The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:
Accelerating Restoration and Protection of the Long Island Sound

CT DEEP

CT DEEP winter seasonal staff conducting sampling on board the RV *John Dempsey,* which will be getting a companion vessel to increase the amount of research that can be conducted.

What is BIL?

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (or BIL), passed by Congress in 2021, authorizes funding to improve infrastructure and climate resiliency throughout the United States. Under the legislation, the Long Island Sound Study will receive $21.2 million per year over the next five years (2022 – 2026) to fund local BIL initiatives to improve the environmental health, climate resiliency, and economic vitality of the Sound in an equitable manner.

Several of the BIL-funded projects will be supporting the Justice40 Initiative, a federal program to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to underserved and overburdened communities.

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) brings agencies, commissions, universities, citizens, and environmental, industry, and user groups together to improve the health of Long Island Sound. To learn more about the BIL projects, visit the fact sheet series at: *LISStudy.net/BIL*

2022 Projects
Clean Waters

NYS Long Island Sound Watershed Septic System Replacement

Project Organizer: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

Grant amount: $2,250,000

NYSDEC will expand an existing program to provide financial assistance to homeowners across Suffolk and Nassau Counties to upgrade old septic systems. Updated septic systems can reduce the amount of nitrogen in the effluent by half, which will reduce nitrogen concentrations in groundwater and ultimately nitrogen pollution to Long Island Sound.

Jim Ammerman

Purchase of New Vessel to Supplement Use of RV *John Dempsey* to Enhance the Future of the Long Island Sound Monitoring Program

Project Organizer: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Grant amount: $1,533,284

CT DEEP will acquire a new research vessel to use alongside the RV *John Dempsey.* The vessel will collect data for the monthly water quality survey and will improve the efficiency and capacity to conduct research in Long Island Sound.

Lloyd Langevin

NYS Water Quality Improvement Projects

Project Organizer: NYSDEC

Grant amount: $2,250,000

NYSDEC will expand its competitive grant program to fund projects that help improve the water quality of the Long Island Sound. Examples of past projects have included aquatic connectivity restoration, wastewater treatment upgrades, and runoff control.

NYSDEC

2022 Projects
Healthy Ecosystems

Fish Passage Restoration on the Pequabuck River— Middle Street Pond Dam Removal

Project Organizer: CT DEEP

Grant amount: $1,600,000

CT DEEP will help to remove a defunct dam from the Pequabuck River located in Bristol, CT, restoring 8.5 miles of free-flowing river for fish passage and removing contaminated sediment that has accumulated behind the dam.

CT DEEP

Strong Pond Dam Removal

Project Organizer: CT DEEP

Grant amount: $250,000

CT DEEP and partners will remove a defunct dam from the Norwalk River located in Wilton, CT, reopening nearly 10 miles of river for fish passage. Vital ecosystems and historic spawning grounds will be restored during the process.

CT DEEP

Support for Stewardship Land Acquisition

Project Organizer: NYSDEC

Grant amount: $2,909,800

NYSDEC will acquire three new properties within the Long Island Sound watershed, expanding existing habitat conservation areas. Conserving these properties will improve coastal water quality and preserve habitat for wildlife.

Save the Sound

Living Shorelines Implementation for Identified and Emergent Sites

Project Organizer: CT DEEP

Grant amount: $1,300,000

CT DEEP will provide funding to select, design, and construct one or more living shorelines to protect areas vulnerable to flooding and erosion. The project will help enhance coastal resilience and provide sustainable habitat for wildlife.
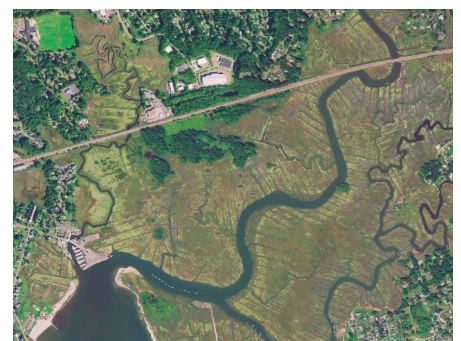

Amy Mandelbaum

LiDAR and Multi-spectral Imaging for Baseline Saltmarsh Monitoring

Project Organizer: CT DEEP

Grant amount: $1,800,000

CT DEEP will lead a project to accurately map coastal saltmarsh habitats with the use of LiDAR and spectral imaging. Collection of this information will benefit future monitoring efforts and allow scientists to refine their research based on the new data.

Connecticut ECO website

2022 Projects
Strong Communities

Nitrogen Reduction Infrastructure Upgrades
Project Organizer: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

Grant amount: $4,500,000

MassDEP will provide financial assistance to the city of Chicopee to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. The facility, located on the Connecticut River, will achieve advanced nitrogen removal levels, reducing nitrogen pollution flowing from the river to Long Island Sound.

Quinn Lonczak

Long Island Sound Community Impact Program
Project Organizer: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Grant amount: $3,000,000 (with plans to add funding in future years)

EPA will select an organization to provide technical and financial assistance to underserved and overburdened communities. The Community Impact Fund will annually fund projects that address environmental challenges and create new opportunities in these communities.
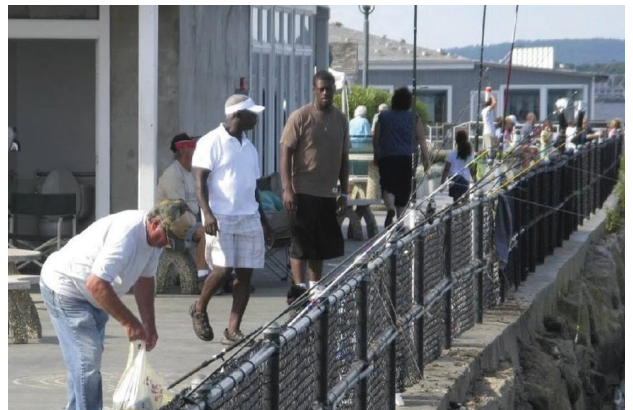

New Haven Urban Resources Institute

Environmental Justice and Underserved Community Support—Addressing Language Barriers with Coastal Anglers
Project Organizer: CT DEEP

Grant amount: $62,632

CT DEEP will address data gaps in Connecticut's annual angler survey caused by language barriers between anglers and surveyors. Two seasonal staff will make the survey accessible to non-English speakers.

Judy Preston

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