

# Become a Sea Grant Community Engaged Fellow this Summer!

Applications now being accepted for New York Sea Grant (NYSG's) 2023 Community Engaged Fellowship Program! Deadline for submission is **March 17, 2023**, by 5PM EDT. See below for information on how to apply. Applications will be evaluated during April and applicants will be notified by **April 21, 2023**.

## Background

Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in coastal and marine science research is an important programmatic priority for NYSG and the National Sea Grant College Program. To further this priority, the National Sea Grant Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and the Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK) communities of practice are implementing the Sea Grant Community-Engaged Fellowship (CEI) program for undergraduate students in summer 2023. CEI is designed to specifically engage students from underrepresented and indigenous communities.

The overarching goal of this program is to broaden participation in marine and coastal professions by providing training and mentorship to the next generation of scientists, decision makers, and citizens. This training will increase awareness about coastal and marine science extension career disciplines. The program will do so by recruiting, retaining, and engaging diverse students in place-based research, extension, education, and/or communication. As such, we encourage applications from students in underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, individuals from minority serving institutions, and individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in STEM. In 2023, NYSG will partner with various organizations to support field projects providing training in shoreline monitoring, community science, environmental education, and science communication.



In Summer 2021, NYSG CEI Bella Duati assisted in "Community Science through Seining: An Exploration of Aquatic Organismal Diversity and Data", a partnership project with SUNY Farmingdale State College that integrated interests in fisheries, community science, and environmental education.

## Long Island Sound-New York City Fellowship

The successful applicant will aid Katherine Bunting-Howarth, *Associate Director of NYSG* and Lillit Genovesi, *Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Outreach Coordinator* at Sea Grant, to collect Natural and Nature-Based Feature (NNBF) shoreline data along the Long Island Sound watershed shorelines, host community programming, and community engagement.

Field work will take place along the coast of Long Island Sound as well as inland tributaries of The Sound and will include data collection, interviews, and public presentations. Additionally, the fellow will assist the LISS Outreach Coordinator with community outreach programs including Sound Stewards, community climate meetings, and professional learning opportunities.

Deliverables will include a presentation about the NNBF process designed for state and federal partners, and information flyer designed to engage coastal communities in participatory science programs. Working with NYSG Communications professionals, the fellow will prepare a feature story describing the project for publication on the LISS website.

This fellowship will be located at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (virtual office), New York, with field work taking place along Long Island Sound in Queens and The Bronx.

## Long Island Great South Bay Fellowship

The successful applicant will provide assistance to Katherine Bunting-Howarth, *Associate Director of NYSG*, Kathleen Fallon, *Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist* at Sea Grant, and Robyn Silvestri, *Executive Director of Save the Great South Bay*, to analyze data that has been collected by participants in the Creek Defender and A Day in the Life programs during clean up events of the creeks along the Great South Bay. The fellow will use the data to generate report cards that assign a letter grade to each creek based on their overall health, this can be used to compare creeks not only to each other but over time.

The fellow ideally will be able to participate in field work along the Great South Bay and its creeks. They will also need to work with relevant partners including Brookhaven National Lab, Suffolk County Pine Barrens, NYS DEC, SSER, and Stony Brook University to determine how best to analyze the data and report it. Additionally, the fellow may have the opportunity to participate in various speaking and presentation opportunities.

This fellowship will be based at Stony Brook University (SBU) with remote opportunities, as well as field work taking place along the Great South Bay and relevant creeks.



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## Great Lakes Phytoplankton Monitoring Fellowship

The fellow will collaborate with NOAA scientists Jennifer Maucher Fuquay and Dr. Steven Morton, from the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCOOS), and Stacy Furgal, *Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Health Specialist* at NYSG. The fellow will provide support for the creation of materials (videos, photographs, written guides, etc.) to be incorporated into NOAA's Freshwater Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN, <https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/stressor-impacts-mitigation/pmnl/>) training resources. The fellow will work under the direction of NYSG and NOAA mentors to create and implement a project plan to develop training materials. Images of selected phytoplankton species will be collected, allowing fellow to gain laboratory experience involving microscope use, specimen ID, and imaging techniques. Depending on needs identified in the project plan, the fellow will use a variety of other mediums (video, text, etc.) to create additional content for use in training materials. Field experiences will also be arranged. Mentoring with NOAA project partners will occur virtually, and NYSG will provide day to day guidance and overall project supervision.

