



# New York State Coasts and Waterways

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES

With 5,000 miles of coast and shoreline, New York State has been endowed with a great legacy. The Atlantic Ocean, Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, the vast lakes of Erie, Ontario, and Champlain, the Finger Lakes, the Adirondack lakes, and the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Niagara, Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers, all contribute to the state's quality of life. Each has played an important role in our history – home to Native American settlements, as gateways for immigration, and as highways for commerce and transportation. They provide food for the body, recreation and inspiration for the soul. In many ways, for many peoples, our coasts and shores have been and continue to be priceless treasures well worth our protection.

Through voluntary partnerships with local governments and community groups the State of New York supports coastal economies and protects ecosystems. By providing technical expertise and financial assistance, it helps to revitalize waterfront communities, safeguard estuaries, provide recreation, sustain historic maritime communities, and continually strives to improve New York's invaluable coastlines.



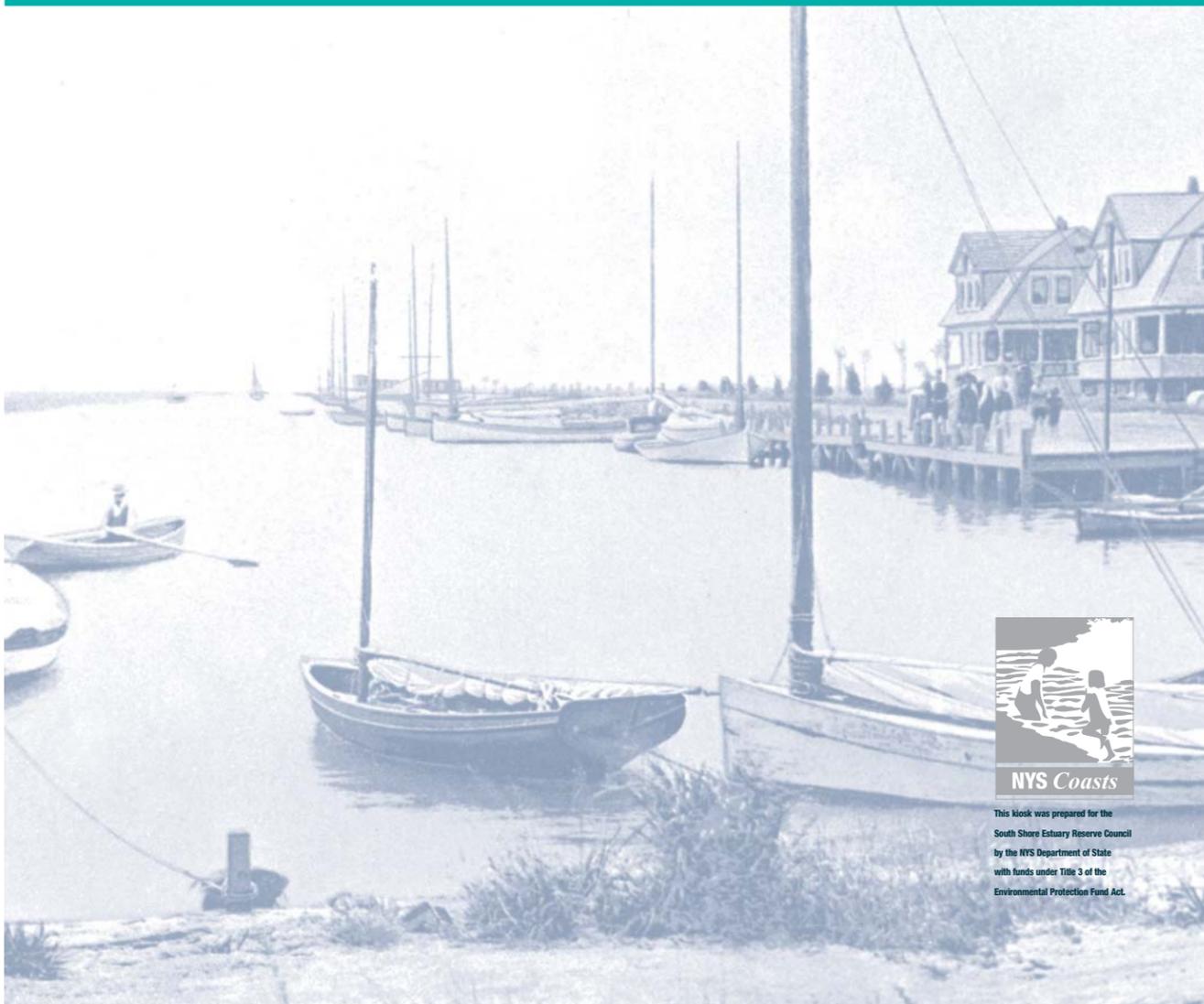
Close to 45 million gallons of water flows per minute over world famous Niagara Falls.



