



March 20, 2025 Meeting

[Policy Committee - Long Island Sound Study](#)

Mark Sanborn,
Regional Administrator
EPA R1

Michael Martucci,
Regional Administrator
EPA R2

Katie Dykes,
Commissioner
CT DEEP

Amanda Lefton,
Acting Commissioner
NYSDEC

Introduction: Regional Administrator Mike Martucci called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 pm. He provided opening remarks for the Long Island Sound Partnership's first Policy Committee meeting under the new program name. He commended the Partnership's accomplishments in reducing nitrogen pollution to the Sound, reducing the hypoxic area by half, restoring coastal habitat, and reconnecting miles of rivers and streams. He acknowledged the Partnership's new initiatives to greatly expand technical and financial assistance to communities to increase resiliency and public education and engagement. He shared that the draft final Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) has the full support of EPA at the regional and Headquarters level and shared his goal is to see the plan approved so the Partnership can focus on implementing the plan. He then invited all the meeting participants to introduce themselves.

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan: plan, products, and release

- Mark Tedesco: Provided an overview of the importance of the CCMP.
- Nicole Tachiki: Presented a slide deck (attached), highlighting the Long Island Sound Partnership enabling and authorizing sections of the Clean Water Act and acknowledged that the draft final 2025 CCMP is grounded in these sections. She provided a recap of the CCMP development process that was initiated in Fall 2023 and spanned over the past 18 months. She provided a high-level overview of the CCMP content, organizational structure, expansion of the study area, new program name, and CCMP approval process.
- Commissioner Katie Dykes: Expressed her support of the plan and recognized the contributions of CT DEEP staff throughout the entire CCMP development process.
- Acting Commissioner Amanda Lefton expressed her disappointment that the plan does not address climate change but otherwise fully supports the plans goals, objectives, and actions.
- Deputy Commissioner Katie Petronius recognized the contributions of NYSDEC staff throughout the whole CCMP development process. She applauded the brevity of the report, direct linkages between goals, objectives, and actions, environmental targets, and overall consistency throughout the report recognizing the large number of contributors to the plan. She commended the actionable goals of the plan.
- Acting Regional Administrator Karen McGuire: Shared her support of the plan and recognized the contributions of all the organizations and partners that helped develop the plan.

Policy Committee discussion of CCMP release event and program 40th anniversary commemoration

- Each Policy Committee member shared support for the CCMP Public Signing and 40th Anniversary Event scheduled for June 20 and stated their interest in participating.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm

Attendees:

Erik Bedan, CT DEEP
Christopher Bellucci, CT DEEP
Katie Dykes, CT DEEP
Amanda Lefton, NYSDEC
Katharine Petronius, NYSDEC
Regina Lyons, EPA R1
Karen McGuire, EPA R1
Kenneth Moraff, EPA R1
Leah O'Neill, EPA R1
Michael Martucci, EPA R2
Robert Nyman, EPA R2
Javier Laureano Perez, EPA R2
James Song, EPA R2
Graham Stevens, CT DEEP
Nicole Tachiki, EPA R2
Mark Tedesco, EPA R2
Brian Thompson, CT DEEP

The Policy Committee members of the Long Island Sound Partnership attest to the approval of the 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Mark Sanborn
Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 1

Date

Michael Martucci
Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 2

Date

Katie Dykes
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Date

Amanda Lefton
Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date



Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Long Island Sound 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Policy Committee Meeting

