

Become a Sea Grant Community Engaged Fellow this Summer!

Applications now being accepted for New York Sea Grant (NYSG's) 2024 Community Engaged Fellowship Program! Deadline for submission is **March 4, 2024**, by 5PM EDT. See below for information on how to apply. Applications will be evaluated during March and applicants will be notified around **March 29, 2024**.

Background

Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in coastal and marine science research is an important programmatic priority for NYSG and the National Sea Grant College Program. Around the country, Sea Grant programs are implementing a Community-Engaged Fellowship (CEI) program for undergraduate students this summer. The overarching goal of this program is to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers, and citizens. This training will increase awareness about coastal and marine science extension career disciplines. The program will do so by recruiting, retaining, and engaging diverse students in place-based research, extension, education, and/or communication.

Flex Your Mussels in the Great Lakes Watershed

Join partners at the University at Buffalo's Krabbenhoft Aquatic Ecology Lab, in Buffalo, NY, to explore the world of native freshwater mussel research. This project provides an opportunity to gain a wide variety of skills in the field & lab, as well as develop science education and communication abilities. Field work will include sampling rivers and tributaries across western New York, participating in mussel and fish community surveys, and conducting habitat and water quality assessments. Lab work may involve assisting with mussel propagation, identifying macroinvertebrates, processing water samples, and collecting genetic samples. In addition to the lab and field, the selected applicant will work with New York Sea Grant Extension Specialists to create educational and outreach resources that communicate the importance of native mussel biology, conservation, and research in formal and informal education settings. If you enjoy romping in rivers, working as a part of a collaborative team, and sharing this exciting work with the community, apply today!

Explore the Value of Recreational Boating in the Great Lakes

The fellow will work with NYSG Recreation and Tourism Specialist to learn more about the value of recreational boating in communities along Lake Ontario. The fellow will visit public boat launches and marinas along the lake to interview boaters about spending habits related to their trip (boat fuel, travel expenses, etc.). This opportunity is perfect for a fellow who enjoys the outdoors, talking with people, and has an interest in economics.

Diamondback Terrapin Monitoring on Long Island

The Diamondback CEI intern will work closely with Friends of Flax Pond partners to help coordinate and conduct the group's diamondback terrapin monitoring over the summer; they will work as co-coordinator in the project. The work will include setting up, promoting, and managing a volunteer program; conducting field work including GPS mapping and animal tagging; data entry and analysis; and science communication and outreach. The intern will receive training on volunteer management, program development, field work, and data entry from Nancy Grant of Friends of Flax Pond, who they will work closely with on a day-to-day basis. They will receive mentorship and training on science communication and outreach from Jimena Perez-Viscassillas of NYSG, with whom they will have weekly check-ins and who they will assist with occasional outreach events.

Microplastics in the Hudson River

The Hudson River fellowship will focus on microplastics research and education. The successful applicant will help environmental science educators Maija Niemisto and Chris Bowser from the Hudson River Estuary Program, and Jess Kuonen, *Hudson Estuary Resilience Specialist* at New York Sea Grant (NYSG). The fellow will assist with a variety of summer environmental education programs about the Hudson River with a focus on marine debris and microplastics pollution. The fellow will also participate in field sampling and microscopy analysis with High School and college students with The Education And Microplastics Science Community River Assessment Project (TEAM SCRAP). Upon completion, the fellow will prepare a synthesis of TEAM SCRAP findings and an outreach document that promotes the program.



Holly Weeks collected a variety of data along the Long Island Sound as part of her NYSG summer 2023 CEI internship.
Image credit: Holly Weeks



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Community Engaged Fellowship

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NYC Natural and Nature-Based Shorelines Monitoring

Working in partnership with Long Island Sound Study (LISS), NYC Parks, and Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) this position will focus on collecting and organizing Natural and Nature Based Feature (NNBF) shoreline data, as well as hosting community programming and community engagement in the NYC, specifically The Bronx and Queens, focusing on healthy estuarine environments.

The fellow will conduct field work along the Bronx River, Long Island Sound, and their tributaries. Extensive field work (in all types of weather) will include both data collection and presentation/interviews with the public. Additionally, the fellow will assist the LISS Outreach Coordinator with community outreach programs and projects including Sound Stewards youth education, Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities and Boogie Down to the Bronx festival. Deliverables will include presentations to teachers, students, and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) highlighting NNBF sites. Additionally, there will be opportunities to support the LISS stormwater pollution reduction campaign by creating outreach materials such as flyers, presentation slides, and social media posts focusing on improving NYC waterways through individual action.