Completed in 1931, the George Washington Bridge spans the Hudson River.



Seneca Lake Landing - a landmark of the Finger Lakes region.



NYS Coasts

This kiosk was prepared for the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council by the NYS Department of State with funds under Title 3 of the Environmental Protection Fund Act.



## LONG ISLAND SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE

An estuary is a sheltered coastal waterbody where ocean water meets and mixes with fresh water—both surface and ground water—draining from the estuary's watershed. Estuaries are among the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth, and each estuary is unique.

Long Island's South Shore Estuary was formed during the last 10,000 years by the interaction of rising seas with the glacially-deposited material that makes up Long Island. Wind, currents, tides, and coastal storms continue to re-shape Long Island's shoreline, tidal marshes, and the barrier

islands that shelter the five major shallow bays included in this diverse estuary.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve was created in response to Long Islanders concerned with the future health of the estuary and the many small businesses that depend upon its natural and cultural resources. The Reserve's bays and marshes are highly vulnerable habitats that support the largest concentration of water-dependent businesses in the State. Commercial and recreational fishing depend upon the health and abundance of the estuary's wildlife, which, in turn, depend upon clean water and available habitat.

The restoration and stewardship of the Reserve's natural resources and maritime traditions are guided by a comprehensive management plan completed in 2001.

The health of the Reserve depends upon the actions and stewardship of the millions of people that live, visit, work, and play in the estuary's bays and watershed. Learn more about the South Shore Estuary Reserve and make a difference! Visit: [www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us) from home or your local library or call: 1-516-470 BAYS today!



Charter boats lining the Wood-Left Canal.



Commercial bayman's crab trap.



Great Egret in estuary wetlands.



Volunteers replanting grasses in the estuary.



Boating in Long Island's Great South Bay.





# Freeport

## Freeport's Nautical Mile

Freeport's rich maritime history is marked by oystering, clamming and boat-building. At the end of the 19th century, John Randall and William G. Miller dredged Woodcleft Canal, creating the largest working waterfront on the south shore of Long Island. The Nautical Mile was born and Freeport became a summer destination for visitors traveling from New York City.

Boat yards sprang up along Woodcleft Canal and by World War II they were building vessels for the U.S. and British naval forces. Sailboats and pleasure craft docked along the canal's entire length. As Long Island's population grew, the Nautical Mile also became a center for recreational boat sales, commercial and charter fishing fleets, fish markets, and numerous seafood restaurants.

Today, the Nautical Mile is being transformed again, as Village improvements correct decades of tidal flooding, increase pedestrian access, preserve maritime culture, and stimulate redevelopment. Implementing Freeport's vision will enable this historic maritime center to continue as a working waterfront, recreational destination, and marine educational center for the 21st century.



The *Bounty*, a replica of the historic vessel docked at the Esplanade.



The Annual Nautical Festival held the first weekend in June.



Annapolis racing sloop and crew.

