



A Newsletter from New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

A quiet stillness and beauty pervade Sandy Hook during the wintertime. Although NJSGC's hallways and surrounding parade grounds remain relatively desolate during these few months due to bitter temperatures and dwindling daylight hours, the ocean tides (and Sea Grant initiatives) are constantly churning.

With that being said, the staff at NJSGC can't wait to "leap" into another busy season of STEM learning and marine science exploration! Read on for more information on what's next.

"Photo Spotlight"



FEBRUARY 2020

Paul Bagdanov, "Seal Bathing"

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch



MARCH 2020

Kate Booth, "Path to Perfection"

Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park

Visit our [website](#) to download a FREE version of NJSGC's "Jersey Shore Photo Contest" desktop calendar!

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](#).

What's Coming Up

Marine Science Summer Day Camp

Back again for another season of beachside observation and discovery! The ideal STEM-learning experience for children interested in ocean and marine life, camp is held on Sandy Hook and combines outdoor activities on the shore with laboratory experiments and fun, educational games/crafts. Instructor to camper ratio is 1:6 with sessions geared towards specific grade levels. Please visit the [NJSGC education website](#) for more information.

Session 1: July 6-9 (3rd & 4th)

Session 2: July 13-17 (4th, 5th, & 6th)

Session 3: July 20-24 (7th & 8th)

Session 4: July 27-31 (5th & 6th)

Session 5: August 3-7 (7th, 8th, & 9th)



College Program

We urge undergraduate and graduate students interested in dynamic, “hands-on” marine science learning to contact NJSGC’s program coordinator, [Rosemary Higgins](#).

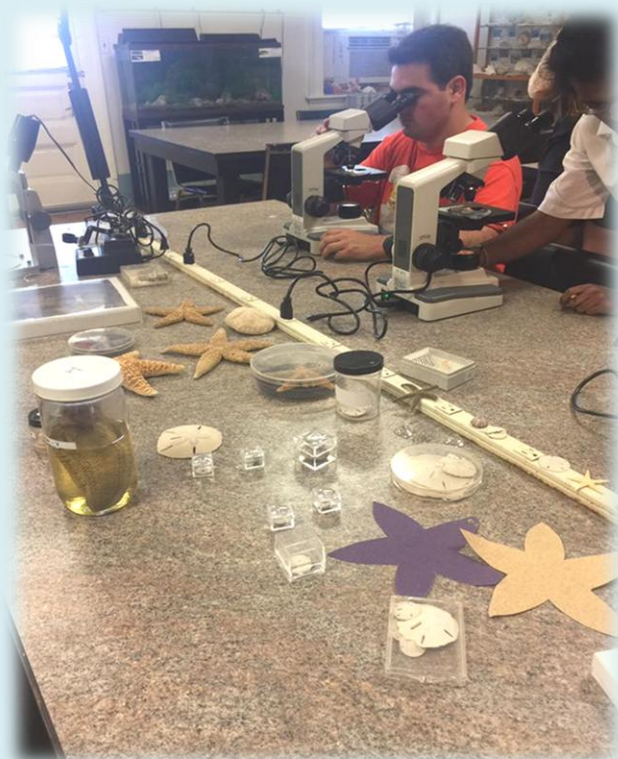
Introduction to Marine Biology

May 26-July 2 (Tuesday and Thursdays)

Lecture: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Lab: 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NJSGC also offers courses (May-August) hosted at Brookdale Community College. Please visit our [website](#) for more information, and to learn more about participating member institutions.



Rip Current Awareness

NJSGC recently received a \$2,500 grant from Investors Foundation at our Sandy Hook headquarters. The grant will help further NJSGC's mission of promoting the wise use of New Jersey's marine and coastal resources through research, education, and outreach. Specifically, this grant will continue to directly support NJSGC's Rip Current Awareness program. NJSGC's interactive "Ocean Hazards and Beach Safety" presentation will be offered at no charge to schools throughout Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties from March-June, 2020.

