



Banners, posters, species lists, and tote bags were some of the most popular ideas, all of which were produced by the time the first events were held on Saturday, September 20! Initial reports from the host organizations show that the events were highly successful and attracted diverse audiences. All are looking forward to joining the 2004 Harbor-wide Celebration of National Estuaries Day.

—Laura Bartovics

For the two weeks surrounding September 27, 2003, eighteen organizations throughout the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary region hosted festivals, boat tours, catch and release fishing clinics and other educational events celebrating National Estuaries Day. And although most of the events drew participation from their own local areas, all had the common goal of raising public awareness and appreciation for an important shared resource—the Harbor Estuary.

The idea of a harbor-wide celebration and the funding to make it happen was set in motion by the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program (HEP). As the HEP Outreach Coordinator, NYSG's Laura Bartovics played a key role bringing it all together. In addition to overseeing the HEP Mini-grant Program that provided funds for the events, Bartovics convened a meeting of the host organizations to find out what kinds of outreach materials they thought would be most effective in connecting people to the estuary.



Families enjoy catch-and-release fishing at a National Estuaries Day event hosted by the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy. Photo by Laura Bartovics

## Partnering to Promote Clean Boating

This summer, boaters in upstate New York were given some of the tools of stewardship when New York Sea Grant, marina operators, a products manufacturer, and two industry organizations united to distribute information and products to promote clean boating at the Syracuse Boat Show on Lake Ontario, Oneida and Skaneateles Lakes, and the Niagara River.

"More than 2,700 bags with an oil absorbent bilge sock, fuel nozzle bib, New York State Boating Guide, a list of pumpout stations and other useful information (see photo) were distributed as part of a pilot project to promote practices to keep

New York's waters clean," says David White, NYSG's Great Lakes Extension Program Coordinator and national chair

of the Marine Environmental Education Foundation.

"Every bilge sock that saves oil from going overboard is a plus for the environment," says Wayne Carroll, Brewerton Boat Yard owner. Adds Skaneateles Sailboat Shop co-owner John Jablonski "This program is a positive way to help boaters have a more pleasurable and safe day."

On Sodus Bay, 100 Lake Ontario boaters discovered bags with local event fliers "courtesy of New York Sea Grant and Arney's Marina."

"We're teaching consumers that keeping a clean boating environment (can be) easy and inexpensive," says Geoff Smith of Smith Boys Marina, North Tonawanda. The Boating Industries Association of Central New York and the Western New York Marine Trade Association co-sponsored the project. Anchor Environmental Solutions of Troy, Ohio, provided the bibs and bilge socks.

—Kara Lynn Dunn



Photo by Lane Smith