

I FISH NY: Sharing the Facts & Fun of Fishing in NYC and on Long Island

Though New York City (NYC) and its surrounding metropolitan areas make up 57 percent of New York's population, only a fraction of natural resource allocations go to this region. To address this problem, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) partnered to create I FISH NY, an urban recreational fishing program that encourages NYC and Long Island (LI) residents to conserve aquatic resources by learning about and going fishing.

Since 2005 NYSG has employed two full-time Recreational Fisheries Specialists in NYC and on LI to implement and augment the groundwork established by NYS DEC staff. Using these pilot programs as a guide, the NYS DEC was able to hire four new Promotional Biologists in 2007 to extend the program throughout New York State. Independently, each specialist addresses the unique challenges of his or her region.

I FISH NY — New York City

I FISH NY-NYC maintained its presence in city schools, taking more than 1400 students fishing. For the first time, NYSG created and administered program evaluations to in-school participants. This information has helped the NYSG specialists modify content and will serve as the baseline for how the program is meeting its goals.

I FISH NY — Long Island

Through partnerships, I FISH NY-LI has taken close to 9,000 people fishing. In-class programs and out-of-classroom events (clinics



A child learns to identify fish, an important skill for anglers, at an I FISH NY clinic.

Photo: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

and festivals) have been successful venues for introducing beginners to their aquatic surroundings.

In 2007, I FISH NY-LI continued its collaboration with local Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to offer in-class programs that supplement existing party boat fishing trips. To increase the value of current programming, lesson plans not only follow New York State Learning Standards, but now also contain worksheets that pull concepts directly from New York State mandated tests.

The I FISH NY specialists have standardized the look and content of programs. As I FISH NY evolves and expands, letterheads, lesson plan formats, and press kits can be used with minimal modification for any I FISH NY office.

New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. This project summary was written by Malynda Nichol, Recreational Fisheries Specialist, 631-444-0283, mjn36@cornell.edu;

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