



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:
Sustainable New York
Fisheries, Aquaculture &
Seafood Businesses

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Supporting Diversity in Fisheries and Angling Communities

NYSG programming connects anglers with fisheries researchers and science-based angling instructors, increasing their knowledge base to more confidently enjoy NY's fisheries and to consider fisheries career opportunities

The angling and fisheries communities within New York's Great Lakes region have historically been male-dominated, with little representation from minority genders, minority races, and ethnicities. While this trend is decreasing, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) continues to work to create and support programs that increase diversity.

In the autumn of 2023, NYSG worked with the Cornell Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake to offer a women's fishing seminar focused on walleye. Participants learned the basics of walleye biology and behavior; discussed walleye fishing gear, lures, and techniques; and learned how to tie common fishing knots. Group size was limited to provide individualized instruction during the hands-on angling session.

NYSG additionally partners with the NY Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and leads a Women in Fisheries mentoring program that is inspiring and empowering people from underrepresented genders to succeed in professional fisheries careers.

As a result of overwhelmingly positive survey data collected from NYSG's 2022 mentoring and women's fishing programs, the mentoring program was continued for a second year in 2023, with double the number of participants. Based on feedback from the 2023 programming, plans are being made to host a women's ice fishing seminar in early 2024.

NYSG is leading several initiatives that focus on fostering diversity in the angling and fisheries communities and encouraging participation by underrepresented populations in both the recreational and career opportunity aspects associated with fisheries.

Project Partners:

- Cornell Biological Field Station on Oneida Lake
- New York State Licensed Fishing Guide Jacqueline McManus
- American Fisheries Society New York Chapter

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Above, participants in the Women's Fishing Seminar on Oneida Lake; right: participant with yellow perch. Photos: NYSG/J. Cannaday

