



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

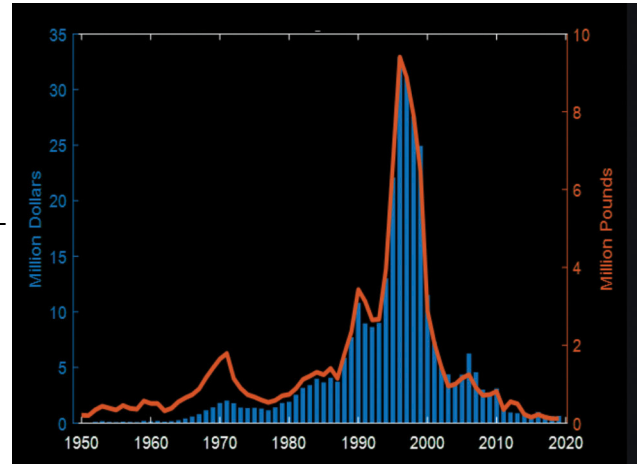
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January 2025

Helping Build Resiliency in Northeast American Lobster Fishing Communities

New York Sea Grant provided extension support to the American Lobster Research Initiative.

A quarter of a century has passed since the American lobster mass mortality event in Long Island Sound (LIS). Since, the population and fishery have not recovered. Sustained elevated ocean temperature was attributed to be the driving force behind this die-off. Changing climate exacerbates American lobster habitat conditions, regionally, especially in the Gulf of Maine where these water temperatures continue increasing at an alarming rate. An active research effort is underway to better understand the effects of changing climate to promote resiliency in the Northeastern U.S. coastal communities that depend on this fishery.



American Lobster landings 1950-2020. Blue represents the value in millions of dollars; the orange line in millions of pounds. Source: A fishery in a sea of change/NYSG StoryMap.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) participated in the regional effort to provide extension support to the American Lobster Research Initiative (ALRI) being administered by Maine Sea Grant. NYSG partnered with Connecticut Sea Grant to prepare oral histories documenting perspectives on the LIS American lobster fishery disaster. Two student journalists interviewed twelve NY-based narrators sharing industry, management, and research experiences. Seven of these interviews were uploaded to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Voices From the Fisheries* website for public access, and additional interviews are available from NYSG. The ALI also supported a team from the Wells National Estuarine Reserve that recently completed a report of the 20-year retrospective review of American lobster research and has submitted a journal manuscript for peer review. NYSG also assisted with the effort to plan the 2024 ALI Research Summit that was convened on February 12-13, 2024, in Portland, ME. The agenda included a research oceanographer presentation describing the effects of changing climate on LIS water quality.

These milestones mark the culmination of a four-year award from the NOAA National Sea Grant Office. NYSG provided knowledge and experience gained from the LIS American lobster die-off to inform ongoing efforts to help build resiliency in Gulf of Maine American lobster fishing communities.

Project Partners/Funders:

- Connecticut Sea Grant
- Maine Sea Grant
- Funding: NOAA National Sea Grant Office

New York Sea Grant: Bringing Science to the Shore Since 1971