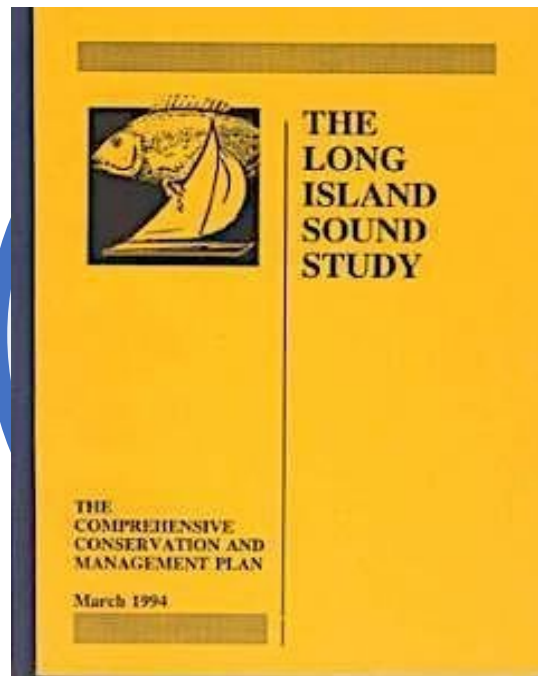
March 20, 2025

The Plan

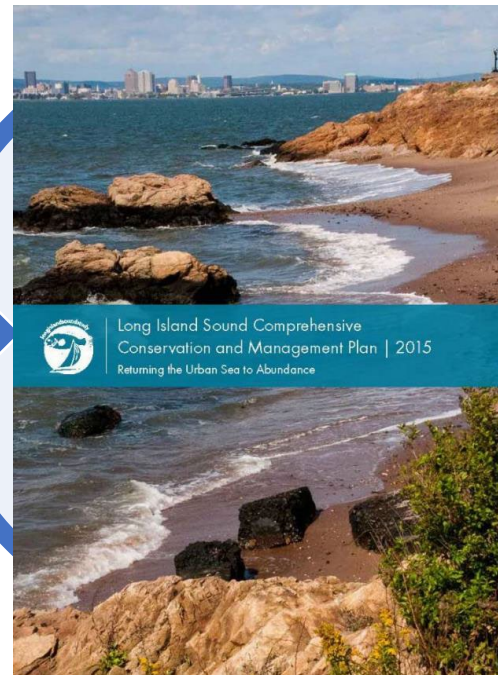


Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

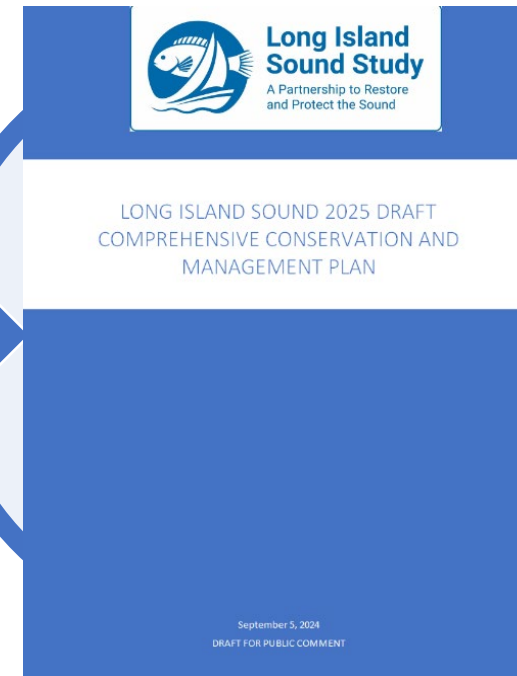
1994 Management Plan



2015 Revision



2025 Revision





CWA §119 (33 U.S.C. 1269) - Long Island Sound Restoration Act

Reauthorization, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 Public Law No: 115-270
Authorized \$40M annually thru FY2023

CWA §119 (33 U.S.C. 1269) - Long Island Sound Stewardship Act

Reauthorization, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 Public Law No: 115-270
Authorized \$25M annually thru FY2023

CWA §320 - National Estuary Program (NEP)