NYC Eco Ambassadors for Marine Debris Reduction

In partnership with Long Island Sound Study and Columbia University two fellows will join the Sea Grant team to conduct in-person or online workshops on marine debris, including making StoryMaps for the Eco Ambassadors youth program. The fellows will support students ages 14 to 18 with studying marine debris, working on projects that help collect, analyze, and reduce marine pollution and finally creating ArcGIS StoryMaps that will be used during panel discussions with experts. The fellows will support students with lab research at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, host online Office Hours to resolve technical problems on StoryMaps, and curate a list of Storymaps on microplastic and marine debris that already exists. Final presentations will also be created for the International Conference on Sustainable Development (virtual) at Columbia University.

Hard Clams on Long Island

Incumbent will be involved with efforts led by Antoinette Clemetson (NY Sea Grant Fisheries Specialist) to establish demonstration plots that will include preparing guidelines for growers by working with designated State Hard Clam Hub collaborators. The fellow will assist Gregg Rivera (Aquaculture Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County) and Professor Bassem Allam (Stony Brook University) to conduct the study to test artificial substrate for clam seed development and learn procedures and best practices to maintain live clam broodstock. If funding permits, incumbent might conduct trip to adjoining State (NJ or MA), to learn about clam industry.

Stipend and Support

The fellowship begins on **June 3, 2024** and extends over 10 weeks; this fellowship includes a \$6,000 stipend. The stipend is expected to cover minimal travel to field sites.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a current undergraduate from a New York college or university seeking a degree in related to the projects of interest during the Summer of 2024. Students who have recently graduated are not eligible for this program. Having completed a marine or Great Lakes science course is not required but is preferred. Applicants with previous experience working with the public are preferred.

Sea Grant Networking and Professional Development

Fellows will join a cohort of students participating in similar programs across the Sea Grant network in professional development opportunities through the CEI Sea Grant program and NYSG.

How to Apply

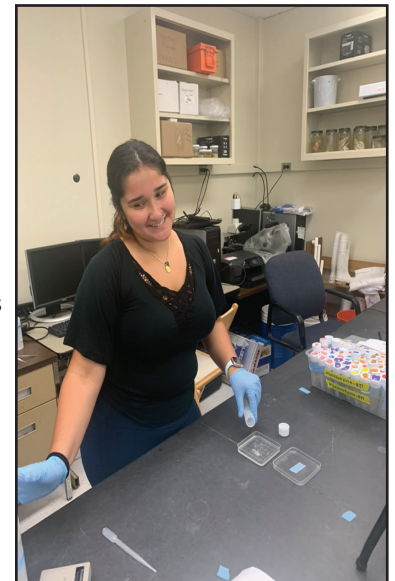
To apply, please send your application as a single PDF document to Norma Gunn nlg43@cornell.edu with CEI Fellowship in the subject line by **March 4th, 2024**.

The application package should include the following information:

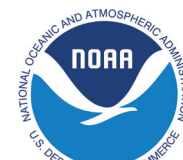
1. A 1-2 page cover letter identifying which projects you are interested in and why you are interested in applying for this fellowship.
2. A separate 1-2 page document that answers the following questions:
 - a. In 200 words or less, please describe how might your unique perspective or skills help a team work together or solve a problem? Provide one example of this from your life.
 - b. In 200 words or less, please describe a personal or professional goal you have? How might this fellowship contribute to achieving that goal?
 - c. Please provide an example or description of something you have done in an extracurricular activity, job, or school that you are proud of. It does not have to be related to the fellowship topic.
3. A one page resume.
4. An unofficial transcript (released to students is acceptable).
5. Full name and email address of two people we can contact as references.

Qualified applicants must have access to reliable transportation to and from the office and throughout the day for fieldwork. Most opportunities are hybrid. Transportation to the field is provided for the GL mussel project.

Proof of Health Insurance will be required after acceptance. A letter from the school, insurance company or ID card will be accepted.



NYSG summer 2023 CEI intern Olivia Bonilla examined locally-collected phytoplankton samples for fish eggs and larvae for DNA barcoding analysis in the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SOMAS) laboratory of Janet Nye, Ph.D.
Image credit: Olivia Bonilla



New York Sea Grant is part of a nationwide network of 34 university-based programs working with coastal communities through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sea Grant research and outreach programs promote better understanding, conservation, and use of America's coastal resources. Sea Grant is funded in New York through SUNY and Cornell University and federally through NOAA.

www.nyseagrant.org