

New York Sea Grant welcomes its first Aquaculture Specialist to develop an extension program in support of the aquaculture industry

New York Sea Grant Hires First Aquaculture Specialist

Aquaculture, the rearing of aquatic animals and plants, provides a significant source of dietary protein and mechanisms for sustaining natural fisheries, protecting waterways, and creating jobs and revenue for New York. The potential for growth of the managed cultivation of fish, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic plants, even algae, in New York State is high, especially with one of the Northeast's largest markets, New York City, just hours from all corners of the state. To help the aquaculture industry realize this potential, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) has hired its first Aquaculture Specialist.

Currently, there are several shellfish aquaculture operations in Long Island, but a limited number of land-based and finfish operations. The expansion of the industry over the years has been slow, with challenges in information exchange and communication. Thus, the industry, consumers, researchers, and other stakeholders could benefit from an established and active network.

In September 2020, NYSG established and filled the position of Aquaculture Specialist to provide extension programming in support of the development, growth, and success of a sustainable aquaculture industry in New York. A needs assessment of the industry in early 2021 will guide programming.

Various aquaculture-focused extension tools and products have been, and will be, developed, including the creation of a NYSG aquaculture webpage, updating of the New York State Aquaculture White Paper, and creation of a network of aquaculture industry professionals (producers, researchers, regulators, wholesalers, economists, etc.) to support statewide collaboration.

The creation of the new NYSG Aquaculture Specialist position will strengthen the aquaculture industry in New York, creating opportunities for business, research, and collaboration.

Project Partner:

- Funding: National Sea Grant Office

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
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From top, NYSG's Aquaculture Specialist Emma Forbes; shellfish aquaculture; indoor fish farming operation. Photos provided by Emma Forbes/NYSG.