

# COASTODIAN

A Newsletter from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

## Beaches Ready to Welcome After-Sandy Crowds



NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin was a key speaker.

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) helped kick off the Jersey Shore summer season at its 11th annual *State of the Shore Media Event* Thursday, May 23 in Belmar at the iconic D'jais Bar and Grill. For more than a decade, the well-attended press conference has shined a spotlight on the condition of New Jersey's beaches heading into Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of summer on the shore. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Commissioner Bob Martin and Division of Travel and Tourism Executive Director Grace Hanlon were on hand to give remarks about the condition of the state's beaches and coastal communities and to support the tourism industry during this first summer after Sandy.

"The Jersey shore is open," Commissioner Martin said at the gathering held near the newly rebuilt boardwalk in Belmar. "Water quality is excellent. Our beaches, boardwalks and businesses are open and ready. We're looking forward to a great season, one that will show the nation just how strong and resilient our communities and our people truly are."

"This year, because of the Sandy-related challenges experienced by so many Jersey Shore communities, it's even more important to provide the public with a clear and accurate overview of the condition of New Jersey's beaches and coastal resources," said Sea Grant Consortium Executive Director Claire Antonucci. "The annual *State of the Shore* provides a perfect opportunity for us to let people know that the beaches are all still there, the water is fine, amenities and attractions are back in business, and the Jersey Shore is ready."

The event featured the *State of the Shore Report*, authored and delivered by Dr. Jon Miller, the NJSGC's Extension Program Coastal Processes Specialist. This year's proceedings and report also included scientific data and beach condition remarks from Dr. Stewart Farrell, Director of the Richard



Dr. Jon Miller, NJSGC's Extension Program Coastal Processes Specialist, with News 12 TV Shore Reporter Karla Bardiñas.



Speakers included (left to right) Grace Hanlon, Dr. Stewart Farrell, Claire Antonucci, Dr. Jon Miller and Bob Martin.

Stockton College Center for Coastal Resources, whose data and research traditionally helps determine the rankings of the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches survey.

Copies of the 11th Annual *New Jersey State of the Shore Report* are available by contacting New Jersey Sea Grant Communications at 732-872-1300 ext 18. It can also be accessed on-line at [njseagrants.org/publications/news/330-nj-beaches-ready-to-welcome-post-sandy-summer-crowds](http://njseagrants.org/publications/news/330-nj-beaches-ready-to-welcome-post-sandy-summer-crowds).



## Stew Tweed Scholarship

The recipients of the 2013 Stew Tweed Fisheries & Aquaculture Scholarships were recently announced by Congressman Frank Pallone (D-6th District) at the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium's (NJS GC) 10th Annual Ocean Fun Days event at Sandy Hook.

The NJS GC established the Stew Tweed Fisheries & Aquaculture Scholarship Fund in 2008 to honor the memory of Stew Tweed, Marine Agent for the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Service between 1978 and 2005. Two scholarships are awarded annually to support a graduating high-school senior and an undergraduate/graduate student pursuing studies, or an outstanding research or technology project focusing on fisheries or aquaculture. In recognition of the hardships Hurricane Sandy dealt so many individuals and communities, NJS GC increased the scholarship amounts for 2013.

The 2013 Scholarship for a Graduating High School Senior (\$1,500) was given to Emily Casper, a resident of Red Bank and graduate of The Marine Academy of Science and Technology at Sandy Hook. Growing up on the Jersey Shore, Emily became enamored with the majesty of the sea and everything in it. As she matured, her love for the ocean helped shape her character and career goals. She will be attending Fordham University in the fall and hopes to work in a field that benefits aquaculture and marine life conservation.

