



Fall “Holiday” Edition 2020

“We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we contribute to life when each arrives.”

- Gary Zukav (“Solstice Joy”)



*Photo: “December Chill” by Patrick Lynham (Cape May)
“Jersey Shore” photo contest winner (download [here](#))*

NJSGC Needs Your Support

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

In 2019-2020, contributions from donors like you allowed us to:

- ◆ Continue supporting marine, coastal, and social science [research](#) to help further promote and enhance healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries/aquaculture, resilience communities/economies, and environmental literacy/workforce development throughout the Garden State.
- ◆ Provide direct instruction to nearly 20,000 schoolchildren from over 30 different legislative districts throughout NJ on a broad range of environmental topics through our diverse, interactive [education programs](#).
- ◆ Host major public outreach events, including: [Ocean Fun Days](#), [State of the Shore](#), NJSGC's annual [Favorite Beaches](#) poll/ceremony, and our revamped "Jersey Shore" [photo contest](#).
- ◆ Disperse nearly 65,000 Fish and Wildlife marine recreational fishing [regulation cards](#) and posters to over 260 marinas throughout the State, from over 24 different legislative districts. Of these, more than 100 facilities have operating pumpout stations (including nine pumpout boats) thanks to NJSGC's involvement with the New Jersey Clean Vessel Act Program.
- ◆ Accept four graduate students from prestigious institutions throughout NJ into the highly-competitive John A. Knauss Marine Policy [fellowship program](#).

And while combating the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium continues developing several outstanding programs and projects, including:

- ◆ [Virtual education initiatives](#) appropriate for grades K-12. Taught by experienced environmental education staff, these lively presentations, demonstrations, experiments, and games encourage student interaction on topics designed to excite while meeting educator's curricular needs, scout leader's requirements, and/or families' interests.
- ◆ A new [COVID-19 rapid response](#) opportunity (led by NJSGC's Aquaculture Program Coordinator Lisa Calvo) that helps support oyster farmers, promote habitat restoration, and advocate local seafood sales.
- ◆ For the first time in 17 years, NJSGC and its partners hosted a virtual [Ocean Fun Days](#) event. Online video presentations, teacher/parent resources, and other printout activities from over 25 exhibitors provided eco-friendly fun focused on ocean discovery, coastal stewardship, and energy conservation.
- ◆ In partnership with New York Sea Grant, NJSGC created a [BEach SAFELY](#) campaign to remind beachgoers to stay safe while still having a fun time at the Jersey Shore (and beyond).
- ◆ *And more coming on 2021!*

Despite such trying times, we hope you choose to help so that we can continue our mission to promote the wise use of New Jersey's marine and costal resources through research, education, and outreach. To make a year-end, tax-deductible contribution to NJSGC for 2020, please visit our website. If you prefer to mail your gift, kindly address your contribution to:

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium
22 Magruder Road
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732

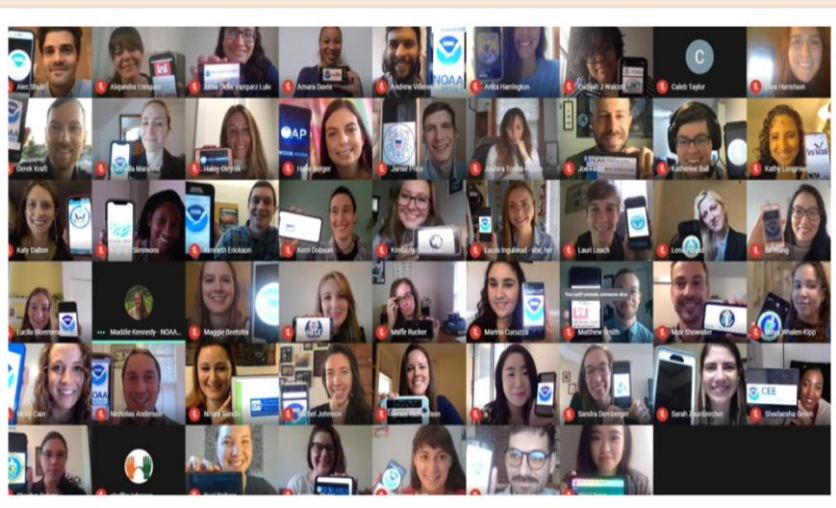
Knauss Fellowship Opportunity

The application period for 2022 fellowships is now open! Please visit the official [Knauss website](#) to learn more, or contact [Dr. Peter Rowe](#) for more information on applying through NJSGC.

The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The Fellowship, named after one of Sea Grant's founders and former NOAA Administrator (John A. Knauss), matches highly-qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative and executive branch of government located in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one year paid fellowship.

