LONG ISLAND SOUND
PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM SUMMARY WORK PLAN

FOR

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 FUNDING

FOR

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

DURING THE PERIOD

October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026 or beyond
[FY2026]

WITH PRIOR YEAR GOALS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS
FOR THE PERIOD

October 1, 2024- September 30, 2025
[FY2025]

July 2025

Prepared by:

EPA Long Island Sound National Program Office

in consultation with and on behalf of

the Long Island Sound Partnership Funded Management Conference Partners

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A. General Information Reporting Requirements

1. CCMP 2024 Goal Focus

The Long Island Sound Partnership Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was first approved in 1994 by the States of New York (NY) and Connecticut (CT) and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CCMP has been revised in 2015, updated in 2020, and revised again in 2025. Throughout calendar year 2024, the Partnership met to complete the CCMP revision. The new CCMP, approved on March 20, 2025, identifies four primary goals: Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds, Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife, Sustainable and Resilient Communities, and Informed and Engaged Public. The 2025 CCMP replaces "Sound Science and Inclusive Management" with "Informed & Engaged Public". For this annual work plan, FY26 activities will be reported using the new 2025 CCMP; while FY25 accomplishments will be reporting using the 2015 CCMP.

The need to continue the Management Conference was identified as an important, unifying component to support implementation. With the enactment of the Long Island Sound Improvement Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-596), the Management Conference was made permanent – "The Administrator *shall* continue the Management Conference of the Long Island Sound Partnership…" In October 2018, the Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*. Among the many provisions of this far-ranging bill, Sec. 4104. *Amendments to Long Island Sound* revised the legislative underpinnings of the Long Island Sound Partnership and reauthorized funding through 2023. The bill's passage is important for several reasons. It codifies Congress's intent to authorize continued funding, it strengthens requirements for assessing program progress and financial integrity, and it lowers the non-federal share of grants from 50 percent to 40 percent. It also signals Congress's general support for the Long Island Sound restoration program.

Under the Management Conference structure, the CCMP established a broad-based and integrated approach to addressing the primary environmental and management problem areas identified. This approach required significant and sustained Management Conference coordination, involvement, and funding – at all levels. Further, the CCMP identified many existing and ongoing environmental management programs of the Management Conference partners that would serve as the foundation for addressing the Sound's priority problems. New or separate programs or efforts to implement the CCMP were only to be created to fill gaps or better integrate efforts, such as the LIS Futures Fund (LISFF), LIS Research Grant Program, and CCMP supplemental program (previously called the enhancement program). This FY2025 Work Plan, prepared under EPA's National Estuary Program (NEP) guidance, directly supports these goal areas with NEP and Long Island Sound Partnership funding as described herein.

Ongoing core environmental programs that contribute to or support CCMP implementation include other federal programs and funds directed to land use and watershed management, water quality, living resource conservation, management, and regulation, as well as state and local programs aimed at regulating human and environmental impacts on the Sound. Many of these programs are delegated to the states, which have the responsibility, authority, and accountability for implementing them.

The CCMP anticipates many funding streams and a variety of funding sources for successful implementation of its recommendations, over time, by the Partnership. The CCMP also envisions an educated public and informed constituency for the sustained effort to restore, enhance, and preserve the Sound as a national treasure and a 'green' engine of economic activity. Designated as an Estuary of National Significance in 1987, Long Island Sound is an inherent part of EPA's NEP and is a key geographic program of the national water program that includes Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico. Because of its economic, social, and environmental importance to the Northeast region, Long Island Sound is included as a separate line item and has received funding under EPA's President's Budget request since FY1999.

Below is a list of items that were completed in FY25 that relate to the CCMP:

a. **CCMP Revision.** Long Island Sound Partnership has formally undergone the CCMP revision process beginning in October 2023. Throughout FY25, the Partnership revised the full document using Writing Teams for each of the four goals, formerly called themes, to revise the objectives, formerly ecosystem targets, and actions. In addition to the goals and objectives there are 4 strategies in the following categories: financial, monitoring, habitat, and outreach. Throughout this process the Long Island Sound Partnership engaged its partners, its various committees and the public alike through writing teams, committee meetings, public engagement sessions and a 60-day public comment period. The 2025 CCMP has received full approval and a signing event will be held on June 20th, 2025. The new CCMP will be adopted for the FY25 grant proposal cycle.
b. **Name Change.** The Long Island Sound Partnership also has a new name and logo to complete the CCMP revision. In June, after 40 years, the program dedicated to restoring and caring for Long Island Sound has changed its name to the Long Island Sound Partnership or the LIS Partnership. The new name reflects our renewed focus on collaboration and implementation as part of our mission to restore and care for the Sound. It emphasizes that the program brings together local, state, and federal governments, universities, communities, environmental organizations, private industries, and other user groups to work toward a healthy Long Island Sound with the support from the public. In addition, the new logo that symbolizes a healthy, thriving ecosystem—rising sun, ocean waves, an airborne seabird, and a school of fish—all connected by a shared vision for the future.

