

What's New in Extension?

New York Sea Grant Extension welcomed four new specialists in the last year. Two of them, Brittney Rogers and Heather Weitzner are working at a new office location in Newark, NY.

As NYSG's Extension Aide, **Brittney Rogers** designed the New York's Great Lakes website, a comprehensive web-based resource spotlighting the importance of New York's Great Lakes region, the coastal environment, and associated recreational and economic opportunities.

... for more on the Great Lakes go to



As NYSG's Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Leaders Trainer, she provides training to newly-developed water-based stewardship programs that include a watercraft inspection component. She is developing watercraft inspection steward program training protocol and training/outreach materials as a response to the needs of watercraft inspection steward programs across the state. This will help standardize efforts to engage recreational boaters in slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species. For more go to www.nyseagrant.org/watercraftinspection.



New York Sea Grant's Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Leaders Trainer, Brittney Rogers, staffing a display to educate boaters and fishermen about aquatic invasive species at the 2015 Empire Farm Days. Photo: NY Sea Grant



At NY's Great Lakes Nature-Based Shorelines Workshop: Shannon Dougherty, NYSDEC; speaker Scudder Mackey, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Heather Weitzner, NY Sea Grant; and Don Zelazny, NYSDEC Great Lakes Program Coordinator. Photo: Barbara. A. Branca

Heather Weitzner is the NYSG's Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist for the Great Lakes region. She provides assistance and educational outreach on issues associated with shoreline erosion, erosion management and engineering, and coastal flooding and mitigation. Her professional and educational background include Coastal and Ocean Engineering with experience in consulting and research.

Heather was co-organizer of a workshop in Rochester in November of 2015 entitled: A Workshop for Practitioners: Exploring Nature-Based Shoreline Erosion Management Practices Along NY's Great Lakes and Connecting Channels. New Yorkers in the Great Lakes region have experienced extreme storm and flood events in recent years. The workshop addressed how can Great Lakes shorelines be protected from the effects of extreme weather events and everyday stresses. Exploring the possible uses of natural materials such as sand and vegetation for shoreline erosion management was the focus of the workshop organized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Great Lakes Watershed Program, New York Sea Grant, Wisconsin Sea Grant, and other partnering federal, state and county agencies, non-government organizations, and private consultants.



An example of a nature-based shoreline. Photo: NYSDEC.

... for more on nature based shorelines go to



More recently, NYSG hired two new extension specialists in the marine district.

Beginning earlier this spring, **Helen Cheng** became New York Sea Grant's Coastal Resilience Specialist in a partnership with the Science and Resilience Institute @ Jamaica Bay. The outreach program that Cheng heads up focuses on community engagement and research efforts to enhance resilience for the communities within the Jamaica Bay Watershed in New York City. Her office is located at Brooklyn College.

Prior to her hire, Helen was a 2015 NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Fellow. During her fellowship year, Cheng visited the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) where she helped to deploy data buoys on Lake Erie.

At her new job, Helen is the co-organizer of the biennial State of the Bay symposia series, initiated through a mandate of the NYC Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan. This symposium brings together scientists, decision makers, and community groups to discuss relevant science knowledge and management strategies that enhance the resilience of Jamaica Bay. Helen is the co-chair for tentatively-titled, "Communities" during the 2016 State of the Bay Symposium.

She was also on the planning committee for "It's My Estuary Day," a community event that brought together school children, teachers, parents, and families engaging them to learn about, value and care for it's precious, vulnerable, estuary environment.



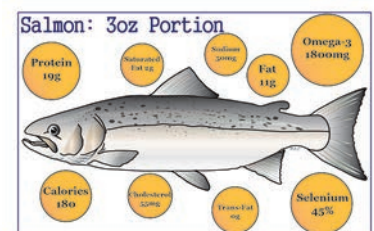
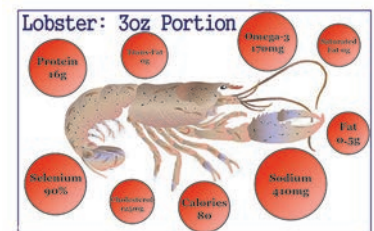
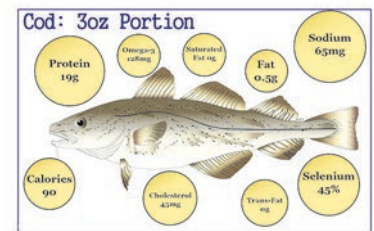
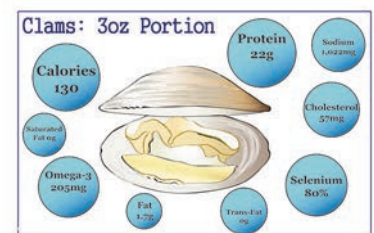
Helen Cheng standing in front of her table display showcasing resources for resilience in New York City. Photo courtesy of Helen Cheng



Michael Ciaramella (left), Gregg Rivara and NYSG Research Coordinator Lane Smith at the aquaculture lab at Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center where Gregg is Director. Gregg's Sea Grant research project—developing local shellfish hatcheries and increasing oyster production—investigates using algae concentrate to take the place of live algae in feeding shellfish. Photo by Barbara A. Branca

In his role as New York Sea Grant's Seafood Safety and Technology Specialist, **Michael Ciaramella** works with the seafood industry, regulatory agencies and food and nutrition professionals on issues related to seafood safety, quality and marketing. Efforts include management of the National Seafood HACCP Alliance's Internet training course, and soon conducting seafood HACCP training courses in New York. Mike is currently involved with educational projects on Listeria controls in processed seafood products, seafood consumption risks and benefits, and Internet based distance education training on Good Manufacturing Practices.

Mike, located in our Stony Brook offices, has started to develop new materials for educating consumers and seafood purchasers on important topics surrounding the safety, quality and marketing of seafood (shown right). Mike is also initiating a program to increase seafood production and acceptance in New York through active education on farmed U.S. seafood products and how they complement wild fisheries.



... for more on seafood safety and technology go to nyseagrant.org/seafood
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