Authorized \$50M annually thru FY2026 for 28 NEPs

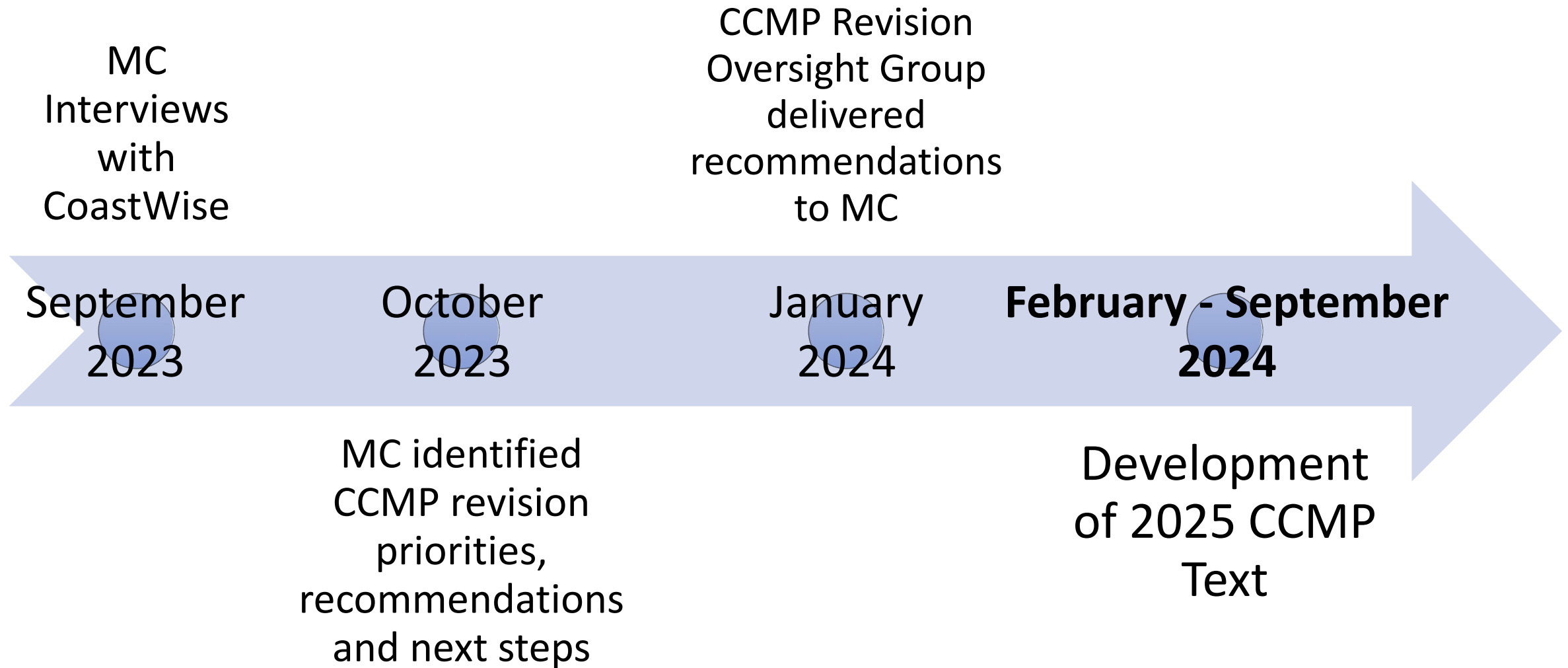
Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act

Public Law No. 116-337 (1/13/2021) amended CWA §320

Timeline Recap



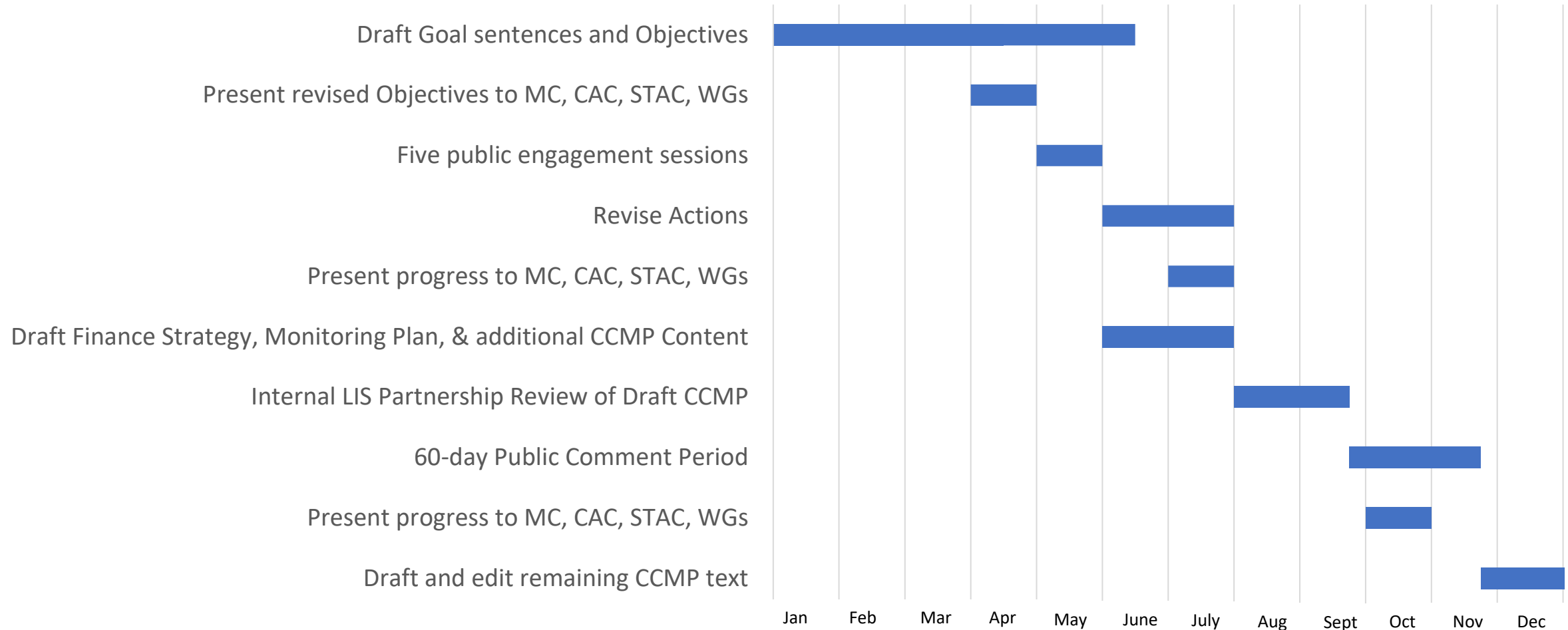
Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