Here's a quick [Fall 2020 overview](#) of the fellowship program. NJSGC will host an informational "Knauss 101" Zoom meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6th. Please contact our [Communications Specialist](#) for more information on how to join the session.

[Arye Janoff](#), a PH.D candidate in Environmental Science and Management at Montclair State University, was named a finalist for the prestigious John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and will represent NJSGC as a Legislative Fellow starting in January 2021. Learn more about Janoff's journey as a Coastal Geomorphologist through his current [research website](#), and stay tuned as we follow his exciting adventure throughout the next year!



Congrats to the 2021 Knauss Executive Fellows for successfully completing the first-ever virtual Placement Week!

[Michael Acquafredda](#) (Rutgers University), [Victoria Luu](#) (Princeton University), and [Brittany Schieler](#) (Rutgers University) will be completing their [2021 fellowship](#) positions within the month.

NMFS-Sea Grant Joint Fellowship

Since 1990, Sea Grant's joint fellowship program with the National Marine Fisheries Service ([NMFS](#)) has helped strengthen collaborative efforts and further fulfill broad educational responsibilities. The two opportunities – Population and Ecosystem Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics – have been combined into one NOFO for 2021. Separate review panels will still be held; therefore, all applicants must indicate their concentration - either Population and Ecosystem Dynamics (PED) or Marine Resource Economics (MRE) - on their cover sheet. The request for federal funding has been increased to \$53,000 per year for up to three years. Please click [HERE](#) for the full instructions package, or view the [official announcement](#) for more information.

This combined Federal Funding Opportunity can also be accessed on [Grants.gov](#).

The primary goals of this program are:

- To encourage qualified applicants to pursue careers in either population and ecosystem dynamics and stock assessment or in marine resource economics.
- To increase available expertise related to these fields.
- To foster closer relationships between academic scientists and NOAA Fisheries.
- To provide real-world experience to graduate students and accelerate their career development.

And for more information on all current fellowships, please visit the NJSGC [website](#).

Applications submitted to NJSGC must be received by 5pm on January 26, 2021. New Jersey students are encouraged to contact [Dr. Peter Rowe](#) with any questions or concerns.



Virtual Education Programs

Let NJSGC help make virtual learning fun with our new online programming! Travel through the internet and learn about New Jersey's marine and coastal ecosystems in an intimate, small-group setting. Taught LIVE by experienced environmental education staff, NJSGC offers a variety of opportunities to engage students, scouts, and learners of all ages.

Lively presentations, demonstrations, experiments, and games encourage student interaction and spark curiosity on topics designed to excite while meeting educator's curricular needs, scout leader's requirements, and/or families' interests. Here are just some of the K-12 interactive programs we now offer:

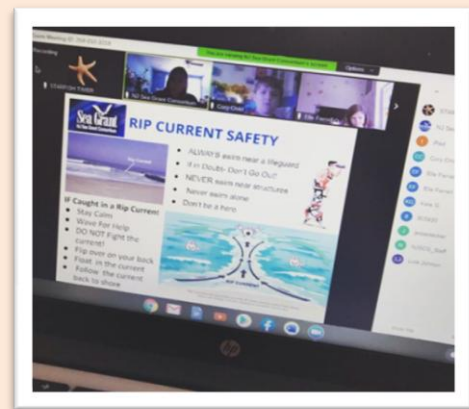
Sharks vs. Rip Currents

Magnifying Plastics

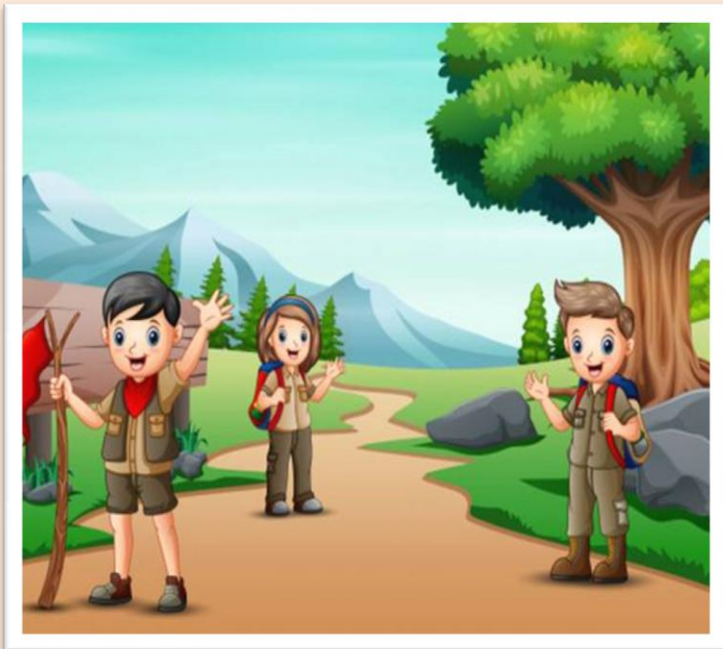
Terrific Terrapins

Save Our Troubled Ocean

Scouts – Hiker (recorded/narrated and instructor-led presentations both available)



Please visit our official [website](#) to learn more about each program (including pricing).



