

Sound Update



Message from the Director

To paraphrase Mark Twain, reports of the demise of cooperation between Connecticut and New York have been greatly exaggerated. At least as evidenced by two recent announcements.

The first was the June 24 announcement of a settlement between New York and Connecticut that will result in the re-activation and commercial operation of the Cross-Sound Cable and the replacement of an existing transmission cable that runs from Norwalk, CT to Northport on Long Island. In recent years the cable has been punctured by boat anchors, resulting in leaks of the coolant. In addition, the agreement creates a \$6 million fund for research and restoration projects to benefit Long Island Sound. The Long Island Power Authority, Cross-Sound Cable, LLC and Connecticut Light & Power will each contribute \$2 million to the fund, which will be administered jointly by the states of Connecticut and New York through the Long Island Sound Study.

The second big announcement came July 20, when bi-state, bi-partisan legislation, called the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation would authorize funding for protection of recreationally and ecologically important areas around the Sound. Funds could be used for open space protection, public access improvements, and management of natural areas. Representatives Rob Simmons (R-CT) and Steve Israel (D-Hauppauge), who are co-chairs of the House Long Island Sound Caucus, made the announcement at a press conference that was also attended by other Caucus members and by Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-

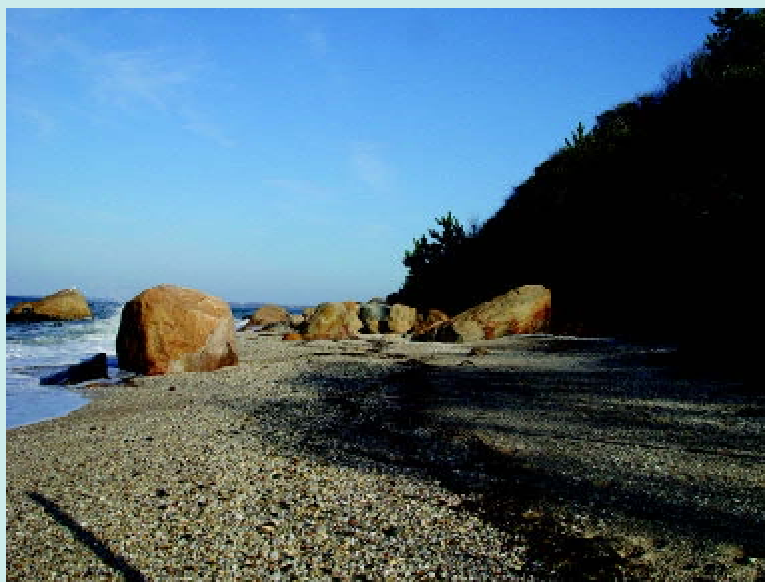


Photo by Kimberly Zimmer.

CT). During April, similar legislation had been introduced by the four U.S. Senators from Connecticut and New York. The legislation, if adopted, would give a big boost to Long Island Sound Study efforts to identify, protect, and enhance sites around the Sound that have ecological, educational, and recreational value. The bill also would reauthorize the Long Island Sound Restoration Act of 2000, scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal year 2005, for five more years. This bill authorizes funding for the Long Island Sound Study.

Are these turn of events evidence that the recent conflict between Long Island and Connecticut officials over the Cross Sound Cable and the designation of dredge material disposal sites is over? Hardly. Geography will continue to determine destiny, at least in molding and influencing public perceptions of the benefits and ecological risk of these actions. However, they are a reminder that protecting and restoring Long Island Sound isn't a Republican vs. Democrat or Connecticut vs. New York issue. The progress that has been made was possible because common interests have led to cooperative efforts, often performed routinely and without public notice. The two recent announcements provide a visible demonstration that the spirit of cooperation is alive and well. Let's hope that it continues.

Mark Tedesco

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Sound Update is published by the public outreach program to inform the public about issues pertaining to the Long Island Sound Study.

CAC Corner

By John Atkin

At its spring meeting, the Long Island Sound Study's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) completed its annual review of the 2003 Implementation Tracking Report. The report assesses progress in implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). After the review, the CAC determined priorities for the coming year and forwarded those recommendations to the Policy Committee of the Long Island Sound Study: EPA Regional Administrators Robert W. Varney and Jane M. Kenny, as well as the environmental commissioners from Connecticut and New York, Arthur J. Rocque, Jr. and Erin M. Crotty, respectively.

The five priority areas identified by the CAC are:

1. Implement the nitrogen reduction targets in the CCMP for the Long Island Sound Study program to meet the 15-year goals.
2. Influence management practices in Long Island Sound to enhance the ability of all living marine resources to thrive and reproduce.
3. Develop a Dredged Material Management Plan for Long Island Sound.
4. Support reauthorization of the Long Island Sound Restoration Act with the inclusion of a Long Island Sound Stewardship program, as well as authorization for the funding of projects to reduce nitrogen discharges and protect open space.
5. Expand the support and funding of educational efforts and for citizen science and water quality monitoring programs.

