Reducing Floatable Debris in the Sound

Litter, debris, and trash floating in LIS coastal waters and washing up on LIS shorelines is unsightly and can be a nuisance to, or hazard for boaters, beach-goers, bathers, fishermen, and other recreational or commercial LIS users. Floatable debris can harm wildlife and living marine resources.

OVERALL CCMP STRATEGY:

Floatable debris contributes to unsightly, unsanitary, or unhealthy beach and shoreline conditions, and can adversely affect environmental quality and the health of living marine resources, water-dependent birds, and other aquatic life. This type of pollution can reduce the market value of shoreline property, affecting the regional economy, and can also adversely affect public perception of the health of the Sound. This CCMP priority area identifies two principal management actions: 1) controlling floatable debris from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and storm sewers; and 2) increasing floatable debris cleanup efforts.

LIS 2003 AGREEMENT GOAL:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS/RESULTS/TRENDS:

Ongoing programs to control sources of debris to the Sound include regional/statewide anti-litter campaigns, beach cleanup and adopt-a-spot programs, state and municipal Clean Marinas and Clean Vessel Act activities, street sweeping, refuse pick-up and recycling programs, solid waste facility management practices, public awareness campaigns, and enforcement of local ordinances. EPA has instituted a new Trash Free Waters Program in 2015.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS:

[ROB, MARK P and/or CASSIE, PLEASE UPDATE THESE NUMBERS FOR 2015; ROB IS WORKING ON UPDATING THIS CB]] As a result of International Beach Clean Up Day in September 20xx, volunteers from Connecticut and New York removed thousands of pounds of debris from many LIS beaches and recreational sites. In New York, 2,641 volunteers removed more than 36,000 pounds of debris from 68 sites and more than 83 miles of shoreline. In Connecticut, more than 2,100 volunteers collected 13,500 pounds of debris on 52 miles of shoreline at 51 sites.

- In 2009 twelve more marinas were certified as Connecticut Clean Marinas bringing the total to 27 as of December 2009. As of the close of 2009, another twenty-two marinas were pledged to become a certified "Clean Marina" within one year.
- [updated for 2015 CB] NY has renewed the SPDES General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) as GP-0-15-003, effective May 1, 2015. This permit requires MS4 communities to implement six minimum control measures designed to reduce the pollutant loading. Floatables is one of the pollutants of concern addressed by the MS4 program by implementation of good housekeeping and maintenance. This program is implemented by more than 30 regulated MS4s that discharge to Long Island Sound.

SUMMARY OF CCMP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

REDUCING FLOATABLE DEBRIS IN THE SOUND

F-1. Controlling Floatable Debris From CSOS and Stormwater Sewers (CCMP Table 38, P. 96)

Key Elements: Ongoing programs conducted by state and municipal governments to reduce floatable debris and long-term CSO abatement and NPDES stormwater permitting programs are key to controlling debris.

	2015 Description	2016 Planned Action
1	New York City continues to implement actions for reducing floatables in its harbor waters and neighboring water bodies, including Western Long Island Sound. The NYC DEP has installed booms or floating barriers at 24 locations to capture floatables discharged from combined sewers, which handle sanitary and storm water. NYC DEP skimmer vessels are used to remove floatable debris from boomed sites. The Long Island Sound sites are: Bowery Bay, Bronx River, Clason Point, Cryder's Lane, Flushing Bay (CS1), Flushing Bay (CS2), Flushing Creek 1, Flushing Creek 2, and Hunts Point.	
2	NY has renewed the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) as GP-0-15-003. GP-0-15-003 became effective on May 1, 2015 and replaced GP-0-10-002, which expired on April 30th, 2015. This permit requires MS4 communities to implement six minimum control measures designed to reduce the volume of stormwater from their systems as well as reducing pollutant load for pollutants such as floatables and sediment. For TMDL waters, there are additional provisions MS4s must comply with to reduce the load from the MS4 for the specific pollutant for which the TMDL was developed. NY has also implemented a General Construction Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, GP-0-15-002.	
3	The Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) completed the CSO sewer separation project for the Lombard area. The Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority is continuing to implement its approved Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan for the containment of a 2-year frequency storm. Recently completed projects include the following: construction of a 5.5 million gallon CSO storage tank on Ella Grasso Boulevard (Truman School Tank). Future projects include: • treatment plant upgrade to remove nitrogen and to expand the hydraulic capacity for treatment of higher CSO flows	Ongoing projects include: • Reconstruction of the tide gates to prevent LIS from entering the sanitary sewer collection system • sewer separation projects in the area of Yale University • infiltration and inflow removal projects in Hamden and East Haven which will result in lower flows into the combined sewer system in New Haven
4	Combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects are being undertaken to separate storm and sanitary flows from combined sewers to minimize the number and volume of overflows in Connecticut. The following projects are eligible for maximum grants of 50% with the remainder being covered by 20-year loans at 2% per year: • Bridgeport is continuing separation work in the southern part of the city. This work will enable the City to reduce CSOs to the Pequonnock River. Bridgeport CSO $14,000,000 Bridgeport CSO design $5,175,900 • The Greater New Haven WPCA is working to separate sewers in the vicinity of Yale	Continue work on projects in out-years.