CCMP Revision – Process and 2024 Schedule



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Vision Statement: Long Island Sound and its watershed have clean waters, healthy habitats, thriving wildlife, resilient coasts, and an engaged public.

Mission Statement: The Long Island Sound Partnership leads a collective effort to restore and care for the Sound and its watershed.

Values: Actionable Science, Adaptive Management, Respect and Trust



Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Vision, Mission, Values, Goals

Goal 1: Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Objectives and Actions

Goal 2: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Objectives and Actions

Goal 3: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives and Actions

Goal 4: Informed and Engaged Public

Objectives and Actions

Section 3: Monitoring Plan

Section 4: Funding Strategy

References

Glossary

Acronyms

Appendix A: Report to Congress – Progress Made Implementing the 2015 CCMP

Appendix B: Objective and Action Technical Explanations

Appendix C: Crosscutting Connections between Actions and Objectives

Appendix D: Climate Vulnerabilities

Four overarching goals:

Clean Waters and
Healthy Watersheds

Thriving Habitats and
Abundant Wildlife

Sustainable and
Resilient Communities

Informed and
Engaged Public

Objectives:

- Nutrients
- Watershed Health
- Pathogens
- Toxic Contaminants
- Marine Debris

Objectives:

- Coastal Habitat
- Offshore Habitat
- Habitat Connectivity
- Conserved Open Space

Objectives:

- Informed Decision-Makers
- Community-Driven Resilience Planning
- Resilience Initiative Implementation

Objectives:

- Public Access and Sense of Belonging
- Education and Environmental Literacy
- Fostering Stewardship and Sustainable Behaviors

Goal: Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds (CWHW)