"According to the National Weather Service, 85 people lost their lives to rip currents in the U.S. in 2019. This is a staggering statistic, and one that can be prevented. By placing signage on ocean beaches, as well as producing and distributing tens of thousands of informational flyers and children's workbooks, NJSGC works hard to dispel misconceptions about rip currents and to increase awareness of the dangers associated with unsafe ocean swimming. This fun, interactive program engages school-age children with solid, fact-based rip current education and beach safety. We are grateful for Investors Foundation for giving us the opportunity to offer this program free of charge to a limited number of shore schools and community organizations to help keep their residents and visitors safe from ocean hazards"

- Diana Burich, Acting Director of Education



Please visit the NJSGC [website](#) to learn more about our Rip Current Awareness program, or contact our Communications Specialist [Danica Bellini](#) for more information on the "Ocean Hazards and Beach Safety" presentation, which includes our popular "Sharks vs. Rip Currents" trivia game.

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank, headquartered in Short Hills, NJ, is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With over \$25 billion in assets and a network of more than 150 retail branches, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors Bank's services include complete deposit, loans, and cash management products for consumers and businesses Investors Bank. Member FDIC.

About Investors Foundation

Investors Bank created the Investors Foundation in 2005 to support the communities Investors Bank serves. Investors Foundation supports initiatives in the arts, youth development, health and human services, education, and affordable housing. Investors Foundation works to improve the lives of its customers and neighbors.

Ocean Fun Days 2020



Ocean Fun Days will take place Saturday, May 16th at Island Beach State Park and Sunday, May 17th at Sandy Hook (NJSGC) from 11am – 3pm. As always, this annual event is rain or shine and FREE to the general public.

A weekend full of eco-friendly fun the whole family can enjoy. Over 50 exhibitors participate, offering a diverse array of educational displays, nature tours, and interactive programs focused on coastal stewardship and energy conservation. Activities at both locations include seining, coastal crafts, an energy scavenger hunt, youth fishing clinics, crab races, face painting, games, live animal touch tanks, and exciting giveaways.

And new this year, Ocean Fun Days has an official website! Please visit oceanfundays.org for all of your OFD needs, including up-to-date information on activities, exhibitors, sponsors, and event details.

Ocean Fun Days is held in cooperation with its founding partner and lead sponsor, New Jersey Natural Gas and others including NOAA, NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, Gateway National Park - Sandy Hook, and the Asbury Park Press.

Get social! Please use the hashtag #OFD to help us spread the word about this memorable family-fun event.

Research, Outreach, Opportunity

A diverse group of faculty from Rutgers University— the Center for Fisheries and Ocean Sustainability (CFOS) and the Institute of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Science (EOAS) – will be offering an undergraduate course in [“Fisheries Population and Ecosystem Dynamics”](#) following the Spring 2020 semester. This immersive, two-week program will present quantitative tools and field-based techniques used to sustainably manage and conserve aquatic marine living resources.



Along with support from NOAA and NOAA Fisheries Service, this project is primarily funded through a research grant provided by NJSGC. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about all NJSGC-supported research initiatives.

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NJSGC’s Coastal Community Resilience Specialist Dr. Thomas Herrington (also Associate Director of Monmouth University’s Urban Coast Institute) will serve on a national team of researchers focused on understanding climate change’s current and future influence on residential migration from America’s coastal communities.



Representatives from 12 Sea Grant offices and Sea Grant-affiliated research institutions from along the East Coast, West Coast, Gulf Region, and Alaska will build a Regional Coordination Network” through a project entitled “People on the Move in a Changing Climate.”

Please visit the [UCI blog](#) to learn more about this monumental project.

In 2019, Dr. Herrington also partnered with [ISeeChange.org](#) to create a phone app for residents to document and map coastal flooding throughout their community in real-time.