2. FY2025 LIS Partnership Budget Breakdown

This work plan summarizes tasks and deliverables/outputs contained in EPA FY2025 assistance awards to Management Conference partners that account for the FY2025-26 EPA Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) appropriation for the LIS Partnership NEP, and for EPM funding provided by EPA for the Long Island Sound Geographic Program. These funds include $850,000 in NEP allocations under Clean Water Act (CWA) §320, and $40,002,000 under CWA §119 as enacted. Grants are awarded by EPA Region 1 and 2 as delegated under EPA Delegations of Authority 2-42 and 2-94 under the authority of §119 per NEP funding guidance. The required aggregate match for this funding cycle is $21,672,914 as shown in Attachment 2.

On November 6, 2021, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-58) (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL), to enhance the nation's infrastructure and resilience. The IIJA funds, for the first year of a five-year period, include $909,800 in NEP allocations under Clean Water Act (CWA) §320, and $21,000,000 under CWA §119

($106,000,000 over five years). LIS Partnership developed an Equity Strategy that was approved by the Office of Water, which allows for the continuation of match waivers for the entire five years of IIJA funds. In early 2025, the requirement to have an Equity Strategy was rescinded, however, match is still waived.

The work activities and the budget amounts contained in this NEP Summary Work Plan were approved by EPA and the LIS Partnership Management Committee at its April 17, 2025 meeting. The record of the Management Committee meeting is documented in the April 17, 2025 Long Island Sound Partnership Management Committee Meeting Notes.

The LIS Partnership budget is organized into the nine Program Activities and three IIJA Activities outlined below; the FY2025 LIS Partnership budget breakdown by Program Activity is:

Program Activities	Amount
Coordination	*$1,804,508*
Water Quality Planning and Implementation	*$2,080,163*
Modeling	*$1,102,500*
Monitoring	*$9,681,382*
Research	*$3,160,181*
Habitat Restoration and Protection	*$1,938,668*
Public Education and Outreach	*$2,367,844*
Stewardship and Resiliency	*$3,302,350*
Implementation Assistance	*$12,650,000*

IIJA Activities	Amount
Clean Water Infrastructure	*$9,068,389*
Healthy Ecosystems	*$6,857,671*
Strong Communities	*$4,450,000*

To implement this summary Work Plan, as of this writing, EPA will issue 10 new assistance awards and amend 3 current assistance awards to include the FY2025 funding. Under IIJA funding, EPA will incrementally fund 2 new assistance awards. In addition, EPA will enter into 6 interagency agreements and establish 2 contracts to support work tasks. The project tables, in the appendix, are a detailed breakdown of the FY2025 approved budget by LIS Partnership Program Activity, Products and/or Services, Implementing Agency, and Environmental Outcome(s). The Environmental Outcomes are derived from the individual partner grant work plans based on EPA Order 5120.

3. LIS Partnership Staff and Their Official Responsibilities

The LIS Partnership provides funding to certain partners to support staff resources to carry out key elements of implementing the CCMP. **Attachment 1** lists the FY2025 LIS Partnership-funded staff by name, title and
description of their major roles and responsibilities. Each partner's federal assistance award work plan provides details on the deliverables, outputs and expected environmental outcomes for LIS Partnership-funded staff functions as required by EPA Order 5120. In addition to the staff listed in

Attachment 1, the CT DEEP employs seasonal staff to assist with conducting the Long Island Sound summer water quality monitoring program as necessary; these, and overtime costs for water quality monitoring staff, are included in that award, but are not shown in Attachment 1 because of the seasonal nature of the positions that may be filled by different incumbents during the period of employment. Each EPA grantee is responsible for managing its personnel under its own organization's human resource management policies and procedures.

As listed in Attachment 1, the EPA provides two full-time equivalent (FTEs) federal employees that staff the EPA Long Island Sound National Program Office (LISNPO). An acting director, appointed by the Administrator under §119, and two program coordinators to plan, organize, coordinate, and manage program operations to assist the Management Conference partners in CCMP implementation. EPA Region 1 provides a Team Leader and four program coordinators (one at approximately 50 percent of an FTE) to support EPA efforts for Long Island Sound.

