



# Press Release

## **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Marsha Samuel at  
732-872-1300 ext. 15 or email  
[msamuel@njmsc.org](mailto:msamuel@njmsc.org)

### **New Jersey Sea Grant Makes Waves in Rip Current Research**

(Sandy Hook, NJ)... New Jersey Sea Grant researchers are nearing completion of their studies to pinpoint how and where rip currents form. This research, combined with outreach efforts by the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program (NJSGEP), aims to ensure the safety of beachgoers at the Jersey Shore.

Dr. Josh Kohut, a New Jersey Sea Grant researcher and Assistant Professor of Physical Oceanography at Rutgers University, has partnered with Codar Ocean Sensors to develop and evaluate ocean measurements to improve rip current warnings along the coast. This effort will enhance the processing techniques used to measure offshore currents and bring them closer to the shore. The project is entering its final stages, which involves evaluation of the new products before they are implemented and made available through the web to New Jersey beachgoers, public safety officers, forecasters and other researchers.

“Rip current activity and severity are very hard to predict,” said Dr. Tom Herrington,

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Stevens Institute of Technology Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the Stevens-New Jersey Sea Grant Cooperative Extension. “Working with the National Weather Service, the NOAA IOOS Program and researchers at Rutgers University and Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey Sea Grant is investigating the use of ocean observing technologies to improve our ability to detect rip currents and issue timely warnings to the public.”

The New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program has also been working with municipalities up and down the New Jersey coast for the past four years to provide educational signage about rip currents to each beach municipality. To date, over 2,000 signs have been distributed to warn beachgoers not only about the dangers of rip currents, but also how to escape if caught in one.

The New Jersey Sea Grant College Program and its New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program are managed by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC), an affiliation of colleges, universities and public sector groups dedicated to advancing greater knowledge of New Jersey’s marine and coastal environment. NJMSC meets its mission through innovative research, education and outreach designed to address coastal sustainability and ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine technology, science-based management and science literacy. For more information about NJMSC and its activities, visit [njmsc.org](http://njmsc.org).

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