



New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium is an affiliation of colleges, universities, and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment through innovative research, education, and extension programs. For more information and updates, please follow NJSGC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) or visit our website at njseagrant.org.

The entire staff at New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. We look forward to continue working with you in 2020!

The New Year is just around the corner. Can we count on you to support NJSGC's mission to sustain and care for New Jersey's marine and coastal environment?

DONATE NOW

Contributions from donors and supporters like you continue to allow us to:

- Support marine and coastal research (including social science) directed towards promoting healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries/aquaculture, resilience communities/economies, and environmental literacy/workforce development throughout coastal New Jersey.
 - Current research project partnerships include “[Enhancing Bivalve Aquaculture](#)” (Rutgers), “[Managing for Biodiversity in the Face of Sea-Level Rise](#)” (Montclair), “[Quantifying Effects of a Changing Climate on Summer Flounder](#)” (Rutgers), etc.
- Uphold a standard of excellence. NJSGC was recently recognized by the National Sea Grant College Program with two “Best Practices,” our comprehensive [Dune Manual](#) and [Scouts Program](#).
- Promote major public outreach events, including [Ocean Fun Days](#), [State of the Shore](#), and NJSGC's “[Favorite Beaches](#)” poll.
- Initiate studies to improve storm warning messaging and increase public likelihood to heed those messages.
 - NJSGC helped launch Monmouth County's “[High Water Mark Initiative](#)” as part of a national collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Integrate sustainability, resilience, and storm preparedness topics into our teacher training activities so that New Jersey's educators can pass along these important messages to their students.
 - Members of NJSGC's education staff regularly attend and present at science teach conventions throughout the state.
- Provide direct instruction to nearly 35,000 citizens, including 20,000 schoolchildren, on a broad range of environmental topics through our coastal education programs.
 - NJSGC's [Rip Current Awareness Program](#) popularized the interactive beach ocean hazards and beach safety game, “Rip Currents vs. Sharks.”



This is the one and only time of year we ask for financial assistance. We hope you choose to help.

SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES

Knauss Fellowship Opportunity

The National Sea Grant Office recently announced that the Knauss Notice of Funding Opportunity is now open for 2021 applicants. Please view the full announcement at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

The John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship matches graduate students interested in ocean resources and the national policy decisions affecting them with “hosts” in the Washington, D.C. area. To learn more about the application process, please visit our [website](#).

The program accepted 69 finalists in 2020, including three fellows from New Jersey: Michael Acquafredda (Rutgers University), Victoria Luu (Princeton University), and Brittany Schieler (Rutgers University).



Ms. Schieler (pictured above, far right) was recently placed in the office of Senator Chris Coons from Delaware. Come February, she will be working with the Senator’s energy and environmental policy advisor on legislation relating to ocean and coastal issues.

The deadline to apply for 2021 is **Friday, February 21, 2020** (5 p.m. EST). Those interested are highly encouraged to contact NJS GC’s Acting Director [Dr. Peter Rowe](#) at least one month prior.

And in other Fellowship News...



The National Marine Fisheries Service/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population and Ecosystem Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics (learn more [here](#)).

DEADLINE: Friday, January 30, 2020 (5 p.m. EST)

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The NOAA Office of Coastal Management (OCM)/Sea Grant Coastal Management and Digital Coast Fellowship Program (learn more [here](#)).

DEADLINE: Friday, January 17, 2020 (5 p.m. EST)

SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES



Get Ready for Ocean Fun Days 2020!

NJSGC and New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) are proud to announce the official dates for our 17th annual Ocean Fun Days event.

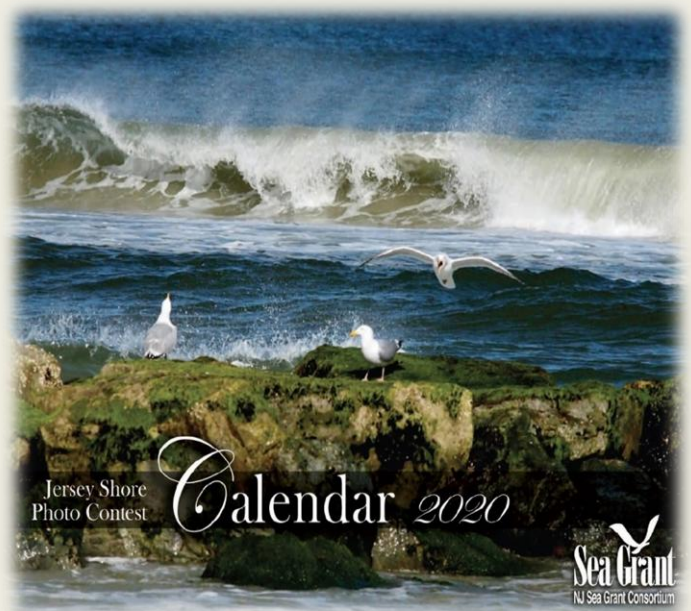
Come enjoy a diverse array of exhibits, classes, tours, and activities focused on energy conservation and protecting our coastal environment at Island Beach State Park (Saturday, May 16, 2020) and Sandy Hook (Sunday, May 17, 2020). Save the dates and stay tuned for more exciting updates!