	2015 Description	2016 Planned Action
	University. This project will reduce the frequency and volume of downstream CSOs. GNHWPCA CSO Construction $19,200,000 GNHWPCA CSO Design $3,000,000 • This Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) separation effort is in the north end of Hartford. The project will reduce the frequency and volume of CSO discharges to Gully Brook. MDC CSO Construction $60,000,000 MDC CSO Design $6,000,000 • Middletown is proposing to separate sewers in the Old Mill Road area. This will reduce excessive flows to the WPCF thereby minimizing bypasses. Middletown CSO Construction $2,000,000 • The City of Norwalk is proposing the first in a two phase project to upgrade their existing WPCF to remove more nitrogen and to treat all combined sewage flows at the WPCF. This first phase will enable the WPCF to better handle the debris, grit and high flows coming into the facility. Portions of this proposed project are eligible for maximum grants of 50% with some portions at a maximum 20% grant. The remaining costs are eligible for a twenty year loan at 2% per annum. Norwalk WPCF Denitrification/CSO $40,000,000.	

F-2. Increasing Floatable Debris Cleanup Efforts (CCMP Table 39, P. 99)

Key Elements: Anti-litter educational campaigns, annual beach clean-ups, litter control demonstration projects and storm drain stenciling programs are part of effective debris prevention and control programs.

	2015 Description	2016 Planned Action
1	[ROBERT UPDATE FOR 2015] National Beach Clean Up Day in September 2014 resulted in thousands of volunteers from New York and Connecticut picking up thousands of pounds of debris at many beaches and recreation area sites on LIS. The results are reported on the LISS website: http://longislandsoundstudy.net/indicator/beach-debris-collected/ In 2014 388 pounds of debris were collected per mile of Long Island Sound beach.	Save the Sound, Inc., in cooperation with the CT Sea Grant program and the American Littoral Society in New York will promote National Clean Up Day in September 2015.
2	Proper control of debris and refuse is a component of the Connecticut Clean Marina program. Proper containers and recycling programs are required for corrugated cardboard, glass and metal food and beverage containers, leaves, newspaper, white office paper, scrap metal, waste oil, spent lead acid storage batteries, nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries. Other refuse must be disposed in covered dumpsters or other suitable containers. In 2009 twelve more marinas were certified as Connecticut Clean Marinas bringing the total to 27 as of December 2009. As of the close of 2009, another twenty-two (22) marinas were pledged to become a certified "Clean Marina" within one year.	Additional marinas will pledge to become certified Clean Marinas and additional certifications will occur.
3	Connecticut's Clean Boater Program encourages boaters to learn about and use clean boating techniques. The Clean Boaters pledge is: I pledge to be a Clean Boater and to make the sound choice to keep Connecticut's waterways clean. I pledge to keep fuel, sewage, plastics, trash, spent fishing line, and invasive species out of the water, to clean my boat responsibly, and to dispose of all wastes properly. Seasonal	Seasonal "boating education assistants" will visit marinas and boat launches in Summer 2010 to answer questions, distribute Clean Boater Packets, and encourage boaters to sign the Clean Boaters Pledge.

	2015 Description	2016 Planned Action
	"boating education assistants" visited marinas and boat launches in Summer 2009 to answer questions, distribute Clean Boater Packets and encouraged boaters to sign the Clean Boaters Pledge.	
4	NYC continued its annual “Clean Streets = Clean Beaches” campaign. Each year since the early 1990s, the program has aimed to reduce littering through public information campaigns and beach clean-up programs.	continue the program
5	The town of Huntington continued their annual “Keep Huntington Beautiful” campaign, which organizes volunteers to clean Crab Meadow Beach in Northport and Gold Star Battalion Beach in Huntington. The town also sponsors a "Clean Beaches Day," which was held on June 6th, 2015.	
6	In 2012, CTDEEP continued to support beach clean up efforts at State and private beaches. In Connecticut, Save the Sound was provided support to manage the annual coastal cleanup and other events that engaged 2,450 volunteers and removed more than 16,310 pounds of debris on more than 57 miles of shoreline at 57 sites. See the Atlantic chapter of the ALS website for more information on beach cleanups: http://www.alsnyc.org. See CFE /STS) website for more information about beach cleanups http://ctenvironment.org/beach-cleanups.cfm Beach clean ups were conducted before Superstorm Sandy hit.	It is anticipated more debris from storm Sandy will continue to be cleaned off CT beaches in 2013.
7	The Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc. mobilizied 100 volunteers in the Connecticut River's coastal estuary to remove 3,000 lbs. of garbage from shorelines in CT. The project was funded through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund small grants and awarded $4,485 from EPA, which was matched by $5,220 in non-federal contributions.	
8	In 2015, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund supported three projects to increase coastal cleanups: 1) The American Littoral Society organized the 2015 International Beach Cleanup at sites affecting the Long Island Sound along 80 miles of shoreline in Queens, Suffolk, Nassau and Bronx Counties, New York. 2) The Bronx River Alliance will conduct a project (including canoe trips, boom cleanups, and a beach cleanup) to address the issue of floatable pollution entering the Bronx River and Long Island Sound, Bronx County, NY. 3) Group for the East End will develop a program that blends coastal cleanups, education, and artwork to inform the public about the negative impact of plastics on marine life on Long Island Sound in the Town of Southold, New York.	