



A Newsletter from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

NJSGC Supports New Research for 2014-2015

The new New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) Omnibus Grant will support over \$1.5 million in stakeholder driven research for 2014 and 2015 through federal, matching and leveraged funding. NJSGC supports relevant research in Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Resilient Communities and Economies. The NJSGC is supporting five awards that include outreach and education components. Research results will assist industries, communities, managers and policy makers in making informed decisions based on sound science. These awards contribute to the professional development and training of our future marine scientists, teachers, managers, policy makers and other professionals.

The research projects are listed below. The project led by Dr. Malin Pinsky is part of a larger Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant Regional Research Award and includes researchers from New York, Virginia and North Carolina.

Facilitating Natural Dune Building

Dr. Nancy Jackson - *New Jersey Institute of Technology*
Development of Historically-Calibrated Sea Level Rise Projections for Risk Management along the New Jersey Shore - Dr. Robert Kopp - *Rutgers University*

Advancing Eastern Oyster Aquaculture through Marker-Assisted Selection

Dr. Ximing Guo - *Rutgers University*

Determining Sustainable Catch Limits for Data-Poor Fisheries in New Jersey: Validation and Refinement of a Data-Poor Harvest Control Rule

Dr. John Wiedenmann - *Rutgers University*

Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on the Distribution, Population Connectivity, and Fisheries for Summer Flounder in the Mid-Atlantic

Dr. Malin Pinsky - *Rutgers University*

No Foolin'...

Whole Foods Market Middletown Will Host April 1st NJSGC Fundraiser

As a special sponsor for the 2014 Rain Barrel Art Project being coordinated by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) and Rutgers Water Resources Program, Whole Foods Market of Middletown will be donating 5% of the store's April 1st sales receipts to support the project and other NJSGC education and outreach programs.

The Whole Foods Market event will be a one-day opportunity for shoppers to learn about rain barrels and help support the unique 2014 Art Project the Middletown store is sponsoring. NJSGC staffers and representatives from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program will be at Whole Foods on Rte. 35 throughout the day to meet and greet customers and offer information and resource materials about the benefits of rain barrels and their other programs. Susan David and Jermaine Johnson, store graphic artists for Whole Foods Market Middletown, are part of the special artist team involved in the Rain Barrel Art Project.

The ten rain barrels are a tie-in to the NJSGC's and Stockton College's Coastal Research Center 2014 New Jersey Top Ten Beaches Project which annually celebrates the Jersey Shore through an on-line vote for the state's most popular beach destinations. Dozens of New Jersey artists applied for a chance to paint the recycled containers repurposed to catch and reuse rain water and turn them into functional works of art. The selected artwork will showcase original designs celebrating the Jersey Shore using rain barrels. The barrels will be sponsored by businesses, tourism groups and other organizations and showcased at the NJSGC 12th Annual State of the Shore Media Event on May 22nd, when the Top Ten beaches are also announced.

Details about the rain barrel project, its cooperating sponsors and the selected artists will also be featured on the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches website at njtopbeaches.org.



Rain Barrel Artists and Sponsors Announced



The finalists for the 2014 Rain Barrel Art Project coordinated by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program have been selected. Their designs will showcase the Jersey Shore using rain barrels as an innovative canvas.

The selected artists include: Norma Wokas, Highlands; Diana Gonzalez, Stratford; Marty Fallivene, Brick; MaryAnn Goodwin, Neptune; Karen La Du, Bay Head; Lisa Fischer Lucariello, Galloway; Suzanne Ritger, Red Bank; Suellen Crowley, Lavallette; and Lucretia McGuff-Silverman of Roosevelt. Susan David and Jermaine Johnson, Graphic Artists for Whole Foods Market Middletown, one of the project's main sponsors, will also be part of the special art team. Luis Rivera of Toms River who was selected for his "innovative themework" and Dennis Plummer, a resident of the ARC of

Monmouth County of Long Branch selected for his "innovative teamwork" entry, will be painting two special edition barrels.

In addition to Whole Foods Market of Middletown who is a special title sponsor for the project, individual barrel sponsors include: Atlantic County Utilities Authority, The Borough of Belmar, Cape May County, McLoone's Restaurants, Monmouth County Freeholders Department of Tourism, Seaside Heights Business and Industry District, Southern Ocean Chamber of Commerce-LBI, Steel Pier-Atlantic City and Tuckerton Seaport.

