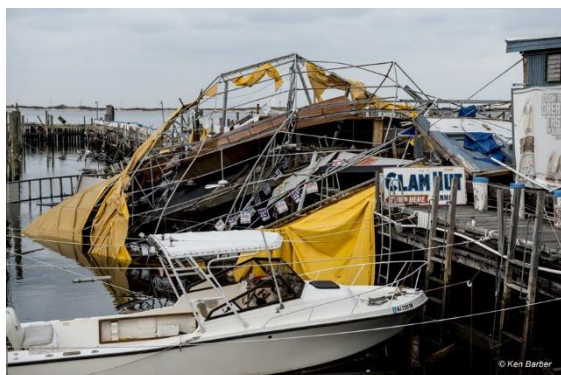


November 2023

Ensuring the Resiliency of New Jersey's Commercial Fishing Ports



The remnants of The Clam Hut in Highlands, N.J., after Superstorm Sandy.

For hundreds of years, business owners engaged in New Jersey's commercial fisheries industry have weathered adversity, from coastal storms to species shifts. [Rutgers scientists have developed a guide for marine businesses](#) to foster greater resilience in the face of the challenges posed by global climate change. [A Resilience Checklist for New Jersey's Commercial Fishing Industry](#) was developed collaboratively by **Lisa Auermuller**, director of the [Megalopolitan Coastal Transformation Hub](#), **Douglas Zemeckis**, marine extension agent Ocean, Atlantic, and Monmouth counties, **Eleanor Bochenek**, retired director of the Fisheries Cooperative Center, and **Richard Lathrop**, director of the Rutgers [Center for Remote Sensing and](#)

[Spatial Analysis](#). The Rutgers team worked with fisheries resource managers and commercial fishing industry stakeholders from the diverse ports of Belford, Barnegat Light, Cape May, and Port Norris to develop the Resilience Checklist. The purpose of the checklist is to start conversation and coordination among dock managers, fishers, processors, dealers and others involved in the industry about planning and preparation to address vulnerabilities.

USDA NIFA Awards \$748,698 Grant to Rutgers Food Systems Science Team



Kirsten Allen, Ph.D. candidate, whose research is focused on essential oil biochemistry and metabolism in the catnip plant, is interviewed by 4-H youths.

Faculty and researchers from the departments of **Plant Biology, Marine and Coastal Sciences**, and **4-H Youth Development** in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), in collaboration with Carlton College's Science Education Resource Center, have been awarded a four-year, \$748,698 USDA NIFA Food and Agricultural Non-Formal Education Program grant. The grant, "[Food, Agriculture, and Marine \(FAME\) 4-H Ag Tech Program](#)," will support 100 underserved high school youth to direct and produce short *Food Systems Solution Science* video stories as part of a 4-H Youth Development afterschool program. This program builds upon the

innovative [science-in-action video storytelling model](#) developed at Rutgers, as well as the recent community impact of our science-in-action film, [Fields of Devotion](#), and the success of the [RUCAFE FAME pilot project](#). This USDA-supported initiative provides youth with immersive science learning through digital storytelling made in trusting partnership with Rutgers scientists.

Of Interest

From October 24-27, [seven New Jersey high school students](#), along with their teachers and chaperones, participated in the Global Youth Institute, a prestigious youth education program hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. They were among 150 exceptional high school students from around the world selected to travel to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend this transformative event. The GYI delegates had the opportunity to interact with [2023 World Food Prize Laureate Heidi Kühn](#), humanitarian and peace activist, who has spent more than 25 years restoring agriculture in former conflict zones. The New Jersey contingent actually began their journey to Iowa as stand-out participants at the [New Jersey Youth Institute \(NJYI\)](#), which was hosted in March 2023 by SEBS. NJYI is an innovative model that engages high school students to pursue STEM career paths relating to agriculture and global food security. Rutgers hosts NJYI as a resource for tri-state high school students to develop skills in leading international research. The experience is also designed to motivate them to continue their journey in research-driven solutions by enrolling at SEBS.

Recent Honors

Beverly Tepper, professor in the Department of Food Science and director of the Sensory Evaluation Laboratory at Rutgers, has been identified as a force in the future of New Jersey wine by *Edible Jersey* and is one of [nine women featured in a recent article](#). Tepper, who became a vineyard owner and winemaker in 2016, is currently developing her vines and working to open a winery. New Jersey has no college or graduate level viticulture or oenology programs and to meet this need, Tepper, who described as [“The Tenacious Teacher” in the feature](#), was instrumental in launching a month-long summer [Grape and Wine Science Certificate program](#) through Rutgers. The program is now in its second year and Tepper hopes to develop it into a regular credit offering to students.

In Memoriam: Jim “Doc” Applegate, Professor of Wildlife Ecology

[Jim “Doc” Applegate passed away on October 28](#). He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1964 from Rutgers College of Agriculture, and went on to earn master’s and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University. Jim returned to Rutgers in 1971, joining the faculty at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, and remained a beloved part of the community until his retirement in 2003. Jim was a charter member of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee, serving for nearly 50 years. He received numerous awards over the course of a distinguished career in natural resource education matched only by his commitment to excellence in teaching. “Doc” influenced the careers of hundreds of wildlife students, many of whom have also gone on to be leaders in state and national conservation policy.

In the News

Brian Schilling, director of [Rutgers Cooperative Extension](#) and senior NJAES associate director, was quoted in an in-depth article, [Garden State’s \\$1.5B Agriculture Industry ‘Going Strong’ Thanks to Innovation](#), that first appeared in *NJBiz*. “Yes, we’re a big industrial state and big in financial services, but agriculture is a very important part of our economy and a very important part of our local economies,” said “It’s also an important part of our landscape, our quality of life and heritage. There are so many benefits of having a local agriculture in New Jersey.” Despite facing numerous challenges – from a tough regulatory environment to high costs of doing business – Schilling said the state’s farms are [“still going strong”](#) thanks to the industry’s efforts to constantly innovate.

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.