

**New York Aquaculture Specialist  
Extension Associate  
New York Sea Grant**

**General Position Responsibilities:**

Serve as a primary resource on Aquaculture science, technology, business, and economics. Specifically, the position will provide extension programming related to all forms of aquaculture, from shellfish to finfish to seaweed, from land-based to open water systems. Develop extension, outreach, and educational materials and training programs to support a vibrant and sustainable aquaculture industry and related research agenda for New York State. Additionally, develop, implement, and evaluate a stakeholder engagement process for identifying the status, constraints, and opportunities for aquaculture in New York.

**Specific Program Development Responsibilities:**

- Serve as a recognized subject matter specialist in the area of aquaculture science, technology, business, and economics, as well as adult education.
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders (especially with environmental groups, fishers, existing aquaculture businesses, and those interested in starting a business), community partners, agencies, and teachers to develop enduring and empowering relationships for productive dialog around what constitutes sustainable aquaculture.
- Disseminate and translate science-based research generated about aquaculture to businesses, agencies, community members, seafood consumers, and the public in a range of applicable formats.
- Develop and implement an extension and outreach program, as well as facilitate organizational partnerships, science, monitoring, and information management actions to provide science-based information to inform and support sustainable aquaculture activities that complement New York's wild capture industry.
- Engage the aquaculture community in identifying priority research needs and preferred policies and management strategies for supporting sustainable aquaculture practices that complement New York's wild capture industries.
- Provide training, technical assistance, and resources to stakeholders to increase their individual and collective capacity to sustain practices that support aquaculture and to increase their resilience to industry disturbances such as COVID-19.
- Collaborate with other universities, Sea Grant, and extension staff to stimulate educational resource program sharing in the field of aquaculture.

**University and Extension Program Ties:**

- Plans and conducts extension education programs related to aquaculture and develops significant new subject matter materials such as curricula and extension education publications.
- Actively pursues outside grants and contracts to support this program area.
- Has subject matter leadership responsibility for integrating Sea Grant Extension and University aquaculture programming initiatives in a statewide, regional, and/or national context.
- Works actively with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Empire State Development, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and local county agency staff on aquaculture science and policies.

- Acts as a leader within their area of program expertise within New York Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and State and Local agencies.

**Specific Responsibilities:**

**Program Development and Implementation:**

(50%)

- Serve as a recognized subject matter specialist in the area of aquaculture science, technology, business, and economics, as well as adult education.
- Engage the aquaculture community in identifying priority research needs and preferred policies and management strategies for supporting sustainable aquaculture practices that complement New York's wild capture industries.
- Create and coordinate a task force, or several, including agencies and industry, to explore the process for permitting different types of aquaculture in different regions to draft various guidance documents. Some of the types might include:
  - Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)
  - Aquaponics (may require separate for urban vs. rural operations)
  - Marine Aquaculture (Primarily finfish offshore, as the nearshore shellfish industry already has these resources)
- Develop a webpage on the NYSG website dedicated to aquaculture in New York.
- Disseminate and translate science-based research generated about aquaculture to businesses, agencies, community members, seafood consumers, and the public in a range of applicable formats. Provide training, technical assistance, and resources to stakeholders to increase their individual and collective capacity to sustain practices that support aquaculture.
- Develop and implement an extension and outreach program, as well as facilitate organizational partnerships, science, monitoring, and information management actions to provide science-based information to inform and support sustainable aquaculture activities that complement New York's wild capture industry.
- Develop, disseminate and apply sound scientific, technical, and related research knowledge to support sustainable aquaculture.
- Extension and outreach programming and tools are developed, implemented, and evaluated based on the needs of clientele as identified, in part, through a Program Advisory Network whose members represent the interests served by the position.
- Programs are implemented using various educational tools such as publications, electronic technology, group experiences, mass media, individual advisement, websites, social media, and the like.
- Engage stakeholders in various forums, including workshops, meetings, conferences, etc. When appropriate, new organizations and representative groups are developed to articulate industry needs.

**Program Leadership Responsibilities:**

(20%)

- Develop networks of volunteers and/or public/private professionals (experts) to assist in educational program development.
- Recruit suppliers, producers, researchers, chefs, regulators, wholesalers, economists, etc. across the region into a new New York aquaculture network (reinstate New York Aquaculture Association) to support information exchange and collaborations in the

- aquaculture industry and facilitate regular meetings, step back, and let participants take leadership.
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders (especially with environmental groups, fishers, existing aquaculture businesses, and those interested in starting a business), community partners, agencies, and teachers to develop enduring and empowering relationships for productive dialog around what constitutes sustainable aquaculture.
- Collaborate with other universities, Sea Grant, and extension staff to stimulate educational resource program sharing in the field of aquaculture.

Program Evaluation: (10%)

- Provides leadership for designing, executing, and analyzing extension/outreach program evaluations. At least one program evaluation is performed annually to assess benefits and identify avenues for program improvement. The results of such program evaluations are summarized in a written narrative that communicates findings and recommendations to regional and county extension educators, program advisory committees, lay leaders, industry representatives, and university faculty.

Grant Management: (10%)

- Actively pursue outside grants and contracts to support the program area.
- Act as key personnel for grants secured.

Staff Development and Professional Improvement: (10%)

- May design and teach regional in-service education programs to support the efforts of regional and county extension educators, Sea Grant specialists, volunteers, DEC state agency personnel, and industry leaders in the area of aquaculture.
- May occasionally collaborate with university departments and other state Sea Grant programs in planning and conducting extension staff development activities.
- Keeps current in their area of professional expertise.
- Professional growth is demonstrated in developing and fulfilling professional improvement plans filed with Sea Grant Extension program leadership.

**Requirements:**

Required

- Master's degree in Aquaculture, Agricultural Economics, Business, or other related fields.
- 2+ years of experience working with outreach or similar public education program.
- Knowledge of principles, theory, research, extension methods, and educational

materials in the subject matter field related to aquaculture.

- Advanced computer skills and the ability to use computer and long-distance education technologies in this area of extension programming expertise.
- Demonstrated ability to develop K-12 and/or 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, various stakeholders (e.g., fishers, shipping interests, non-consumptive recreation users, etc.), community and professional leaders, and targeted audiences.
- Communicate effectively through oral, written, and visual channels.
- Ability to work effectively independently or within groups.
- 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 engaging with diverse communities etc.
- Experience using long-distance education technologies in extension or outreach.

### **Reporting Relationships**

The Extension Associate reports to the New York Sea Grant, Marine District Extension Lead to the Associate Director. Direction is established through Program Advisory Networks, university faculty, and organizational leadership of the Sea Grant Extension Program. This position will primarily reside in Stony Brook, New York.