

AN ACRONYM BY ANY OTHER NAME....

An acronym is an abbreviation formed using the initial components of a name. New York Sea Grant partners with many organizations on our research and extension projects, most of them referred to by their acronyms. Here’s a brief update of some of those projects—and what all those initials stand for.

COSEE

Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence

Next summer, NYSG’s Coastal Education Specialist **Helen Domske** is planning a week-long land-based Lake Ontario Exploration Workshop for 15 teachers in grades 4-10. The COSEE Great Lakes experiential program will provide interactions between educators and scientists along diverse environments of Lake Ontario, from embayments to sand dunes. In Summer 2008, NYSG’s Domske and other educators embarked on a similar week-long COSEE training tour with 15 teachers, only this time on Lake Ontario via USEPA’s research vessel the *Peter Wise Lake Guardian*. For more go to www.coseegreatlakes.net. COSEE GL is funded by the National Science Foundation and NOAA Sea Grant.

ECWS

East Coast Winter Storms

East coast winter storms, also known as nor’easters, have a major impact on coastal communities in New York and actually cause more damage than hurricanes due to their frequency and duration. NYSG’s Coastal Processes Specialist **Jay Tanski** and **Dr. Arthur DeGaetano**, Director of NOAA’s Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) and professor at Cornell University, recently held a workshop introducing a new ECWS Web site for coastal emergency management personnel and managers. The **East Coast Winter Storm Climatological and Forecasting Data** Web site, <http://nywinterstorm.org>, housed at Cornell’s Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, provides seasonal forecasts, climatological data and real time data on winter storms that can be used by managers and other coastal audiences to better prepare for and respond to these events. The web site also allows users to compare a current storm with the most similar historic storm chosen from a database of 700 storms and provides the storm surges associated with that historic storm. NRCC forecasts indicate that ECWS activity this winter will be higher than normal in both number and strength of storms.

I FISH NY

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I FISH NY, a joint program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYSG now welcomes educators to the “for Teachers” page at ifishnewyork.org with links to many lessons useful for both formal (labeled In-Class) or informal (Out-of-Class) settings to teach about ecology and conservation biology as it relates to fish and the enjoyment of fishing.

“These lesson plans and assessment activities fit nicely into the science curricula and can be taken as full lessons or pieced into existing lessons,” says **Malynda Nichol**, former I FISH NY educator who is now a middle school teacher. All lessons, elementary through high school, are aligned with the NYS Education Learning Standards. The I FISH NY team serving NYC city students led by **Dr. James McDonald** and aide **Darin Alberry** is working to increase the number of secondary lessons. Says **Ann TeNyenhuis** of I FISH NY Long Island, “This past season was a great success with outreach to new school districts, libraries, and summer camps, giving more students and residents the opportunity to try their hand at fishing—always a rewarding experience.”

MADL

Marine Animal Disease Laboratory

NYSG’s **Antoinette Clemetson** works closely with anglers, many of them striped bass enthusiasts. She’s also working with researcher **Dr. Mark Fast** at Stony Brook’s MADL who reports that **Striped Bass Wasting Disease** (*Mycobacteriosis*) has threatened striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay for more than a decade, affecting more than 70% of the striped bass population. Dr. Fast isolated the bacteria from striped bass caught in NY’s marine waters where the infection levels are much lower, affecting approximately 20% of the population. This disease is being monitored closely by the MADL research team because the pathogens can be transmitted to humans who handle infected fish and can cause illness.

NYIS Info

The New York Invasive Species Information Clearinghouse

Administered by NYSG under contract from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, NYIS Info continues to expand its scope and services. “We are happy to announce that that NYIS Info has absorbed the National Aquatic Invasive Species Database under the infrastructure of the new Clearinghouse web site (<http://NYIS.INFO>),” said **Chuck O’Neill**, NYSG invasive species specialist and Director of NYIS Info. The Clearinghouse has also become the “go to” Web site for information on several coastal invaders studied with NYSG funding including Japanese knotweed and Phragmites, as well as the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), a high-profile wood boring beetle that threatens NY’s forests. The Clearinghouse, already linked to Web pages for seven of the state’s eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs), now welcomes the eighth, the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA). “Supporting the PRISMs, both as an educational resource and for use on the Web to make the activities of the PRISMs accessible to all stakeholders, is a major objective for the Clearinghouse,” adds O’Neill.



Emerald ash borer
(*Agrilus planipennis*)

NYMSC

New York Marine Sciences Consortium

The New York Marine Sciences Consortium is an association of colleges, universities, and degree-granting institutions with expertise and interest in marine and/or coastal science. New York Sea Grant is an associate member and was represented at the NYMSC annual September meeting at SUNY Maritime in the Bronx by NYSG Director, **Dr. James Ammerman**. The theme of the meeting was “Climate Change – Marine Connections: an Ecosystem Approach.”

“Interdisciplinary, collaborative and ecosystem-based approaches to tackle marine issues have long been a hallmark of NYSG research,” said Dr. Ammerman. “NYMSC is a new platform to facilitate even greater collaboration and advocacy by the academic marine science community in New York. NYMSC should become a major voice for this community and strive to communicate marine science priorities and increase support for marine science within New York State,” he continued.

Dr. Christopher Gobler, Associate Professor at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) at Stony Brook University and long time NYSG researcher gave a keynote speech entitled “The role of climate change in altering NY’s coastal ecosystems: from algal blooms to shellfish and beyond.” (See article on pages 4-5 for some of Gobler’s most recent research on harmful algal blooms.)

NYSMEA

New York State Marine Education Association

In June 2009, 60 members of the New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) met at Stony Brook Southampton for their annual conference. They enjoyed informative lectures by **Jeffrey Herter**, Project Director for the New York Ocean and Great Lakes System Conservation Council (Department of State), **Deborah Cramer**, author of Smithsonian Ocean: Our Water, Our World, and photographer and author, **Heather Perry**.

One of the concurrent workshops was led by New York Sea Grant’s **Nordica Holochuck** who joined **Susan Hoskins**, Image Analyst at Cornell University Institute for Resource Information Sciences, to provide educators a “Bird’s Eye View” to exploring changes to the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary environments.

New York Sea Grant will partner with NYSMEA to redesign their Web site and provide new educational materials to members with a re-launch planned for early next year.



At the June NYSMEA conference, Larissa Graham, Long Island Sound (LIS) Outreach Coordinator, gave a workshop on LIS and the free educational resources that are available about this important estuary.

Photo by Barbara A. Branca