



Department of
Agriculture and Markets

STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION IN NEW YORK STATE

BETHANY BZDUCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NYS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

NYS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

- Created by the New York State legislature in 1993
- Financed primarily through a dedicated portion of real estate transfer taxes
- Annual appropriations have grown significantly since the Fund was created
- <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/fund>

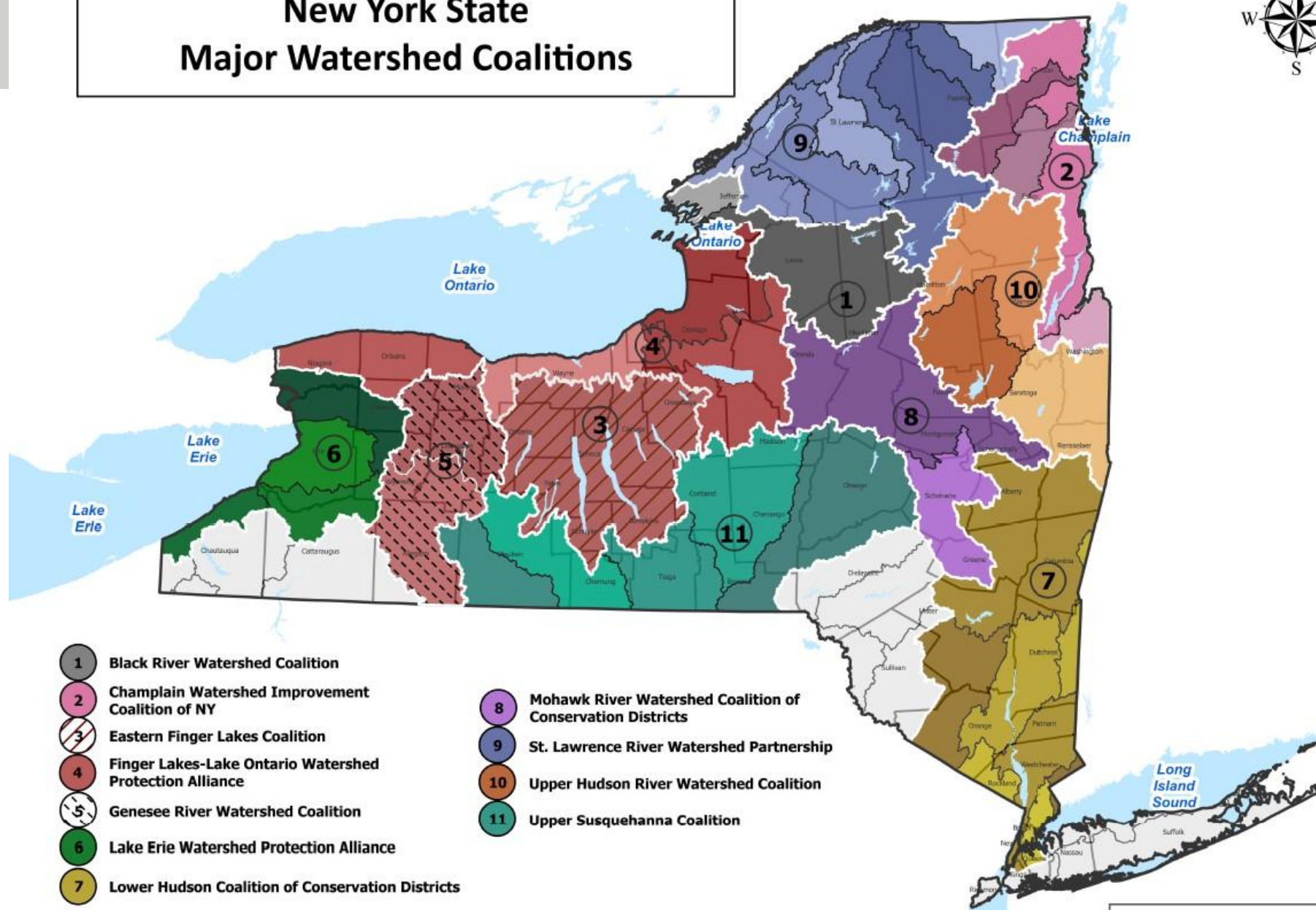


NYS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

- Several State agencies administer the funds
 - Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 - Empire State Development Corporation
 - Department of Agriculture and Markets
 - NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
 - Department of State



New York State Major Watershed Coalitions



0 15 30 60 90 120
Miles

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of Ag and Markets, and NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Established in 2018
 - Allowed for the sub-allocation of up to \$10,000,000 over 10 years
- Updated in 2025
 - Allows for the sub-allocation of up to \$50,000,000 over 10 years