Additional staff in Region 1 and Region 2 are assisting with project officer duties relating to LIS awards. EPA previously supported, from its Working Capital Fund appropriation, leasing office space for the LISNPO through the GSA. This office space has been closed as of June 2025. EPA Region 2 provides technical and management support to the program through the Water Division and EPA Region 1 provides staff and technical support through the Water Division. By agreement between the Regions, Region 2 provides other administrative support for official business, such as procurements, funds control and management, information technology and telecommunications support, grants management, travel, training and other policy and program management requirements. Region 1 provides grants management, contract oversight and funds control for the awards processed. This support is essential to operating and maintaining the EPA LISNPO, the national program office for the Long Island Sound Geographic Program. Both Region 1 and 2 provide Quality Assurance support for assistance and interagency agreements that require Quality Assurance Project Plans.

4. Grant awards

Attachment 2 lists the FY2025 LIS Partnership budget by recipient organization; the total funding for each recipient may consist of one or more EPA grant awards or amendments to existing grants, **Attachment 4** lists the FY2025 budget by individual EPA assistance award number by grantee. The actual EPA assistance award number is provided for reference where known now. However, the award process is dynamic and final grant award numbers and dollar amounts awarded by EPA may differ from Attachment 4 since this NEP summary Work Plan is completed in advance of the grant award process, which must be completed by September 30, 2025. Details of the award purpose, project deliverables, and project completion dates are provided in Section B of this Work Plan below. Attachments 2 and 3 also show the required non-federal matching funds and the overall actual aggregate match requirement for the LIS Partnership for FY2025.

For FY2025 Federal assistance awards, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) are providing an annual 'overmatch' in its EPA assistance awards to enable the LIS Partnership to meet the overall aggregate match for the NEP as required under CWA §320 [see Attachment 2]. The CT DEEP overmatch is from a conveyance and storage tunnel in Hartford, CT to control combined sewer overflow discharges. The NYSDEC overmatch is from a stewardship acquisition project. This state overmatch allows other recipients and sub-awardees that are not

able to meet matching funds requirements to apply for LIS Partnership grant programs, ensuring broader participation in the work of the LIS Partnership Management Conference from academic researchers and institutions, local environmental organizations, interest groups and associations, as well as other qualified regional or watershed organizations. **[NB: Final assistance award amounts and number designations are issued by EPA pending final EPA action on individual awards, and each award is subject to the special terms and conditions contained therein.]**

Using FY2025 funding for work that will take place in FY2026, the EPA is providing funding to thirteen LIS partners through new or amended awards: CT DEEP; the Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSEA); the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC); the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC); Save the Sound; NYSDEC; the New York Sea Grant College Program (NYSEA); the State University of New York Research Foundation (SUNY); the University of Connecticut Marine Sciences Department (UCONN); Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP); and Restore America's Estuaries (RAE). EPA established interagency agreements with six federal agencies: the United States Geological Survey (USGS), United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), and United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These partners assist in implementing the CCMP and conduct activities to support the LIS Partnership. These awards are managed by staff of the EPA Region 1 and EPA Region 2, who are trained and assigned as EPA Project Officers. Because of multi-year awards and varying federal appropriation levels, not all partners receive LIS Partnership funding in every annual budget/work plan cycle. The EPA Project Officers work with their grantees to ensure that any unliquidated obligation (ULO) balances are considered in awarding new year funding, and as necessary, award amounts are adjusted to compensate for ULO balances. It should also be noted that these partners also bring their own non-matching resources to restore and protect the Sound, which are not accounted for in this work plan.

B. Proposed New and Ongoing (FY2025) Regular Appropriation Projects

This work plan provides information as required under EPA's *FY2025 Clean Water Act §320 National Estuary Program Funding Guidance*. The format for Section B is the same as used by the LIS Partnership since FY2008, when the LIS Partnership adopted a combination of the FY2008 NEP Work Plan Guidance and the September 2008 NEP Program Evaluation Guidance Logic Model format (until updated). To adjust to this reporting format, to the extent feasible, the LIS Partnership Program Element activities have been 'broken up' under the following categories contained in the NEP Program Evaluation Guidance (LIS Partnership has added the fourth category to better align with our CCMP):

1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds (Clean Waters)
2. Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife (Healthy Habitats)
3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities (Strong Communities)
4. Informed and Engaged Public

The categories will include highlights from FY2024 work implemented to introduce the planned FY2025 activities. Our funded FY25 project tables can be found in the appendix.

