



Field testing the first version of Go Fish! turns the heads of these third graders from Q148 in Queens. NYSG's Nim Lee was one of several artists who worked on the Go Fish! cards. She created the artwork for the summer flounder. Photo by Nim Lee



GO FISH! GAME TEACHES LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

The I FISH NY program visits school children in New York City and Long Island to teach kids about fish and fishing. When **Sarah Bruner**, a fisheries technician for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation(NYSDEC) joined the I FISH NY-NYC team led by **Nim Lee**, a NYSG Recreational Fisheries Specialist, they immediately started brainstorming about how to expose kids to the diversity of local fish species. Their basic requirement: make learning fun and local; the result: the **Go Fish!** card game.

Nim and Sarah spun the classic kids' game by replacing numbers with family names of fish represented in New York State fresh or salt water: herring, sucker, bass. Each family has four different representative species (one for each suit). Most of the freshwater fish came from NYSDEC commissioned artwork from the 20's and 30's and the bulk of saltwater species was generously provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Nim and several other artists also contributed artwork, while Sarah designed the card backs, putting an urban twist to the classic card design.

Kids embraced the game, expressing a range of emotions not usual during a typical lesson. One student exclaimed while jumping out of his seat, "I've got four families. I'm on fire!" Others chuckled while asking fellow students, "Do you have any suckers?" Kids learn through playing Go Fish! that, while hard to see, New York State fish have names and lots of them.

Complimentary decks are available for educational purposes only. Send inquiries to Nim Lee at CL432@cornell.edu or call 718-482-4940.

— **Nim Lee, NYSG Recreational Fisheries Specialist**

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