Not a school or scout group? No problem! Learning pods and families are welcome to reserve any of the programs listed above. Please contact the [Education Department](#) for additional information.

And for additional lesson plans, worksheets, and remote learning initiatives, please visit our “Resources for Educators” [webpage](#).

More programming coming soon, including: adult education, family learning, and professional development opportunities for educators.

NJSGC “Spotlight”

Congratulations to NJSGC’s very own Coastal Community Resilience Specialist Dr. Thomas Herrington from Monmouth University’s [Urban Coast Institute](#), who recently received the “Outstanding Outreach Award” during the biannual Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant meeting in October.

Dr. Herrington was recognized for his work in providing residents and government officials of Ocean City, NJ with science-based hazard mitigation to better address and combat increased flooding events.



Learn more about Dr. Herrington’s work with [ISeeChange](#), an unprecedented community climate/weather report project.

Green Infrastructure Champions

Registration is now open to join the Green Infrastructure Champions Program with the Water Resources team at Rutgers University.

Green Infrastructure Champions are key players in implementing green infrastructure as a stormwater management approach town-by-town.

Green Infrastructure Champions will be able to:

- Enhance their knowledge through green infrastructure workshops, seminars, and personal research
- Engage community leaders to adopt green infrastructure as a stormwater management solution by updating ordinances and municipal master plans
- Encourage local non-government organizations (NGOs) and schools to incorporate green infrastructure in their existing landscaping
- Secure funding for green infrastructure
- Publicize implementation of green infrastructure through social media channels

The program can offer:

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support
- Assistance with grant writing and submission

To learn more about the 2021 training program, please click [here](#). A minimum of five sessions is required for certification. All sessions will be held virtually and offered at no cost on select dates from January-May.

Click [here](#) to register.



NJ Shellfish Aquaculture Exchange

A Cross-Cutting Approach to Habitat Restoration and Resiliency Lisa Calvo, NJSGC Shellfish Aquaculture Program Coordinator

With the support of COVID-19 “rapid response” supplemental funds from NOAA Sea Grant, NJSGC created an opportunity for oyster farmers whose markets collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic forced restaurants to close, oyster farmers throughout the Garden State were unable to sell their oysters. The disrupted demand not only diminished farm revenues, it also created a stock management issue as oysters that were bound for spring and summer harvests remained on the farm for a longer term than anticipated. As a result, farmers were unable to cycle gear and free-up space to accommodate for the growth of next generation submarket oysters. Meanwhile, many of the oysters outgrew the preferred raw bar cocktail size.



RELATED: [Relief that Restores: Shellfish Aquaculture](#) (National Sea Grant story map)



Seeing an opportunity to help farmers and use their unsold oysters for habitat restoration, NJSGC established a program in which a total of 76,000 farm-raised oysters were purchased from 16 oyster farmers and planted on various restoration sites.

These “oversized” oysters were purchased for 65 cents apiece and transplanted to targeted oyster restoration sites in the Delaware Bay, Little Egg Harbor, and the Mullica River. There, they will

provide an ecological jumpstart (that might otherwise take years to achieve) using traditional oyster restoration practices, which rely on shell recycling and natural recruitment of oysters.

The project will serve as a model for future efforts and establish a Shellfish Exchange that will serve as a broker to link shellfish farmers and restoration practitioners. This approach not only benefits the environment, it provides an opportunity for shellfish farmers to diversify their businesses supporting a sustainable and healthy future for Bayshore ecosystems and economies.

The \$70,000 grant is also supporting the development of a directory of New Jersey oyster farms. The directory will highlight retail opportunities that arose as growers pivoted to sell oysters via a diverse suite of platforms such as farm share programs, online sales, and direct to home delivery.

Project partners included Rutgers University, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Barnegat Bay Partnership, Stockton University, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the New Jersey Aquaculture Association, and Partnership for the Delaware Estuary



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What's Going On?

The Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest – sponsored by the [Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ](#) – empowers 5th grade students to advocate for endangered or threatened species from the Garden State through a well-research, creative essay and original art piece. One winner from each county in New Jersey will be selected. Entries for the 2021 contest are now being accepted until January 31st. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

