



*New York Sea Grant's administrative capabilities deliver marine conservation education, public awareness, and professional development to coastal communities*

## Working with New York State to Establish the Marine Small Grants Program

When the Marine & Coastal District (MCD) of New York Board was authorized in 2019 to create a grant funding program in support of conservation, education, and research projects for the district, it needed a model to follow. Funding for the program would come from the MCD's custom license plate (seen below) subscription fees.

In 2020, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation executed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Marine & Coastal District of New York Conservation Education and Research Small Grants Program ([www.nyseagrant.org/marinesmallgrants](http://www.nyseagrant.org/marinesmallgrants)). The leadership and guidance that was afforded under this partnership allowed the MCD Board to administer the first cycle of the small grants and to make awards for six projects:



*Professional development training prepared these anglers to participate in The ERIA Project collaborative fish database collection. Photo: Eric Collins*

- Brentwood School District (\$15,000): MCD funds supported a *Let's Science That* podcast series and the school's *No Child Left Inside* wetlands restoration project that won a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national STEM competition prize (an additional \$15,000)
- Friends of East River Esplanade (\$15,000): an ADA-compliant bait station prototype was developed and deployed in East Harlem, receiving a MASTerworks Design for Park Amenities Award
- East River Ichthyology Alliance (ERIA) (\$15,000): coordinated The ERIA Project Fish Database collaborative that records the biological parameters for fish species caught in the East River, resulting in a manuscript publication in the *Urban Naturalist*
- Long Island Traditions (\$10,000): *First Hand Fishing* fishing traditions workshop series for students in the Freeport School District
- Lower East Side Ecology Center (\$4,550): *Take the Bait* public fishing clinic series to teach fishing skills to residents in Lower Manhattan
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program (\$15,000): *Sportfishing Frenzy* program to provide marine biology classes for students in underserved communities.

### Project Partners:

- Co-funding: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Marine & Coastal District of New York Board



**The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies.**

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA. Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; [www.nyseagrant.org](http://www.nyseagrant.org). Project summary was written by Marine Fisheries Specialist Antoinette Clemetson, 631-632-8730, [aoc5@cornell.edu](mailto:aoc5@cornell.edu).