

Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Health Specialist
Extension Associate
New York Sea Grant – Cornell Cooperative Extension

General Position Responsibilities:

Conduct extension and outreach programming as well as applied research in Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem health science, management and policy. Design extension programs to enhance audience awareness and understanding of Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem science such as emerging contaminants, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, diseases, and food-web productivity. Facilitate informed decision making by audience members.

The target audience includes lay stakeholders from the basin, angling groups, environmental interest groups, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), resource management agencies, researchers, and elected officials.

University and Extension Program Ties

- Plan and conduct extension education programs in Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem health science, management and policy, and may develop significant new subject matter materials such as curricula and extension education publications.
- Actively pursue outside grants and contracts to support this program area.
- Have subject matter leadership responsibility for integrating Sea Grant Extension and University Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem health science programming initiatives in a statewide, regional, and/or national context.
- Act as a leader within area of expertise within New York Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and, when appropriate, within the Great Lakes or National Sea Grant Network.

Specific Responsibilities:

Program Development and Implementation: (45% FTE)

- Collect, utilize and generate extension/outreach materials pertaining to Great Lakes fisheries, ecosystem ecology, ecosystem health as well as sustainable management, resource utilization, biological processes, and stressors for program development.
 - Multi-disciplinary topical areas will include, but are not restricted to, Great Lakes fisheries/food web interactions, climate change impacts on Great lakes ecosystems, habitat restoration, uncertainty communication tools, scenario planning, human dimensions, ecosystem assessment monitoring, predictive modeling, fish habitat monitoring, toxic contaminants, aquatic pathogens/disease, invasive species, harmful algal blooms, and decision-making tools.
- Develop the direction and content of fisheries extension programs in response to needs identified by the New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Network, academic researchers, governmental agencies, extension program leadership, the National Sea Grant Office and an individual program advisory network.
- Program implementation and delivery are accomplished by means of prepared written materials, presentations, workshops, social media and electronic technology.
- Information will be delivered to target audiences via such vehicles as factsheets, websites, formal and informal presentations, social media and other distance learning technologies.

Applied Research to Inform Extension: (20% FTE)

- Conduct applied research to fill information voids needed to address audience needs. This research may be research to support the creation of the extension program in either the natural or social sciences. The applied research can be supported externally from grants or self-directed activities that include remote access to library information.

Program Development and Leadership Responsibilities: (15% FTE)

- Provide leadership within New York Sea Grant and Cornell Cooperative Extension in development, implementation of applied research, extension outreach education and program evaluation statewide, regionally and nationally and to collaborate with regional and national extension networks, researchers, and governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- Actively seek and manage external grants/contracts and develop proposals to fund extension projects and applied research, when suitable funding opportunities are available. As a principal investigator on external grants makes sure that all requirements of the grant are fulfilled in a timely manner to the funding entities.
- Develop organizational documents such as proposals, annual reports, monthly narratives, and the like as required by New York Sea Grant Extension leader to satisfy requirements of external funding entities.
- Establish and maintain affiliations for development and implementation of applied research and extension programs with major academic linkages with Cornell University, resource management agencies, National Sea Grant Program Office, Regional and National Sea Grant networks, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, and elected officials (state and federal).
- Establish and maintain a program advisory network to help identify issue needs and to assess program efficacy.

Grant Management: (10% FTE)

- Actively pursue outside grants and contracts to support the program area.
- Act as principal investigator to grants secured.

Program Evaluation: (5% FTE)

- Use evaluation planning approaches when designing extension activities.
- Conduct evaluations of their extension/outreach programming in order to grow, adapt and amend them as appropriate. Evaluation will provide evidence as to the impact of the programming. Members of the program advisory network will provide guidance and feedback of programs as well.

Staff Development and Professional Improvement: (5% FTE)

- Participate in staff development courses, including teaching such courses when appropriate and provides leadership to appropriate organizations dedicated to extension educator professional improvement.
- Keep current in the area of professional expertise. Professional growth is demonstrated in the development and fulfillment of professional improvement plans filed with Sea Grant Extension program leadership.

Requirements:

Required

- Master's level degree in fisheries, ecosystem science/health, natural resource management or a related field.
- 2+ years of experience in education, extension or other professional activities requiring the communication of technical information to audiences.
- Knowledge of principles, theory, research, and educational materials in the subject matter field and knowledge of extension methods related to the area of specialization.
- Advanced computer skills and the ability to use social media, computer and long-distance education technologies in this area of extension programming expertise.
- Demonstrated ability to develop educational programs and teach adults.
- Initiate, plan, conduct and evaluate informal and/or formal adult education programs.
- Define, conduct, and interpret original applied research and/or demonstration projects.
- Lead and effectively participate in professional team efforts.
- Relate effectively to co-workers, advisors, community and professional leaders, and targeted audiences.
- Communicate effectively through oral, written, and visual channels.
- Must be able to meet the travel requirements of the position, and have reliable transportation as well as have and maintain a valid and unrestricted New York State driver's license.

Preferred

- Experience and knowledge specific to the Great Lakes.
- Experience and knowledge related to social sciences.

Reporting Relationships:

The Extension Associate reports to the New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Regional Lead for supervision and program support. Extension program direction is established through a Program Advisory Network, university faculty, and organizational leadership of the Sea Grant Extension Program. This position will reside in Oswego, New York at SUNY Oswego.