

MyCoast New York Newsletter

September 2025

Thank you for your contributions
to MyCoast New York.



New reporting tools have arrived!

MyCoast NY now has a tool for tracking litter in and around our waterways and has partnered with Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) to document large marine debris (e.g. abandoned vessels), wildlife sightings, and recreation.

Read on to learn more and **attend our upcoming virtual session on Sept 18, 4-4:45 pm** where we'll hear from two guest speakers about the new tools. There will be time for questions and discussion.

[Register here!](https://mycoast.org/ny)

Flooding can happen anywhere, anytime.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, peaking in late August and September. Hurricane Erin recently brought higher water levels and hazardous swimming conditions to much of the east coast from offshore. Read more about what's expected for the [2025 hurricane season](#).

Coastal and estuarine communities, mark your calendar. Dates for possible high tide flooding over the next 6 months according to [NOAA's Monthly High Tide Flood Outlook](#) at the Battery tide gauge in New York, NY are:

Oct 05-11 ☐ Dec 03-07 ☐
Nov 04-08 ☐ January 01-04 ☐

The highest tides typically occur each month during the new ☒ and full ☐ moon. More severe flooding may occur if high tides coincide with heavy rains, strong winds, or large waves.

As sea levels continue to rise, our coastal communities are expected to experience more frequent high tide flooding: about 60 - 85 days per year, or 5 - 7 days per month, on average nationally by 2050. Learn more about tides [here](#).



<https://mycoast.org/ny>



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Litter Watch

Litter Watch, the newest addition to **MyCoast NY**, empowers New Yorkers to help tackle litter in our waterways. Litter Watch makes it easy to upload photos of litter in water, or litter that may end up in water like that along shorelines, in storm drains, or in waterfront parks and beaches.

05/3/25: Piermont, NY- Report #201394



Litter often enters waterways after being blown by the wind, washed down storm drains, or intentionally dumped. Like Flood Watch, each photo is paired with weather and tide data to help users better understand how litter pollutes water. Reports appear on the MyCoast NY Search Reports page ([filtered to Report type: Litter Watch](#)), helping build a clearer picture of pollution hotspots and trends.

08/14/25: City Island, NY - Report #212248



Launched by New York Sea Grant in partnership with researchers at Columbia University, Litter Watch connects communities with science to support local planning, education, and pollution prevention. Help protect our environment from litter by submitting photos through the **MyCoast NY app** (available on iPhone and Android), or on the website with a free registered account.



Consider adding a photo to Litter Watch at your next cleanup event!

Learn more at:
mycoast.org/ny/litterwatch

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Outreach Campaign

Summer interns assist in Tompkins County

MyCoast is a powerful tool for reporting the extent and impacts of both coastal and inland floods. But to date, the bulk of the MyCoast NY reports have been in coastal communities.

In an effort to help extend the reach of MyCoast into inland communities, this summer **Kristen Hychka**, staff at the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, and three Cornell student interns, **Ali Hartung**, **Yiting Zhang**, and **Maddie Miele**, focused on an outreach campaign to promote the use of MyCoast in Tompkins County, NY. They helped to both populate the dataset for the county with photos of past events and cultivate regular users of MyCoast—both in the general public and with municipal audiences for flood resilience planning.



MyCoast and A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall booth at the Ithaca Festival (photo by: K Hychka, in photo: Ali Hartung and Shreya Dhamanse)

Historic Flood Photos Added!

One of the targeted efforts was to incorporate **historic photos**—any photo captured and submitted from a past event—into the MyCoast database for the county. The team connected with municipal historians who directed them to the [History Center in Tompkins County](#) who maintain a [collection of historic flood photos](#) in the NY Heritage Digital Collections.

Photos from this collection were added to MyCoast as long as the location could be identified and the year was verified - any assumptions about date and location were clearly recorded in the notes of the photo report. Many photos in the collection were from the flood of record in 1935. Students also worked to identify and add flood photos from local newspapers, though copyright was an issue and had to be granted where appropriate.



You can add historic photos, too! Just make sure you know the location and date when the photo was taken and record any relevant notes.

New Partnership



Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) recently began collecting information from ocean users to help local authorities better understand and plan how to use and protect coastal resources. MyCoast NY volunteers reporting from Long Island, New York City, and the Hudson River estuary can now submit three new report types through either 1) the MyCoast app (options appear after +Add Report under the heading Mid-Atlantic Regional Reports) or 2) through the [MyCoast MARCO](#) website.

- **Wildlife Sightings** - Share where and when you spot seals, whales, birds, and other marine life
- **Recreation** - Share the activities you enjoy on the coast, whether it's boating, swimming, or something else
- **Large Marine Debris** - Report large items like abandoned vessels or tires that pose hazards to people and wildlife

Check out the MyCoast MARCO website and attend our Sept 18th virtual meeting ([Register here](#)) to hear more details about the program from Dr. Janet Reimer.

MARCO formed in 2009 by a governors' agreement among New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. MARCO fosters collaboration, information sharing, and planning strategies for regionally important coastal and ocean issues.



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