The barrels will be showcased at the NJSGC 12th Annual State of the Shore Media Event on May 22nd. The public will also be invited to vote for their favorite barrels online for People's Choice after they are unveiled at the May 22nd event.

Details about the rain barrel project, its cooperating sponsors and the selected artists are featured on the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches website njtoptenbeaches.org.

Orgera On Board

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Extension Program recently welcomed Ryan Orgera on board as Coastal Community Resilience Project Manager. The new position was created in partnership with the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute to help translate and apply the best available science and tools to assist communities to recover from Superstorm Sandy and become more resilient to coastal hazards, the impacts of sea level rise and changing climate.

A Florida native, Ryan received his BA and MA in Romance Languages from the University of Southern Florida and a PhD in Environmental Geography from Louisiana State University in

2012. While at LSU he served as Assistant Project Manager for Research at the Disaster Science & Management Center. Ryan was a successful LSU candidate for the prestigious Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship in 2013 and served in the legislative office of Florida Senator Bill Nelson.

Ryan and his wife Melanie Hackney who is a professor at New York University, recently relocated to Highlands, New Jersey.



RYAN ORGERA



Cape May Oyster Cooperative

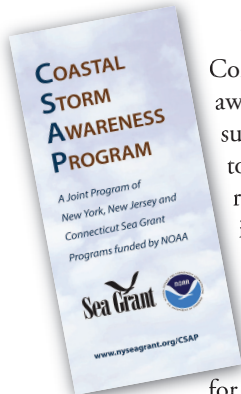
During the last 10 years, the production of cultured oysters in New Jersey has gradually increased and reached 1.5 million in 2012. Cape May farmed oysters are sold for the half-shell market. The year-round availability and consistent quality, shape, size and appearance of farm-raised oysters drives a higher price and reflects the great care and husbandry required to produce this exceptional product.

To enhance production, marketing opportunities, and long-term sustainability, Lisa Calvo, Shellfish Aquaculture Program Coordinator, worked with a group of oyster farmers to identify ways to work cooperatively. The group met monthly since January 2012 to establish a framework for a producers' cooperative, called the Cape May Oyster Cooperative. Guided by New Jersey Sea Grant, Rutgers University experts and cooperative development consultant, Adam Schwartz, of CDS Consulting, the Cape May Oyster Cooperative has been

established as a 308B Cooperative in Minnesota, where there is a robust legal basis for farmer cooperatives. The Co-op is guided by ideals of mutual support and cooperation, stringent product quality standards, and science-based best management practices that promote efficiencies and ensure environmentally responsible and sustainable farming. Member farms will share infrastructure, services, and marketing, forging a collective path forward that could not be achieved by any single individual farm.

The Co-op is particularly interested in serving specialty niche local and local-metropolitan markets where there is a growing interest among consumers to support local food producers, keep their expenditures in their communities, and purchase responsibly grown or harvested food. The Cape May Oyster Cooperative has a great story to tell and they look forward to having their customers know their farmers and their oysters. For a taste, you can join the Cape May Oyster Cooperative at the Philly Farm and Food Fest, which will be held on April 13, 2014 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Coastal Awareness Projects Announced



The New Jersey, New York and Connecticut Sea Grant programs have awarded funds totaling \$1.4 million to support ten social science research projects to improve community understanding and response to coastal storm hazard information as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sea Grant Coastal Storm Awareness Program.

Despite the accuracy of the forecast for Sandy, too many coastal residents either

failed to fully understand the severity of the storm and the dangerous conditions it would produce, or chose not to evacuate in spite of the serious risks of staying in their homes.

The ten projects will study community response to disasters by closely examining the coastal storm warning systems, the information conveyed (what to expect, when to expect it, and what to do) and the factors that affect whether recipients of this information decide to act on it. For more information or a special brochure describing the funded projects, contact New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Communications Director Kim Kosko at kkosko@njseagrant.org or call 732-872-1300, ext. 18.

Getting a Clearer Picture

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS) Laboratory on Sandy Hook recently hosted a Undersea Habitat Imaging Workshop to evaluate the strengths and limits of camera and camera-delivery systems for benthic photographic work. Benthic communities consist of plants and animals that live at the sea floor. The workshop focused on various imaging systems currently being used, and considered future needs regarding imaging systems including cost effectiveness and comprehensive sampling methodology for characterizing benthic communities. The imaging delivery systems discussed included drop cameras, towed camera systems, remotely operated vehicles, occupied submersibles and autonomous underwater vehicles.

