**Northeast Sea Grant Consortium Superior Outreach Programming Awards (NESGC SOPA) 2023 - 2024**

**Call for Nominations (Due March 1, 2024) and Review Criteria and Weighting**

This is the call for nominations for the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium Superior Outreach Programming Award. The competition occurs in two steps.

**Step 1:** Complete the attached nomination form. As in past years, two awards will be presented, one for an individual program/project and one for a team program/project. All individual nominees and at least one member of the team being nominated must be employed by a Northeast Sea Grant program. **To minimize the burden on reviewers this spring, we ask that each program submit no more than two nominations (one individual & one team, 2 individual or 2 team).** The nomination form requires a few details about the personnel involved and up to 750 words about the program/project and its value. Any Northeast Sea Grant outreach program/project is eligible for nomination if there have been **significant impacts or accomplishments documented since 2021**. The program/project does not have to be fully completed at the time of the nomination and self-nominations are welcome, although they should be coordinated with your director or program leader.

**Nominations will be reviewed by a team of extension leaders from outside the Northeast according to the following criteria.** Please be concise in your nomination narrative while addressing these criteria to facilitate the review process. Maximum total points = 75

1. Responsiveness to clientele needs, timeliness and appropriateness to Sea Grant mission (15 pts)

2. Strength and significance of the program accomplishments and measurable impacts (35 pts) *(Impacts include significant economic, societal and/or environmental benefits of the program. Accomplishments include key actions, activities or products resulting from the program.)*

3. Leadership and use of partnerships and collaborations, teamwork, sensitivity and attention to diverse audiences (10 pts)

4. Creativity, innovation, and unique attributes of the program (15 pts)

**Step 2:** Nominees selected as finalists for the individual or team awards will be asked to compile and submit additional information, in the required format for the national Superior Outreach Programming Award competition. Those applications will be reviewed and ranked by Sea Grant extension leaders from outside the Northeast region, according to the published SOPA selection criteria. The expected criteria for those awards, *based on the 2022 nomination process*, are:

1. Responsiveness to clientele needs, timeliness and appropriateness to Sea Grant mission (15 pts)
2. Strength and significance of the program accomplishments and measurable impacts (35 pts)
3. Local, regional and/or national impacts of the outreach program (10 pts)
4. Leadership and use of partnerships and collaborations, teamwork, sensitivity and attention to diverse audiences (10 pts)
5. Creativity, innovation, and unique attributes of the program (10 pts)
6. Use of research in programming, especially interdisciplinary research (10 pts)
7. Ability for the program (or aspects of its development and implementation) to serve as a model for others (10 pts)

The outcome of the Northeast regional competition will be announced in the summer of 2024. The highest-ranked individual and team program/project will be submitted to the 2024 national Superior Outreach Programming Award competition; the results of that competition will be announced during Sea Grant Week in fall 2024. All nominees and finalists will be recognized in front of their peers during the 2025 Northeast Regional meeting in Massachusetts.

**Please submit nomination forms to both** **mc2544@cornell.edu** **and** **nancy.balcom@uconn.edu** **by 5pm EDT on March 1, 2024.**

This is a great way to recognize the efforts of our stellar colleagues.

Let us know if you have any questions, Nancy & Mike