



Impacts from NY Shoreline & Virtual Site Visits

New York Sea Grant coastal processes and hazards specialists provide shoreline property owners and managers with information for managing erosion and flooding

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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New York Sea Grant provided the property owner of this area in Chatauqua County with shoreline best management practices. Photo: NYSG/R. Widrig

Shorelines in New York's Great Lakes region are dynamic features eroding or changing greatly over long periods of time or quickly during storm events, intensified by regional changes in climate. Nor'easter and seiche events are significant drivers of these shoreline changes.

In 2020, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) introduced Virtual Site Visits, an intuitive online GIS-based survey tool that allows shoreline residents to report shoreline erosion and request assistance. In 2023, 47 shoreline consultations were completed by NYSG across Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and other water bodies in New York's Great Lakes Basin. These consultations were carried out through phone calls, email messages and multiple in-person site visits. NYSG extends shoreline expertise and best practices for managing shorelines through these individual and group consultations. Residents learn about coastal processes, managing shorelines based on local geology and weather conditions, and are provided outreach material for managing shoreline erosion and flooding.

The 47 shoreline consultations were completed in nearly every shoreline community along NY's Great Lakes. For example, Chautauqua County residents constructed shoreline drainage improvements, slowing erosion along 300 feet of Lake Erie shoreline cliffs, protecting a delicate and prominent point extending out from the shore.

Project Partner:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

NYSG Focus Area
for this project summary:
Resilient NY Communities
and Economies

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New York Sea Grant: Bringing Science to NY's Shores Since 1971...