In the letter, the CAC emphasized that resources and support should be focused in specific policy areas. For example, a priority is for all Long Island Sound dischargers in New York to adopt Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-based permits with 15-year nitrogen reduction targets, and for Connecticut to implement its TMDL general permit program. The CAC also reiterated the need to establish a research agenda on living marine resources identifying key indicator species, as well as creating living marine resource plans for the health of the ecosystem. And in the area of dredging, the CAC specifically listed as a priority the identification of sources of sedimentation to harbors, the characterization of those sediments, and the development of alternative disposal strategies for short-term and long-term needs.

The CAC also requested a meeting of the Policy Committee for September, 2004 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the CCMP. This request was reiterated at the July 2004 LISS Management Committee meeting.

John Atkin is the Vice President and Connecticut Director for the Regional Plan Association, and is the Connecticut Co-Chair for the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Meeting Schedule

October 1, 2004 there will be a joint Citizens Advisory Committee and Science and Technical Advisory Committee meeting at the University of Connecticut Stamford Campus. The purpose of this meeting is to learn about the research that has been funded by the Long Island Sound Study. The goal of the meeting is to jointly identify priority research topics and issues for 2006.

For additional details on the meeting please call the office at (203) 977-1541 or visit the LISS website.

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The Long Island Sound Study is sponsored by the States of New York and Connecticut and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The LISS Management Committee consists of representatives from the USEPA, NYSDEC, NYSDOS, CTDEP, NYCDEP, USDOJ, Interstate Environmental Commission, NY and CT Sea Grant Programs, Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee co-chairs.

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Long Island Sound Study Stewardship System Draft Bill

By Al Caccese

Much has occurred since our last report on the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative. Eight public meetings were held around the Sound during February and March 2004 and more than 250 interested participants provided feedback on ways to better promote the Sound's coastal resources. Visit www.longislandsoundstudy.net for a full summary of the meetings.

Armed with this feedback, various members of the Long Island Sound Stewardship work group have met with, and provided comments to, the Congressional Long Island Sound Caucus, which has authored the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, that would, in its present form, authorize \$40 million annually for local projects to identify, protect, and enhance sites within the Long Island Sound ecosystem with important ecological, educational, or recreational value.

On July 20, 2004 a bi-state, bi-cameral and bi-partisan press conference was held on the steps of the Cannon House Office Building to announce the introduction of the measure in both the House and Senate. Members of Audubon New York and Audubon Connecticut spoke at the event on behalf of their organizations, along with other conservation groups, such as the Regional Plan Association and Save the Sound, Inc., who have long advocated for the protection of this nationally significant estuary.

Al Caccese is Director of Conservation and Government Relations for Audubon New York.



Stewardship System public meeting at Stony Brook University's Marine Science Research Center. Photo by Kimberly Zimmer.



Press Conference on the steps of the Cannon House Office Building. Photo by Brian Awsumb.



Celebrate National Estuaries Day Around The Sound

September 25, 2004 is National Estuaries Day, a celebration of the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them. Local communities across the country celebrate their estuaries with a variety of special events. A number of National Estuaries Day events have been funded through the Long Island Sound Small Grants Program.



2003 Kips Bays Boys and Girls Club at The Waterfront Center. Photo courtesy of The Waterfront Center.

The Waterfront Center Celebrates National Estuaries Day

In recognition of National Estuaries Day on Saturday, September 25, 2004, The Waterfront Center, in cooperation with the Kips Bays Boys and Girls Club and the Boys and Girls Club of Oyster Bay – East Norwich, will host an exciting day for children to learn about estuaries and how to protect them. The event will include numerous hands-on educational activities, such as identifying the various local marine habitats, collecting and identifying marine plants and animals using seine nets, microscopes, and field guides, as well as sailing, kayaking, and cleaning up the beach.

To make the National Estuaries Day celebration most meaningful, the organizers have created a five phase program that includes pre/post-trip visits and lessons conducted at Kips Bays Boys and Girls Club, the actual event/celebration, an activity where the children are asked to connect the lessons learned at the National Estuaries Day event in Oyster Bay to

something near their Boys and Girls club, and an implementation of a stewardship activity that the children have then created. In doing this, The Waterfront Center hopes to increase public awareness and understanding of the Long Island Sound and its importance to them, to motivate people to participate in the Long Island Sound's restoration, to utilize innovative activities that involve people and lead them to local action, and to demonstrate activities that can serve as a model elsewhere in the watershed of Long Island Sound. For more information call Amy Cross, The Waterfront Center education director, at (516)624-7900 x. 7, or visit the website:

www.thewaterfrontcenter.org.

Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee Celebrates National Estuaries Day with “It’s your Doody” Campaign

On September 18th, as part of National Estuaries Day, the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee will kick off its “My Pet Protects Hempstead Harbor” campaign. The campaign will not only educate the public about the damage pet waste can do to the harbor but provide the means for them to do something about it.

A key element will be the installation of “Dogipot” Pet Waste Disposal Stations in key locations around the harbor, each consisting of a dog waste bag dispenser and an educational sign attached to a single pole. This will serve as a pilot program for possible expansion by the nine municipalities that participate on the Committee.

With several trails, parks, beaches, and sidewalks near the shore, there is an easy path for bacteria and viruses from pet waste to enter the harbor. The pet stations and other materials will help ensure that residents do the right thing. The campaign’s slogan is “Protect Hempstead Harbor - It’s Your Doody!” For more information contact Eric Swenson, Executive Director for the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee at (516) 677-5790,

Celebrate National Estuaries Day on the Branford River

The Branford River Project is preparing both a display and an accompanying brochure that will highlight the Branford River’s beneficial role as an estuary to Long Island Sound. This display and brochure will be featured at the Branford River Project’s seventh annual River Celebration Day, which traditionally includes a non-motorized boat parade down the river, lots of children’s activities, educational displays from a variety of regional environmental groups, as well as wonderful music and delicious food. This year’s celebration will take place on National Estuaries Day, September 25th, at Branford Point. For further information, call Maria Storm at (203) 481-5765.

**Protect
Hempstead Harbor**



It’s Your Doody



2003 Branford River Celebration. Photo by Bob Peron.

2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

The 2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration will be held [September 12-15, 2004](#) in Seattle Washington. The conference will address restoration challenges and success around the country. Visit www.estuaries.org for more information.

4th LIS Lobster Health Symposium

The fourth and final Long Island Sound Lobster Health Symposium will be held on [October 4, 2004](#) in the Student Activity Center at Stony Brook University.

Researchers will summarize the findings of the extensive research effort initiated in 2001 to investigate the possible causes of the 1999 lobster mortality event in western Long Island Sound and the increase in incidence of shell disease among lobsters in eastern Long Island Sound. There is no registration fee but registration is required for planning purposes. For more information, call Antoinette Clemetson, New York Sea Grant, at (631)727-3910 or e-mail her at aoc5@cornell.edu.

Long Island Sound in Transition

The seventh Biennial Long Island Sound Research Conference will be held at the Student Activities Center at Stony Brook University on [November 4 and 5, 2004](#). The conference will bring together individuals with an interest in the scientific investigation of Long Island Sound and its watersheds. Conference topics are aquaculture/lobsters, climate issues, ecological boundaries, estuarine policy, invasive species, Long Island Sound as an educational lab, and reserves and wetlands dynamics. Oral sessions will be developed around topics presented in selected abstracts. A poster session will also be an integral part of the conference. Registration forms will be available in September. Initiating sponsors of the conference are the Connecticut Sea Grant, the Long Island Sound Foundation, and New York Sea Grant. For further information call Susan McNamara at (860)405-9166 or e-mail her at mscadm05@uconnvm.uconn.edu.

Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance Conference

The 14th annual Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance Citizens Summit will be held on [November 13, 2004](#) at the New York Botanical Garden. This year's summit is titled *Ocean Zoning in Long Island Sound: an exploration of the concept and effectiveness of ocean zoning as a tool for integrated management of marine resources and activities in Long Island Sound*. The keynote speaker (invited) is Richard Ellis, author of a number of books including *The Empty Ocean*, the story of our continuing plunder of the resources of the sea and its chances for recovery. Other speakers will discuss what we already know about the underwater areas of the Sound and successful programs in other areas. The day will conclude with a panel discussion on how ocean zoning might be applied to Long Island Sound. For more information on the conference please call Robin Kriesberg of Save the Sound at 1-888-SAVELIS or by email at rkriesberg@savethesound.org.



Photo by Kimberly Zimmer.