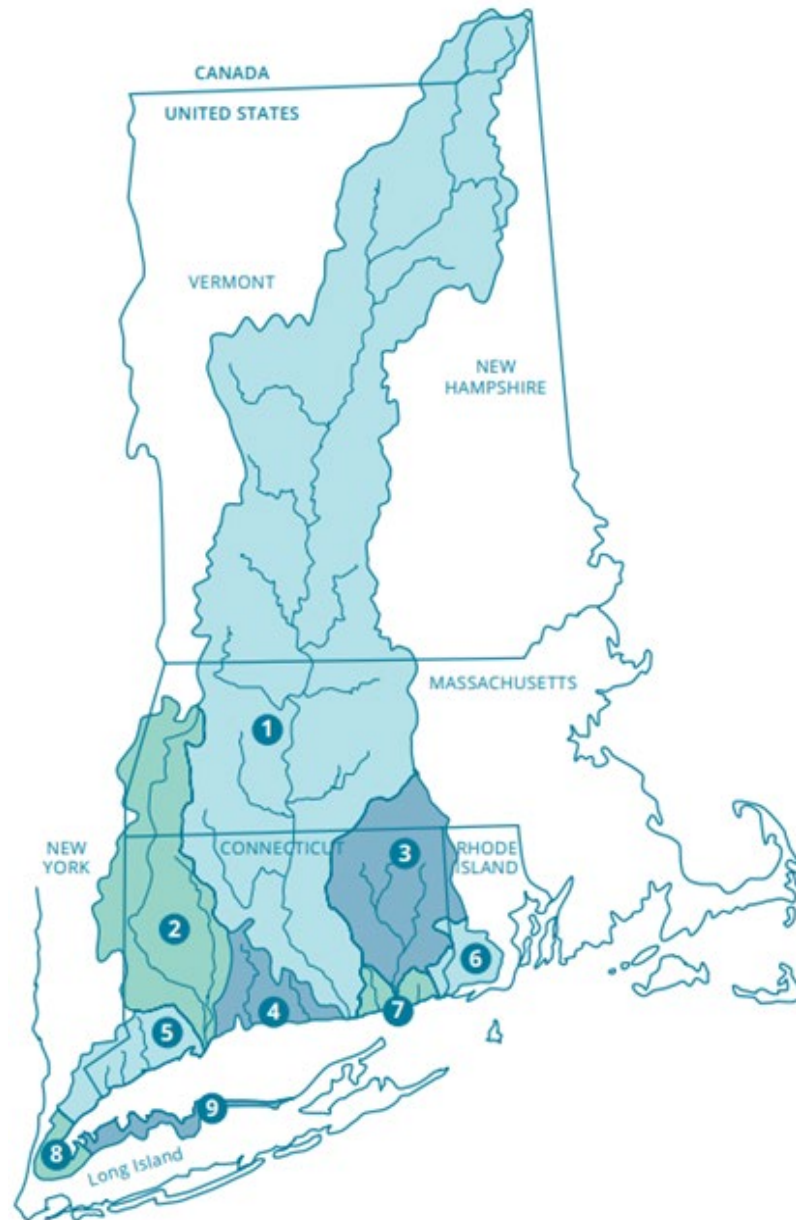
Watershed Health Objective: Improve the ecosystem health of Long Island Sound and its watershed through protection and positive land use practices.

Primary Measure of Success: Establish and maintain a 100-foot or wider riparian buffer across 75 percent of the waterways and in 90 percent of the subbasins, and to achieve and maintain the permanent protection of 35 percent of the Long Island Sound watershed by 2035. Impervious cover and changes in forest cover can provide indicators of progress in meeting the overall objective.

Actions: CWHW 2-1, CWHW 2-2



- **Objectives with measures of success in SMART Framework**
 - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
 - Aspirational outcomes to be achieved by 2035 (or otherwise stated)
- **Actions to achieve Objectives**
 - Broad, strategic activities to be taken in the next five years (2025-2029) to help achieve an objective (10-year horizon)
- **Integration of resilience to extreme weather events**
 - Consistent with PRAE Act requirements, language refers to extreme weather events and a changing climate. Considered in goal introductions, Appendix D: Climate Vulnerabilities, and Technical Explanations of Actions.



- **Greater emphasis on a watershed scale inclusive of upper watershed states**
- Expansion of study area to the full Long Island Sound watershed

Long Island Sound Partnership (The Partnership)



LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP





- Management Committee approved CCMP text: January 16, 2025
- Executive Steering Committee endorsed EPA proposed modifications to CCMP: February 10, 2025
- EPA R2 RA Briefing: February 11, 2025
- EPA R1 RA Briefing: March 6, 2025
- Policy Committee meets to approve: March 20, 2025
- CCMP Formal Release and Commemoration Event: June 20, 2025

CCMP Formal Release and Commemoration Event:

- Proposed June 20, 2025, at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye, New York
- Includes EPA Regional Administrators and State Commissioners, with invites to Administrator and CT and NY Governors
- Includes release of four-page CCMP spread, full-length CCMP online, and CCMP Story Map and Video

Discussion:

- Do we have Policy Committee approval of the draft final 2025 CCMP?
 - With approval, the Partnership proceeds with work on final CCMP design and layout.
- Do we have endorsement in planning a CCMP Public Signing and 40th anniversary commemoration event?