The workshop was designed as an informal, invitation-only gathering of academic and government marine scientists and

engineers from across the nation to meet and compare notes about how to best use the imaging technology, improve imaging quality and discuss the future of benthic camera systems.

Proceedings from the workshop including a summary of presentations is being produced by Dr. Rich Langton of NOAA/NMFS and Dr. Peter Rowe at NJSGC. Information and outcomes from the workshop will also be shared on the NJSGC website.



CURRENT EVENTS

And the Winner is . . .

After taking a brief vacation in 2013 while New Jersey continued its recovery from Superstorm Sandy, voting for New Jersey Top Ten Beaches is back. Given this winter's brutal below zero wind chill temperatures and seemingly endless string of snow storms, project coordinators the New Jersey Sea Grant

Consortium (NJSGC) and Richard Stockton College's Coastal Resource Center experienced a warm and welcoming wave of response when the voting opened for the

2014 New Jersey Top Ten Beaches survey (NJTTB) at noon on February 17th and which continues through midnight April 30th. As of mid-March, the 2014 tallies had already surpassed all other years. Results will be announced at the NJSGC 12th Annual State of the Shore Media Event on May 22nd.

Now in its seventh year, the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches project was started in 2008, to encourage stewardship and pride in the state's beaches while promoting a little healthy competition between New Jersey's favorite beach towns. It's since become a pre-summer favorite with residents and Jersey Shore visitors alike. Visit njtopenbeaches.org to cast your vote.





Marine Science Day Camp Opens Registration



This summer, the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) is offering six week-long sessions of its popular Marine Science Day Camp for children in grades 3 through 8. Sessions begin on July 7th and continue through August 15th.

Each week is targeted to a different age group. Younger campers can discover marine science through games, crafts and guided outdoor

explorations while older campers get involved in experiments and scientific investigations such as water chemistry and coastal processes monitoring. Each session offers the opportunity to learn more about our ocean and coast and how to care for it while encouraging a lifelong interest in science. Every day includes time spent outdoors enjoying the natural environments of Sandy Hook.

A new session is being introduced for students in grades 4 through 6. It will feature topics and activities not included in other camp sessions so it is perfect for returning campers or those wishing to spend an additional week at the NJSGC.

For more information or to register for NJSGC's Marine Science Day Camp, call Rosemary Higgins at 732-872-1300 x19 or email: rhiggins@njseagrant.org.

Sign Up Now for Ocean Fun Days Science Fair

Ocean Fun Days may be a few months away, but grade 3-6 teachers should register now to participate with their students in the popular Ocean Fun Days Science Fair on May 17th and 18th. Each year students from Monmouth and Ocean Counties attend this family friendly event to exhibit their displays, show off their science skills and win valuable prizes including guided field trips for their entire class.

This year, the Ocean Fun Days sponsors are challenging Science Fair teams to create projects related to reducing greenhouse gases by helping people discover ways to conserve energy at home. For example, teams may want to demonstrate

how renewable energy sources can replace non-renewable ones, suggest and test improvements for heating and cooling our homes or test and compare the efficiency of common household appliances and building materials.

Interested educators can



Pictured are the first place winners of the 2013 OFD Science Fair from Lanoka Harbor Elementary School along with Claire Antonucci Executive Director NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Tom Hayes Director Consumer & Community Relations, NJ Natural Gas and Rosemary Higgins College and Special Programs Coordinator, NJ Sea Grant Consortium.

contact Rose Higgins at 732-872-1300, x 19 or rhiggins@njseagrant.org for more information or to register for the fair. Ocean Fun Days is presented to the public each year by NJSGC in partnership with New Jersey Natural Gas, NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, the Asbury Park Press, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Save the Date!



**SATURDAY,
MAY 17**

SEASIDE PARK

Island Beach State Park



**SUNDAY,
MAY 18**

SANDY HOOK

NJSGC Headquarters

11 AM - 3 PM, BOTH DAYS
RAIN OR SHINE

LEARN ABOUT MARINE LIFE,
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO CARE FOR OUR COASTLINE.

Presented by New Jersey Natural Gas,
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium,
Asbury Park Press, NOAA and
NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry



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