For the first time in NYSG’s near 30-year history, one of its extension specialists received two Program Leader Awards at April’s Great Lakes Sea Grant Network (GLSGN) Conference. During the annual event, held in Milwaukee, WI, NYSG Coastal Education Specialist Helen Domske accepted the GLSGN Program Leader “Outstanding Program Award” for her role as part of a network team in developing the Exotic Species Day Camp.

Domske, who is also Assistant Director of the Great Lakes Program, received a Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Program Leader “Superior Award” as well for her work in developing the Lower Lakes Reference Charts. These charts, now at <wings.buffalo.edu/glp>, pinpoint state and federal government organization contacts that address the issues of fisheries, water levels and quality, tourism, and exotic species.

Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Program Leader “Superior Award” as well for her work in developing the Lower Lakes Reference Charts. These charts, now at <wings.buffalo.edu/glp>, pinpoint state and federal government organization contacts that address the issues of fisheries, water levels and quality, tourism, and exotic species.

This Sea Granters six-plus years of exotic species outreach efforts – most recently illustrated in the collaborative Great Lakes Sea Grant Exotic Species Day Camp Education project – were also acknowledged last August by the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC). The ADEC – an international consortium of state universities and land grant institutions providing high-tech education programs and services – bestowed upon Domske and eight others in the region the honor of “Outstanding Educational Program.”

Along with her project member counterparts, Domske educated teachers in remote locations of the Great Lakes region about the availability and benefit of classroom teaching resources focusing on the biology, spread and impact of aquatic exotic species. Their “train-the-trainer” approach incorporated the latest technology, including CD-ROMs and web sites.

Domske says she is grateful for all the attention she and her regional Sea Grant counterparts have been receiving for the project. “This project has been innovative in providing educational information for teachers nationwide with its award-winning multimedia educational kits and curriculum.” She is currently embarking on a national extension of the Great Lakes aquatic nuisance species education project targeted to geography and social studies teachers and students.