Research, Outreach, Opportunity

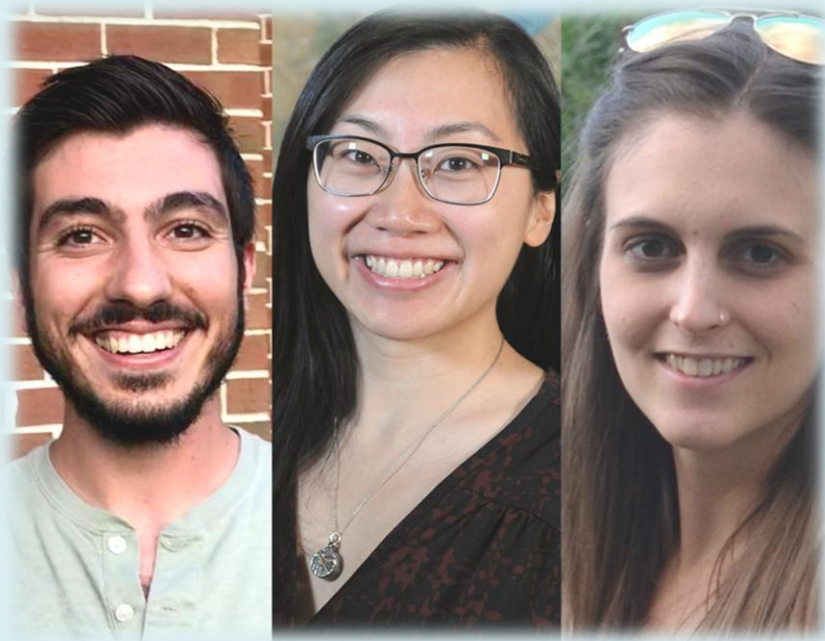


That's a wrap! Throughout 2019, [Omanjana Goswami](#) served as a Knauss Fellow in the legislative office of Representative Tulsi Gabbard (HI). Her responsibilities included:

- Briefing the Member of Congress on all legislative items pertaining to specific issues through memos, policy briefs, fact sheets, and statements.
- Following House Floor debates on relevant bills and making recommendations on how to vote in the committee.

- Facilitating appropriation requests from stakeholders in Hawaii and filing those requests with relevant committees.
- Promoting other offices to engage in relevant environmental issues and items through “deal colleague” letters, emails, and meetings.
- Conceptualizing legislation and leading efforts on language drafting to bill introduction.

As Goswami returns back to New Jersey to continue her work as an Environmental Geochemistry Graduate Advisor at Rutgers University - Newark, three more graduate students will travel to Washington, D.C. as Knauss Fellows representing NJSGC for the upcoming 2020 session. We look forward to learning more about the experiences and placements of Michael Acquafredda (Rutgers University), Victoria Luu (Princeton University), and Brittany Schieler (Rutgers University).



Student funding opportunities for 2020-2021 are now closed. For more information, please visit the NJSGC [website](#).

Spotlight & Random Notes

The Jersey Shore Junior Science Symposium (JSJSS) will be held March 16-17, 2020 at Ocean County College in Toms River, NJ.

The primary goal of the JSJSS is to promote research and experimentation in STEM at the high school level, and to publicly recognize students for such outstanding achievement. To learn more about the event, please visit the official JSJSS [website](#).



NJSGC's Assistant Director of Extension and Marine Recreation Agent: Fisheries/Boating Mike Danko again served on the JSJSS executive committee to help recruit paper reviewers, mentors, and judges. In 2019, NJSGC also sponsored two awards for "Top Environment" papers.

Students and teachers are encouraged to attend this public event as spectators.

SHORE	BOWL
2020	RESULTS
A TEAM	B TEAM
1st Place: West Windsor - Plainsboro North	1st Place: Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)
2nd Place: Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)	2nd Place: West Windsor - Plainsboro South
3rd Place: West Windsor - Plainsboro South	

#NJSGC

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Congratulations to our Sandy Hook "neighbors" over at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)!

Teams from MAST placed at the 2020 Shore Bowl, a competition for high school students throughout NJ and Eastern PA focused on ocean sciences including biology, chemistry, physics, and geology. This year's theme was *Understanding Human, Economic, and Environmental Resiliency in the Gulf of Mexico*.

The National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) will take place sometime in April/May of this year in Washington, D.C. Visit the official [Shore Bowl](#) website to learn more.