



# COASTAL HABITAT

## FACT ONE



Coastal habitat such as eelgrass meadows and salt marshes are vital for many local finfish and shellfish species.

## FACT TWO



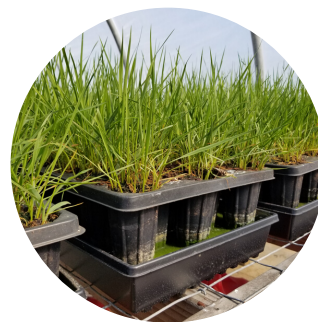
Coastal plants help buffer coastlines during storm activity and lessen storm impacts on coastal residents.

## FACT THREE



There has been an 85% loss of eelgrass on Long Island since 1930, but since 2015 CCE has planted more than 11,650 shoots via planting discs.

## FACT FOUR



Native marsh grass is cultivated using local seed in our greenhouse, and eelgrass used for restoration is carefully hand selected by divers.

For more information about Coastal Habitat:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County  
<http://ccesuffolk.org/marine/habitat>



## Background

Coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows are among the most biologically productive and diverse ecosystems in the world, comparable to tropical forests and coral reefs. Long Island's coastal habitats are vitally important to the people who live and visit here as well as the diverse array of species that depend on these habitats to thrive.

## Summary

CCE has been working to restore marine habitat on Long Island for more than 30 years. Through restoring native plant communities, we can **increase habitat** for local animal species while also **preventing erosion** and **reducing excess nutrients** that would otherwise cause harmful algal blooms.

## Status

To ensure that coastal habitat continues to support our fragile and invaluable marine life, CCE propagates and plants several native species to create living shorelines as a part of several restoration projects. These species include: **American beachgrass** (*Ammophila breviligulata*), **smooth cordgrass** (*Spartina alterniflora*) and **eelgrass** (*Zostera marina*).

## How You Can Help

Each year, opportunities for citizens to get involved in the restoration of our local coastal habitats are made available through public workshops at our stewardship sites.

Visit <http://ccesuffolk.org/marine/habitat> for more information, or follow the CCE Marine Program Facebook for event updates.

*Since 1930, there has been an 85% loss of eelgrass across Long Island. CCE Marine Program is working continuously to monitor, propagate and restore native plants, such as eelgrass, to our local coastal habitats.*








## Cornell Cooperative Extension | Marine Program



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