



A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

The Long Island Sound Office
of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS: GRADUATE STUDENTS TO ASSIST LISS SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Stamford, CT, December 3, 2004 — The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) has announced today that two graduate students, one from Connecticut and one from New York, have received fellowships that will help them pursue Long Island Sound research.

The fellowships, which are provided by LISS through the cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant, are given out to students interested in careers in environmental science and management. It provides half-time stipends for masters or doctoral students working on Long Island Sound projects. In return, the fellows provide administrative and technical support to the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Long Island Sound Study.

“Besides the research they are pursuing for their graduate studies, the Fellows also investigate topics of concern for the STAC which will help us with our management plan to protect the Sound,” said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “For example, last year the Fellows’ reviewed new data on the concentrations and effects of toxic contaminants in Long Island Sound. The information will be used to update the list of contaminants that are of management concern for Long Island Sound.”

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The two Long Island Sound Study fellows are:

- **Yan Hao**, a doctoral candidate at the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook University in New York. Her dissertation is on **Lateral Structural of Residual Currents in Central Long Island Sound**. She is a physical oceanographer who received her master's of science degree at the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- **Azaela Mitch**, a master's of science degree candidate at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. Her graduate research is on the **Nutrient Effects on Tidal Marsh Below-Ground Decomposition and Sediment Carbon Storage**. She had previously worked as an environmental engineer at the city of San Francisco's largest sewage treatment plant, and while there, worked on several projects to improve estuarine water quality.

The Long Island Sound Study, part of the EPA's National Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort between the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York to restore and protect the Sound and its ecosystem. It involves researchers, regulators, user groups, and other concerned organizations and individuals. Connecticut Sea Grant, based at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, and New York Sea Grant, based at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, are part of the National Sea Grant program. Their mission is to foster the conservation and wise use of coastal and marine resources through research, outreach, and education.

The Science and Technical Advisory Committee assists the Long Island Sound Study in assessing research priorities for the Sound. It includes more than 25 researchers from academic institutions and federal, state, and local agencies in the Long Island Sound community.