Long Island Sound Study Fellows Update Contaminants of Concern

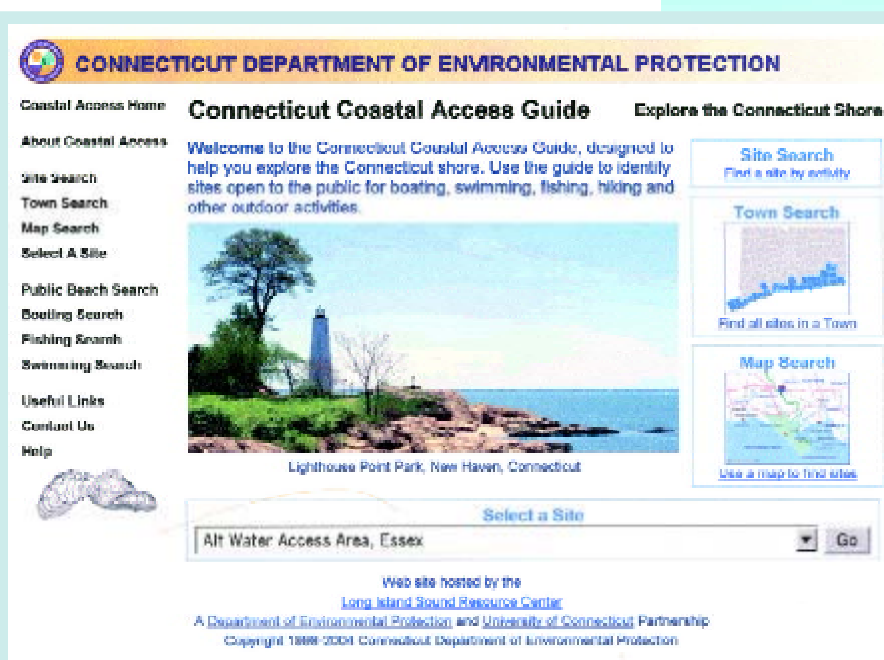
The 2003/2004 Long Island Sound Fellows are Travis Baggett, a student at Stony Brook University, and Alison Branco, a student at the University of Connecticut. In addition to attending and compiling minutes for the Long Island Sound Study's Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings, this year the fellows are working on an update to the Long Island Sound *Contaminants of Concern* list. Travis and Alison are surveying the peer reviewed literature and government documents for information regarding contaminants present in Long Island Sound. Travis is focusing on contamination from metals such as mercury and lead while Alison is focusing on organic contaminants like pesticides and PCB's. The fellows will produce a report summarizing recent measurements of contaminants in Long Island Sound's water, sediment, and living organisms as well as information about the levels of these contaminants that cause significant effects to the environment and living organisms, including people. This report will help the management committee determine whether or not changes to the current contaminants of concern list are needed.

Alison Branco is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of Connecticut. Alison's thesis research focuses on the effects of colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) on light availability in Long Island Sound's shallow embayments.

Travis Baggett is working to receive a M.S. degree in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook. Upon completion of his thesis he will have created a time series of heat and momentum fluxes that can be used to determine if the annual cycle of water temperature of the Sound has changed over the last 50 years.

Plan Your Trip to the Coast with Connecticut Coastal Access Guide Online

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to announce the release of its new Connecticut Coastal Access Guide web site. The web site can be accessed directly at www.dep.state.ct.us/coastalaccess.



This new internet version of the popular 2001 Connecticut Coastal Access Guide map provides detailed descriptions of 285 sites where the public is welcome to fish, boat, swim, observe wildlife, or otherwise enjoy Connecticut's coastal shoreline. Use this first-of-its-kind DEP interactive mapping web site to explore the Connecticut shore. Comments on the content and design of the web site (including your contribution of coastal access site photos) are welcome to help maintain this comprehensive source for coastal access in Connecticut. Please e-mail Susan Fox of the Office of Long Island Sound Programs at susan.fox@po.state.ct.us with your contributions.

International Coastal Cleanup September 18, 2004

The top ten items most frequently found during the 2003 International Coastal Cleanup:

1. cigarettes/cigarette filters
2. food wrappers/containers
3. caps/lids
4. beverage bottles (plastic 2 liter or less)
5. bags
6. beverage bottles (glass)
7. cups, plates, forks, knives, and spoons
8. beverage cans
9. straws/stirrers
10. tobacco packaging/wrappers

Come join hundreds of thousands of volunteers for the 19th Annual International Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers of the cleanup record information about the trash they collect on data cards which are compiled and analyzed by the Ocean Conservancy in Washington D.C. The data is used to identify trends of marine debris, and how to eliminate it at the source. For a list of cleanup dates and locations in Connecticut contact Save the Sound at 1-888-SAVE-LIS or visit the website at www.savethesound.org. For cleanup dates and locations in New York contact the American Littoral Society at (718)471-2166 or visit the website at www.alsnyc.org.

The 2003 cleanup resulted in 2,632 New York volunteers removing 107,903 pounds of debris from 56 sites. In Connecticut, 735 volunteers removed 4,046 pounds from 39 miles of the coast.

*2003 Beach Cleanup in
Wading River, NY.
Photo courtesy of American
Littoral Society.*



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