The 2013 Scholarship for an Undergraduate/Graduate Student (\$2,000) was given to Jessica Valenti, a rising senior at the Richard



**Pictured (left to right) are Gail Tweed, widow of Stew Tweed, U.S. Representative Frank Pallone who presented the awards, Claire Antonucci, Executive Director of NJS GC, Jessica Valenti and Emily Casper. In front is Kate Pantelione, Stew's granddaughter.**

Stockton College of New Jersey who is majoring in marine science. A resident of Toms River, Jessica plans to attend graduate school and focus on fisheries science. Her career goal is to become a college professor teaching in the field of fisheries science and related disciplines while remaining an active fisheries scientist herself. Ultimately she wants to be part of the global fisheries science community that can find an effective compromise on how to best manage the world's fisheries.

## Storm Impacts on Boating.org



The New Jersey Clean Vessel Act Program (partners NJDEP Fish and Wildlife, NJS GC, and Rutgers CRSSA) recently assessed the damage Superstorm Sandy caused to pumpout facilities located at marinas and determined their operation status for the 2013

boating season. The information from this assessment was used to

update the Program's website, [NJBoating.org](http://NJBoating.org), with a current listing of operational pumpout facilities. In addition, NJBoating.org provides service area and contact information for the mobile pumpout boats, locations of boat ramps open to the public and fishing-related information. A current listing of pumpout facilities is also available on the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife's mobile app and the Barnegat Bay Sensitive Areas Map. Boaters are encouraged to contact pumpout facilities to verify operation status.

## Symposium Provides Ocean Policy Overview

New Jersey Sea Grant Extension recently coordinated a symposium to provide state and local decision makers with information about legal and policy analyses that support regional ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic. Key issues explored were multi-use ocean management, offshore alternative energy, habitats, fisheries and living marine resources. The symposium was part of an ongoing National Sea Grant effort to identify timely and critical legal and policy issues of our coasts.

Co-sponsored by the National Sea Grant Law Center, Seton Hall University Law School, Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute and the Environmental Law Institute, the



symposium was held at the Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark. More than 50 people took part in the day-long event.



## All's Fair in Science Challenge



For the 2013 Ocean Fun Days Science Fair, student teams were challenged to create projects related to the science behind Superstorm Sandy. Project ideas could be as wide-ranging as the storm itself.

Teams were encouraged to research the possible factors that may have influenced Sandy's intensity (warmer seas, rising sea level, etc.) or investigate methods and solutions for future protection from such storms. Other suggested topics included building designs that may best survive a storm or rebuilding homes and businesses using renewable energy sources and energy-efficient designs, equipment and features that can save energy and money. And the winners were:

### ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

#### 3rd & 4th Grade

**1st Place:** What Barrier (Seawall or Sand Dune) is More Effective in Protecting Buildings and Homes from Future Storm Surges? Lanoka Harbor Elementary School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Darlene Price

**2nd Place:** Restoring Saltwater Flooded Grass Using Natural Fertilizer. Clara B Worth Elementary School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Regina Avenoso

#### 5th & 6th Grade

**1st Place:** Shutters with Vent Holes For Storm Protection. Berkeley Township Elementary School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Heather Melanson

**2nd Place:** Triangle Tip Shutters for Storm Protection. Berkeley Township Elementary School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Heather Melanson

### SANDY HOOK

#### 5th & 6th Grade

**1st Place:** How Do Magnets Affect Fish? An Experiment to Test

Aquatic Biomagnetism. Cedar Drive Middle School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Suzanne Cooper

**2nd Place:** How Does Artificial Sweetener Affect Fish? An Experiment to Show the Effects of Artificial Sweetener on Fish. Cedar Drive Middle School. Sponsor Teacher: Ms. Suzanne Cooper

## Rip Current Awareness: Something to "Kid" About

A booklet for children focused on rip current awareness and safety is now available on the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) website at [njseagrant.org/images/education/rip-current-kids.pdf](http://njseagrant.org/images/education/rip-current-kids.pdf). *Break the Grip of a Rip* is just one result of an ongoing partnership between NJS GC and the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore (GSJS) to make New Jersey's citizens and visitors more aware of the danger of rip currents.

"The publication presents scientific and safety information on rip currents in a way that appeals to children," said Mindy Voss, an NJS GC educator who developed the content for the booklet. "Working with the GSJS made this possible by helping me transform what I wanted to say into ways that youngsters could relate to."

