

From Citizen Science to a Connected Harbor: Studying a Network of Ecological Research in New York City

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During the past ten years, the Billion Oyster Project and others have used citizen science and restoration ecology to engage participants and educators in developing a closer connection to their marine environment. The main objective of our study is to better understand the links between citizen science and civic engagement in environmental policy and increased community connection to the New York Harbor by studying the motivations and experiences of citizen scientists involved in the Billion Oyster Project.

Specifically, we ask:

How do people currently view the NYC waterfront?

Does the Billion Oyster Project help to promote a deeper connection between NYC residents and the harbor?

What is the role of citizen science in fostering environmental stewardship and engagement in policy processes?