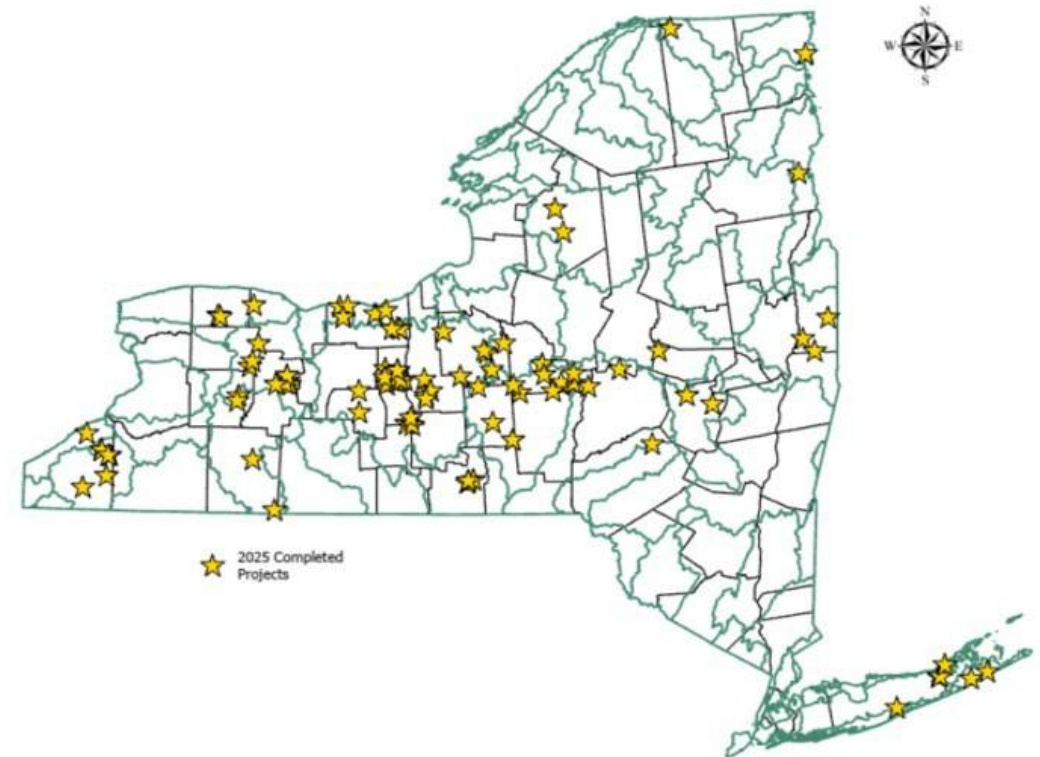
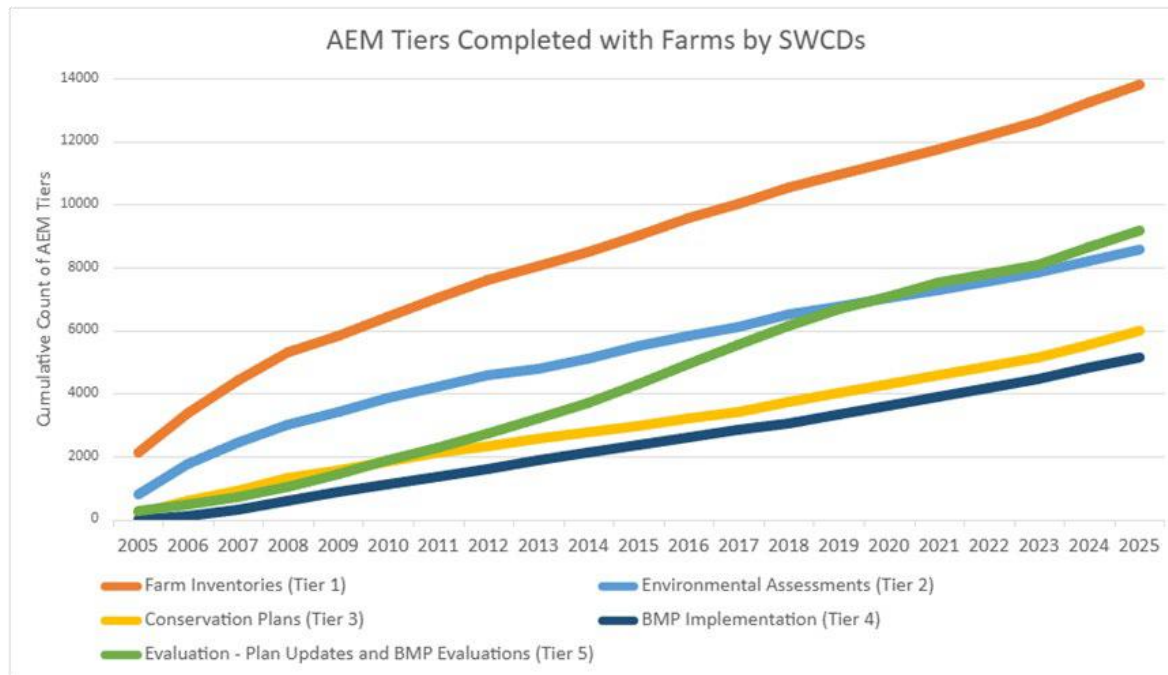
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- Promote comprehensive watershed approach program delivery
- Provide technical emphasis and assistance for nonpoint source and flood control at the local level
- Promote flexible performance and science-based standards
- Provide leadership for locally led conservation and multi-county coordination
- Promote new and existing partnerships for delivery of natural resource protection
- Provide compliance checks, compliant response, and problem resolution for regulatory programs



PILOTING NEW APPLICATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

- ArcGIS - Survey123
 - Direct data input
 - Expedited review and approval process
 - Enhanced data analysis capabilities





**Department of
Agriculture and Markets**
Soil and Water
Conservation Committee