



SPRING FEVER EDITION 2018

Students skipping through the hallways, birds chirping amongst the trees, seining nets sprawled out to dry on the front porch... It's finally springtime at New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium!

This pre-summer edition of the *COASTodian* includes...

- Ocean Fun Days 15th anniversary recap
- Press coverage from the 2018 [State of the Shore](#)
- Rip Current Awareness information and updates
- NJ's "[Favorite Beaches](#)" radio debut
- And much, much more!



The beaches at Sandy Hook Gateway National Park are now open for the season. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium's headquarters, located at Fort Hancock, welcomes visitors Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. If you need a break from the sun, please stop in!

We're always working hard to provide fresh and entertaining content on NJSGC's official [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) pages. Be sure to check out what's new and get involved by tagging us on social media! Please visit njseagrant.org for further information and updates.

The Sun Comes Out for Ocean Fun Days at Sandy Hook

The historic Fort Hancock area of Sandy Hook transformed into a “coastal awareness” wonderland on Sunday (May 20th) to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Ocean Fun Days. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium hosted over 35 exhibitors and displays, as well as several engaging tours and workshops.

Despite an iffy weather forecast, several thousands of enthusiastic visitors descended upon the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium parade grounds to learn more about marine science, energy conservation, and a diverse array of eco-friendly concerns. Such outgoing optimism even inspired the sun to shine bright throughout the entire event, making for a full afternoon of family fun and unforgettable memories at the Jersey Shore.

To mark such a monumental year, several new activities were offered, including an interactive Rip Currents vs. Sharks trivia game and participatory paddleboarding/kayaking demos. The NOAA Fisheries Service James J. Howard Lab was open to the public, and tour guides aboard both the “History Bus” and “Bay Bus” provided interesting facts and information while transporting attendees to various historic and ecological sites throughout Gateway National Park. For the full Ocean Fun Days 2018 program, please go [here](#).

An amazing Ocean Fun Days photo feature was included in a recent issue of the [*Two River Times*](#) (images taken by Patrick Olivero). View more photos from #OceanFunDays2018 [here](#).

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium is looking forward to hosting another eventful Ocean Fun Days in 2019!



(Photo: Patrick Olivero)

NJSGC's Director of Research and Extension Peter Rowe hosted Ocean Fun Day's "famous" fiddler crab races



Representative Frank Pallone, JR. attended Ocean Fun Days with his family and shared this snapshot on Instagram



NJSGC's Water Resources Agent Michelle Hartmann (from Rutgers University) presenting a poster at Ocean Fun Days

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Ocean Fun Days is presented by founding sponsor [New Jersey Natural Gas](#), in partnership with New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, Asbury Park Press, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, National Park Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Vote for New Jersey's "Favorite Beach"

The fun-filled days of summer are fast approaching, which means it's time to cast your vote for [New Jersey's favorite beach](#)!

With just a few days of voting left, fans get to choose their favorite local "hotspots" from a list of all the amazing beaches throughout New Jersey's four coastal counties – Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium will announce the winners during a public beachside ceremony right before the July Fourth holiday.



Debuting in 2008 as New Jersey's "Top Ten Beaches," the survey was designed to encourage a little "friendly" competition and camaraderie between popular Jersey Shore communities along the sandy coast.

Now in its tenth year, the poll was recently rebranded "Favorite Beaches" so that ALL areas of the Garden State's gorgeous oceanfront could be recognized. An overall victor is still announced, and Ocean City, New Jersey has remained undefeated champ over the past decade. But will that impressive winning streak end this year? You decide!

Be sure to share the [2018 "Favorite Beaches" poll](#) with family and friends, and stay tuned for the final results by the end of June.

NJSGC Broadcasting LIVE with 94.3 "The Point" Radio



This year's "Favorite Beaches" poll debuted over the Memorial Day weekend on "The Jersey Shore's Hit Music Channel" – [92.3 The Point](#) (WJKL). After a successful run in 2017 thanks to longtime community partner [New Jersey Natural Gas](#), NJSGC's executive director Claire Antonucci will again contribute weekly radio talks about ocean safety, beach conditions, and other important environmental issues throughout the summer. Live broadcasts will take place from the Asbury Park Boardwalk every Friday at approximately 8:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. For more updates, please visit the [Lou and Liz in the Morning](#) blog.

Do you have any interesting Jersey Shore-related topics you'd like us to discuss on the radio? Please share any ideas with our Communications Specialist [Danica Bellini](#)!