The booklet features puzzles, true and false matching games and even a maze that demonstrates what a swimmer should do if caught in a rip. However, Voss added, "The most important thing youngsters and adults should know about rip currents is never to swim without a lifeguard present."



# RESEARCH

## Proposal Process Moves Forward

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) received eleven full proposals from four state institutions at the end of May for its Omnibus Research competition. The proposals will be reviewed this summer by NJS GC's Technical Review Panel, Stakeholder Advisory Board and by external peer reviewers. The reviewers will select three to four proposals in mid-September to recommend for funding. The selected proposals will become part of the NJS GC Omnibus Proposal package submitted to the National Sea Grant College Program in November. If approved, those projects along with other core program components will be funded for the 2014-2016 program year.



## Expertise Database Ready for Downloading

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) recently released an electronic expertise database of 167 faculty and staff affiliated with its member institutions. The database consists of two sections. The first section is an alphabetical list of 94 key words and key phrases describing particular areas of expertise relevant to coastal and marine research (including watershed and estuarine) in engineering, the physical sciences and social sciences. Clicking on any keyword directs the user to the relevant area in the second section. The second section contains the names and contact information of people with expertise in each particular area.

The document is available on the NJS GC website at [njseagrant.org](http://njseagrant.org) as a downloadable PDF.



# Calendar Celebrates Jersey Shore - Then and New



The unveiling of a special limited-edition calendar celebrating the Jersey Shore, designed and produced by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJS GC) provided a picture-perfect ending to the organization's 11th Annual *State of the Shore* pre-summer media event in Belmar. The calendar reveal by New Jersey's Executive Director of Travel and Tourism Grace Hanlon, replaced the traditional announcement of the winners of the NJS GC New Jersey Top Ten Beaches popularity poll which went on hiatus this year to allow many of the storm ravaged shore towns to restore and rebuild.

NJS GC and tourism leaders from around the state teamed up in 2013 to focus on a different angle for this year's project by asking people to vote for a favorite photo selected from hundreds of entries and share a favorite shore memory on the New Jersey Top Ten beaches website to help create the special limited-edition *Making More Shore Memories* calendar.

The calendar is fun, functional, a compact 9" x 6" size that perfectly suits small spaces and it celebrates the entire Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Each page includes a special memory and a contest winning photo and lists special shore-based events and activities between June 2013 and May 2014, so it has a longer shelf life. Governor Chris Christie lent his support to the project and shared his own special memories of the Jersey Shore.

The calendar is priced at \$4.99 and will be available at several selected shore events and venues in June and July including the Belmar Seafood Festival, the Jersey Shore Partnership Summer Celebration and at select locations like the Tuckerton Seaport Gift Shop. It can also be purchased on line through the New Jersey Top Ten Beaches website at [njtopenbeaches.org](http://njtopenbeaches.org) with a nominal additional charge for shipping and handling. A portion of the calendar proceeds will be donated to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund.



Winning photographers at the event paused for a photo-op with New Jersey Executive Director of Travel and Tourism Grace Hanlon (second from right).

## Cultured Shellfish Highlight Tour de Shore



On June 3rd, 2013 more than two dozen restaurant, co-op and market owners, aquaculture farmers and representatives from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium took part in a tour to help establish new and expand existing aquaculture markets.

Attendees met at the Cape Shore Laboratory and oyster growing areas in Cape May Courthouse where they explored the expansive

oyster flats and learned how aquacultured oysters are produced and hand selected to ensure an optimal product. From there, participants were taken to The Red Store in Cape May Point where they networked during lunch and chatted more about the benefits of locally grown aquaculture products. The last stop of the day was Bill Avery's Quality Bay Clams Hatchery/Nursery in Atlantic City. Participants were led through his facility and got a firsthand look at how clams are cultivated from seed stock to final consumption.

The ultimate goal of the tour was to make locally-farmed, high-quality New Jersey shellfish products available to a wider variety of food markets and restaurants.



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