“Jersey Shore” 2020 Photo Contest Calendar

New Jersey boasts some of the most picturesque beaches along the East Coast. NJSGC’s revamped “Jersey Shore” photo contest celebrates and embraces these natural elements of the Garden State’s beautiful coastline.

After dozens of entries and thousands of votes, the top 12 images of the contest were announced during NJSGC’s popular “Favorite Beaches” awards ceremony in Ocean City back in July. These snapshots were ultimately used to create our 2020 downloadable desktop calendar!

This year, a limited number of print copies will be available for purchase (\$6/each). Please contact our Communications Specialist Danica Bellini for more information and to request an order form.



Book a Field Trip or Scouts Program

The summer season may be over, but...

NJSGC offers popular interactive learning experiences at our Sandy Hook headquarters throughout the entire year. Members of our education staff will also bring these hands-on marine science lesson plans and activities directly to your school or center with our Oceans to Go program.

Visit our website for more information!

SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES

Clean Vessel Act Marina Survey, 2019 Results

NJSGC helped conduct the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) survey from August-September by visiting 38 select marinas that were known to have working pumpout services at some point in recent time. At the conclusion of this inspection, the majority of these facilities were found to have operational boat sewage pumpout units (with some exceptions).

For a complete list of the results, please visit our [website](#).



Aquaculture Research Grant Recipients Announced

The National Sea Grant College Program announced \$16 million in federal funding awards to fill important gaps in aquaculture knowledge, advancement of existing efforts, and development of new possibilities. The funds will be disbursed amongst three targeted programs which represent specific areas of need for U.S. aquaculture and build on the foundation Sea Grant, NOAA, and others have built with investments over the last several years.

- **Advanced Aquaculture Collaborative Programs:** Ten projects will develop integrated teams of professions focused on accelerating the development of specific aquaculture topics. These teams will establish a collaborative program to plan for and appropriately focus the next generation of aquaculture investments while enhancing the synthesis and transfer of past research advances to the industry.
- **Exploring New Aquaculture Opportunities:** Sixteen projects will focus on the development of new, and at times higher-risk, topics for which minimal foundation currently exists to inform and focus potential future investments.
- **Social, Economic, and Behavioral Research Needs in Aquaculture:** Sixteen projects will address critical gaps in social, behavioral, and economic knowledge.

Three researchers from New Jersey will receive funding through these awards:

- **Atlantic and Gulf Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Collaborative**
Lead PI: David Bushek, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (managed by NJSGC)
- **The GIS Based Tool for Spatial Planning and Management of Shellfish Aquaculture in New Jersey**
Lead PI: Michael DeLuca, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- **Innovative Restoration Aquaculture of Freshwater Mussels in the Tidal Freshwater Zone of the Delaware Estuary Watershed for Water Quality Improvement**
Co-PIs: Danielle Kreeger, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Roger Thomas, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (managed by NJSGC)

View the official Sea Grant/NOAA announcement [here](#). And for further consideration, see some of the [impacts resulting from Sea Grant-funded aquaculture research](#) and learn more about [aquaculture in the U.S.](#)

SPOTLIGHT & RANDOM NOTES

Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders (IFISSH)

Register for the Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders (IFISSH) course offered through Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE). The objective is to educate stakeholders of New Jersey's commercial and recreational marine fisheries so that they better understand and make progress on issues impacting their industries, including the science, management, and responsible stewardship of fishery resources. Classes will be held at the RCE of Ocean County (Toms River) every Tuesday from January 28-March 31 (6:30-9 p.m.). Sessions will also be offered in "HyFlex" format for remote participants.



Please contact [Kelly Jurgensen](#) (Administrative Assistant, Marine Extension Program) to register by Friday, January 24. The program fee is \$60 per person. Visit the [NJSGC website](#) for more information on the schedule, course topics, and confirmed speakers.

Regional Vulnerability Assessments for Ocean Acidification

NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) is currently soliciting proposals for collaborative projects of up to three years in duration that synthesize ocean acidification information at a regional scale to determine where societal vulnerabilities to ocean acidification exist or are emerging, in order to provide actionable information for marine resource decision makers and/or bolster the resilience of the nation's Blue Economy. Please see the [notice of funding opportunity](#) for more details. Letters of intent are due Friday, January 24 (11:59 p.m. EST).



Photo of the Month

Peak mating season for the white-tailed deer is from October-November, which is why roadway sightings increase during the autumn months. Drivers are urged to use extreme caution, since these deer typically browse for food at dawn and dusk. They also have good eyesight and hearing.

This snapshot was captured during a casual stroll along one of Sandy Hook's many nature trails, right before the holiday season.