



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 Areas
for this project summary:
Sustainable NY Fisheries,
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Great Lakes Charter Captains Conference

The charter fishing industry is a vitally important part of the economy and natural and cultural heritage of New York's Great Lakes coastal communities.

The Great Lakes' commercial and recreational fisheries are economically, socially, and culturally significant, and contribute more than \$7 billion annually to the regional economy.

In 2024, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) coordinated New York's first Great Lakes Charter Captains Conference, offering workforce development training, industry networking, and fisheries learning opportunities to support charter fishing captains working in New York's Great Lakes region.

Charter captains who attended the March 2024 conference in Oswego, New York, gained valuable knowledge on the current state of the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario fisheries as well as best practices to promote their businesses, including the use of social media. They received safety and navigation updates from the U.S. Coast Guard, learned about new fisheries research directly from NYSG and research biologists with the U.S. Geological Survey, and received business and tourism information from representatives of the State University of New York at Oswego, Onondaga Community College, and Oswego County.

Using business development tips learned at the conference, some captains note how much easier it will be for clients to find their business. The combination of fisheries science, networking, and business development presentations offered at the first annual New York's Great Lakes Charter Captains Conference provided local captains a unique opportunity to gain skills and learn about new fisheries research while building strong industry connections.

Project Partner/Funder:

- Funding: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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New York's first Great Lakes Charter Captains Conference included updates on the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario fisheries. Above, a lake trout caught and released in Lake Ontario. Photos from top: Stacy Furgal/NYSG; Jo Johnson/USFWS.