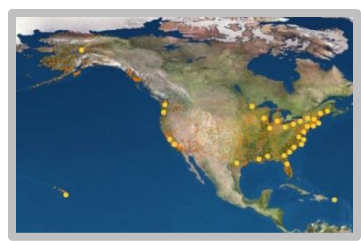




Sea Grant's Role in Sandy Response and Recovery

Even before Hurricane Sandy made landfall on October 29, 2012, NOAA's Sea Grant Network was working to get coastal residents information they needed to prepare for the storm. Since then, Sea Grant has been actively engaged in both long- and short-term recovery efforts of areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. From the rapid response funds for Sea Grant programs in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, to the long-term issues of building resilience in coastal communities, the Sea Grant Network is committed to providing science-based solutions specific to local needs.



Sea Grant has extension agents in every coastal and Great Lakes state and U.S. territory.

Sea Grant has more than 360 extension agents who live in, and are closely connected to, the communities they serve. When disaster strikes, Sea Grant agents are uniquely positioned to identify existing resources and help disaster recovery experts work within the community. Seventeen Sea Grant programs along the east coast and Great Lakes serve communities affected by Sandy, to address impacts ranging from increased erosion in Florida to the devastation of entire communities in New York and New Jersey. Sea Grant agents' trusted reputations allow them to be effective liaisons within local governments. The strong community relationships allow agents access to isolated populations, such as rural fishing communities, even in the aftermath of a disaster. While the impacts from the storm will be felt for years to come, the hard work and long-term investments in resiliency research and outreach by Sea Grant has helped communities become more resilient in the face of coastal hazards like Hurricane Sandy.



The Jersey Shore. Credit: New Jersey Sea Grant



The Fire Island breach. Credit: National Park Service



Coastal Dunes. Credit: New York Sea Grant

Coordination

- **Connecticut Sea Grant** partnered with the University of Connecticut to sponsor a meeting for coastal municipalities, land trusts and private beach associations to address concerns about the ecosystem impacts caused by Sandy.
- **New Jersey Sea Grant** worked with key tourism officials to renew public interest and confidence in the New Jersey Shore as a desirable destination for vacations.
- **Rhode Island Sea Grant** is bringing state, federal, municipal, academic and private sector interests together to create a Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan, known as Beach SAMP, to help communities prepare for and rebound from coastal hazards.

Assessment

- **Connecticut Sea Grant** assisted U.S. Fish and Wildlife on assessments of severe dune and shoreline erosion, as well as the new potential piping plover habitats created by the storm.
- **New Jersey Sea Grant** conducted surveys to assess damage on recreational fisheries including bait and tackle shops, as well as marinas and boatyards. The surveys led to a permitting workshop for marinas that focused on rebuilding.
- **New York Sea Grant** assisted federal, state and local officials in assessing the breach in Fire Island, a barrier island fronting a portion of mainland Long Island.

Technical Assistance

- **Delaware Sea Grant** is writing a "Natural Hazards and Climate Adaptation Tool Kit for Delaware Communities" to assist in municipal planning efforts.
- **Maryland Sea Grant** is conducting research and offers planning assistance to help coastal communities prepare for sea level rise and coastal flooding.
- **New York Sea Grant** sent experts to assist in the creation of the NYS 2100 Commission Report, a document that outlines restoration recommendations.



SCIENCE SERVING AMERICA'S COASTS

National Sea Grant College Program

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Disaster Recovery Act of 2013



Destruction from Sandy in Mantoloking, New Jersey. Credit: New Jersey Sea Grant

To improve public understanding and awareness of natural hazards and associated risks, **NOAA Sea Grant awarded a \$1.8M grant to the Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York Sea Grant Programs** to support the Coastal Storm Awareness Program (CSAP). This grant will fund social science research to enhance the Nation's ability to respond to disasters.

NOAA Sea Grant will build upon existing community outreach efforts by funding targeted social science research in the region to understand public response to coastal storm hazard information. CSAP will have a two-year duration, with research completed in the first 18 months. The final phase of the program will include an intensive effort to share the program's research results and products with the coastal storm hazard prediction and response community.

About Sea Grant: The Sea Grant model integrates research, outreach, and education for science with real world impacts. To share and explain new research discoveries, engage citizens in decision-making processes and empower stakeholders to address national, state and local issues as they emerge, Sea Grant takes a multi-faceted approach to outreach through programs of education, extension and communication. Specialists in each of these areas translate research into usable information and products for many audiences, ensuring that scientific information is delivered to those who need it, and in ways that are relevant.



Sea Grant extension agents teach the whole community about coastal hazards. Credit: Texas Sea Grant

Resilient Communities and Economies

Resilient Communities and Economies is one of Sea Grant's four Focus Areas identified in the 2014-17 National Strategic Plan. As such, Sea Grant will continue to support cutting-edge research in the areas of marine-related energy sources, climate change, coastal processes, energy efficiency, hazards, storm water management and tourism. Sea Grant programs engage their diverse and growing coastal populations in applying the best-available scientific knowledge to address increased resource demands and vulnerability. Ultimately, Sea Grant will bring its unique research and engagement capabilities to support the development of resilient coastal communities that sustain diverse and vibrant economies, effectively respond to and mitigate natural and technological hazards and function within the limits of their ecosystem.



New York City. Credit: NOAA

Strategic Goals:

- 1) Development of vibrant and resilient coastal economies
- 2) Communities use comprehensive planning to make informed strategic decisions.
- 3) Improvements in coastal water resources sustain human health and ecosystem services.
- 4) Resilient coastal communities adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change.

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