Upon completion, the fellow will prepare: i) an outline of all training materials needed to be created or updated in order to implement the freshwater PMN in NY's Great Lakes; ii) a library of images and videos to be used as part of the final training materials iii) drafts of identified priority training materials and iv) an essay describing their fellowship experience for publication in NYSG *NY Coastlines* Newsletter.

This position will be based in Oswego, NY with opportunities for remote work.

## Science Art Communications Fellowship

The successful applicant will aid Sarah Weisberg, PhD Candidate and NMFS-Sea Grant fellow at SBU, and Antoinette Clemetson, *Fisheries Specialist* at NYSG. The fellow will support ongoing work to monitor and study fish eggs and larvae across the New York. Understanding timing, abundance, and location of these early fish life stages, and how they are impacted by climate change, is critically important for sustainable management of commercially important fish species.

The fellow will support laboratory research involving microscopy, imaging, sample dilution and isolation of individual fish eggs and larvae from plankton samples. Biological samples will be identified to the species level using DNA barcoding techniques, and the fellow will aid in analyzing and visualizing these genetic data. During the lab work, the fellow will learn about a diverse array of planktonic animals, gaining insight into the microscopic communities of marine ecosystems.

Upon completion, the fellow will prepare: i) a PPT slide show describing fish early life stages, dispersal, and climate change; ii) a narrative to use in a poster illustration publication; and iii) an essay describing their fellowship experience for publication in NYSG *NY Coastlines* Newsletter.

The fellowship will be located at SBU.

## Stipend and Support

The fellowship begins on **June 5, 2023** and extends over 10 weeks; this fellowship includes a \$5,000 stipend.

## Eligibility

Applicants must be a current undergraduate from a New York college or university seeking a degree in natural, social, environmental sciences, or science communication, or have taken coursework in the natural sciences, journalism, science writing, or related fields. Students who have recently graduated are not eligible for this program. Having completed a marine science course is not required but is preferred. Applicants with previous demonstrated engagement in environmental work (e.g., participation in community science programs, volunteered in environmental community service), or have an interest in pursuing a natural science degree, are desirable.

## Sea Grant Networking and Professional Development

Fellows will join a cohort of students participating in similar programs across the Sea Grant network in professional development opportunities through the CEI Sea Grant program and NYSG.

## How to Apply

To apply, please send your application as a single PDF document to [prh22@cornell.edu](mailto:prh22@cornell.edu) with CEI Fellowship in the subject line by **March 17th, 2023**.

The application package should include the following information:

1. A one-page essay describing how you will contribute to this program's vision to broaden participation and increase access to STEM opportunities for underrepresented groups.
2. In 200 words or less, respond to each of the following:
  - a. What do you know about community science and/or science communication and describe how these programs can contribute to your local natural resources? (200 words maximum)
  - b. Write a personal and career goal statement describing what you will bring to the fellowship and how this fellowship will help you achieve your long-term career goals. Please note which fellowship opportunity that you are interested in being considered for. (200 words maximum)
  - c. Provide one example of your work from school, a job or fellowship that can assist to make the final decision for your application. This can include a description of your involvement in extracurricular work as paid or volunteer or fellowship position. (200 words maximum). Alternatively, provide a link to this example in the PDF document, if this information is published on the web.
3. A one page resume.
4. An unofficial transcript (released to student is acceptable).
5. A list of two references.

\*\*\*Proof of Health Insurance will be required after acceptance.

A letter from the school, insurance company or ID card will be accepted.\*\*\*

