



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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New York Sea Grant Brings Educators to the Shore and Ocean Literacy into Classrooms Through the Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher Program

Peer-to-peer, hands-on, place-based and STEM-focused professional development opportunities bring ocean/environmental literacy into classrooms throughout Long Island Sound's Coastal and Inland Communities

Despite being located minutes from the coast, many residents of New York are unaware of the magnificent resources that Long Island Sound provides. From rich habitats for rare species to ecosystem services and more, the estuary is a treasure for all. With encouragement and empowerment, the Sound can also serve as an outdoor classroom for students to explore, learn, and participate in hands-on STEM and stewardship learning.

Through the Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher Program, teachers meet and share successful strategies for implementing ocean literacy into existing curricula. The coastal workshops feature lessons and activities designed for classroom or field use and are aligned to the New York Science Framework and/or the National Science Education Standards.

New York Sea Grant hosted four workshops in New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island (2) attracting more than 50 educators, offering a total of 16 Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) hours and original lesson plans, and reaching more than 1,000 students. Lessons and activities included microplastic pollution testing aboard a research vessel, integrating ocean literacy into P-5 English Language Arts, participatory science for students, and tools for measuring the biodiversity in our waterways.

Eight teachers designed and led professional development opportunities for other educators throughout the state to bring environmental and ocean literacy into New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island classrooms. The innovative workshops introduced new lessons and activities for students in grades P-12 ranging from water quality monitoring to stewardship and more.

Project Partners:

- SUNY Maritime Marine Education Center • Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium

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Top: Educators from NYC aboard a SUNY Maritime research vessel monitoring water quality and microplastic pollution on Long Island Sound, Sept. 24, 2023. Photo: NYSG/L. Genovesi. Above: Mentor teacher, Nicole Carone, points out an osprey nest along the Nissequogue River to workshop participants, Aug. 1, 2023. Photo: NYSG/J. Perez-Viscasillas