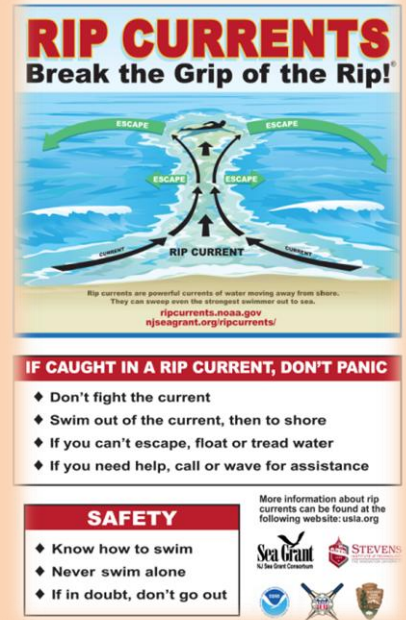
Rip Current Awareness Update

For nearly 20 years, NJSGC has conducted a **Rip Current Awareness** campaign in New Jersey, which includes producing and distributing thousands of signs – now available in English and in Spanish – that warn swimmers about the dangers of rip currents and illustrate what to do if caught in one. The signs are posted at high-traffic beach access and bathing points in essentially every shore community along the coast.

Rip Current Awareness brochures and handouts are also available upon request for municipalities at no charge. Please keep an eye out for these important safety materials at municipal buildings, beach badge check-points, and other strategic tourist points located from Sandy Hook to Cape May.

Officials interested in obtaining rip current awareness materials, including outdoor signs in English or in Spanish, can go to <http://njseagrant.org/ripcurrents/> or call 732-872-1300 x10.

And please help continue spreading the word about swimming safe this summer. Always remember, “When in doubt, don’t go out!”



Experience Marine Science Summer Day Camp



Get the kids out on Sandy Hook next month! New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium’s summer day camp program runs throughout the summer, and spots are still available. Our beach-trotting campers explore ocean and marine life while partaking in outdoor adventures, laboratory experiments, educational games, and other hands-on activities.

Please keep these specific dates and grade levels in mind when contacting Special Programs Coordinator [Rosemary Higgins](#) at 732-872-1300 x19 for more information.

- Session 1: July 9 – 13 (4th-6th grades)**
- Session 2: July 16 – 19 (3rd-4th grades)**
- Session 3: July 23 – 27 5th-6th grades)**
- Session 4: July 30 – August 3 (7th-9th grades)**
- Session 5: August 6 – 10 (5th-6th grades)**
- Session 6: August 13 – 17 (7th-8th grades)**

** Please note: Session 4 is currently full*

For more information on individual session topics and themes, please visit our [website](#).

NJSGC's State of the Shore Media Event Kicks-Off 2018 Beach Season with Promising Outlook

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium hosted the 16th annual *State of the Shore* press event at Tim McLoone's Supper Club in Asbury Park, NJ on Thursday, May 24th. Along with the Consortium's Executive Director Claire Antonucci, NJSGC's Coastal Processes Specialist Dr. Jon K. Miller spoke to members of the media about current beach conditions at the Jersey Shore after a rather stormy and severe winter. NJDEP Acting Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe attended the event as guest speaker and assured reporters that the Garden State is fully prepared for yet another busy and prosperous summer season.



For Dr. Miller's full *State of the Shore* report along with an introduction by NJSGC's Communications Specialist Danica Bellini, please go [here](#).

Media coverage was widespread this year and included additional information on Rip Current Awareness thanks to NJSGC's Coastal Ecosystems Extension Agent Dr. Amy Williams, who was also available for comment during the event. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium would like to extend a huge thanks to all those who attended, contributed to, and reported on the 2018 *State of the Shore* event, and we look forward to seeing everyone out on the beach this summer at the wonderful Jersey Shore!

State of the Shore "In the News"

[NJ.com](#)

[Asbury Park Press](#)

[New Jersey Herald](#)
(Associated Press)

[NJDEP](#)

[NJTV News](#)
(PBS)

[WPG Talk Radio, 104.1 FM](#)

[Cape May Herald](#)

[NBC 10/Philadelphia](#)

[The Sandpaper](#)

[Insider NJ](#)

NJSGC “Spotlight”

Ocean County College hosted the [Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium](#) in March to recognize outstanding achievement and experimentation in STEM at the high school level (grades 9-12). Several students throughout the region were acknowledged for their work and expertise in various areas of study. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, represented by Assistant Director of Extension Michael Danko, bestowed two awards for Top Environmental Paper. Ahri Han of Tenafly High School received a first place prize of \$300, while Sadie Wolfarth of the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science went home with a \$200 prize for second place.

For a full list of winners and participants, please refer to Board Member Gayle Grant’s [press release](#) (representative of the Association of Old Crows Garden State Chapter, AOC-GSC).



Photos courtesy of Ocean Count College

The [Two River Times](#) – a paid circulation weekly newspaper based in Red Bank, NJ – is a prominent advocate of New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium’s mission to promote the wise use of New Jersey’s marine and coastal resources through research, education, and outreach. Photographer Patrick Olivero recently visited the NJSGC headquarters on Sandy Hook to capture two significant events – Ocean Fun Days and the individual Environmental Science Merit Badge program for Boy Scouts. The NJSGC staff is deeply grateful for such support and recognition.

