Fort Niagara State Park; photo: NYSG/M. Cochran. Right: Macroinvertebrate collection activity at DITL training workshop for teachers and environmental educators; photo: Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District/E. Schreiner.