1. **Cleans Waters.** Clean Waters is addressed under the Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds Theme of the CCMP as LIS Partnership sets out the mission to improve water quality by

reducing contaminant and nutrient loads from the land and the waters impact Long Island Sound. The following program activities are used as subsections to highlight our FY2024 accomplishments and introduce planned FY2025 activities, including project details: Water Quality Planning and Implementation, Modeling, and Monitoring.

a. **Water Quality Planning and Implementation.** The LIS Partnership has worked intensely on water quality planning and implementation activities to improve the Sound's conditions – specifically by reducing nitrogen. The following highlight our FY2024 accomplishments:
   - Nitrogen Reduction Strategy**:** EPA is implementing a strategy to aggressively continue progress on nitrogen reductions, in parallel with the States' continued implementation of the 2000 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and achieve water quality standards throughout Long Island Sound and its embayments and near shore coastal waters. The strategy recognizes that more work must be done to reduce nitrogen levels, further improve dissolved oxygen (DO) conditions, and address other nutrient-related impacts in Long Island Sound. The nitrogen reduction strategy complements the 2000 TMDL in important ways. Foremost, while the 2000 TMDL is premised on achieving water quality standards for DO in the open waters of the Sound, the EPA strategy expands the focus to include other nutrient-related adverse impacts to water quality, such as loss of eelgrass, that affect many of Sound's embayments and near shore coastal waters.
   - Connecticut Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy: This effort combines existing efforts with new initiatives under one plan. It engages nitrogen reduction efforts in three main focus areas: wastewater treatment plants, nonpoint source and stormwater, and embayments. Near term actions that can be taken at the state level to enhance nutrient reduction efforts are proposed for each of the three focus areas.
   - Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan: The Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) is a multiyear initiative with a similar goal of reducing nitrogen in Long Island's surface, coastal, and ground waters. NYSDEC, in cooperation with Suffolk and Nassau Counties, the Long Island Regional Planning Council, local municipalities, environmental and business groups, and many other stakeholders, has been engaged in the development of the comprehensive LINAP. As part this program, the LINAP collaborative is developing county-wide watershed plans: The Suffolk County Subwatershed Wastewater Management Plan was completed in 2020 and evaluated 200 subwatersheds which developed initial nitrogen load reduction goals, established ecological sensitivity priority ranks for each surface waterbody, and provided implementation recommendation for a phased county-wide wastewater upgrade program. The Nassau County Subwatershed Plan was completed in 2022 and estimated nitrogen entering groundwater from various sources (e.g., wastewater, fertilizer, stormwater, atmospheric deposition). Beginning in 2021, NYSDEC has organized monthly meetings with the three Estuary Programs on Long Island (LIS Partnership, Peconic Estuary Partnership, and South Shore Estuary Reserve) to better align communication and messaging relating to LINAP implementation. As a result, the programs are working on several initiatives to improve nitrogen management Long Island wide including a residential fertilizer community based social marketing project to encourage responsible use of fertilizer which was initially funded in FY23 and received additional funds to continue the work in FY24.
   - Bioextraction: Through a partnership with NEIWPCC and the NYSDEC, an initiative has been developed that aims to improve water quality in NY and CT coastal waters and the Long Island Sound by removing excess nitrogen through the cultivation and harvest of

seaweed and shellfish. The Bioextraction Initiative is engaged in assessing the efficacy and potential challenges of bioextraction, and seeks to define and address the technical, regulatory, and economic considerations needed for the development of a bioextraction industry. This is achieved through research, facilitating conversations, and providing science-backed information to decision makers as part of the suite of Long Island Sound Partnership's comprehensive nitrogen reduction programs. Additionally, the Initiative is working with industry professionals to develop markets for and assess cultivation costs of potential bioextraction species and evaluate overall economic viability of seaweed and shellfish bioextraction operations. Resources produced by the Initiative include a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based siting tool, "New York and Connecticut Shellfish and Seaweed Aquaculture Viewer," and its associated story map and instructions, which is publicly available on the Long Island Sound Partnership website; and "A Guide to Marine Shellfish Aquaculture Permitting in New York," available through the NEIWPCC Resources Library. Other ongoing efforts include 1) commercial testing of locally-sourced sugar kelp (Saccharina latissima) fertilizer amendments in Long Island, NY, 2) refinement of Atlantic ribbed mussel (Geukensia demissa) aquaculture methods and bioextraction through ribbed mussel cultivation, and 3) an economic feasibility market study for nutrient bioextraction within Long Island Sound. Upcoming efforts include: 1) Assessment of wild harvest of seaweeds as a tool to bioextract nutrients from coastal waters, 2) investigating the long-term storage of viable sugar kelp spores and use of cultivated sugar kelp for seaweed turfgrass fertilizer amendments, 3 Long-term Quantification of nitrogen bioextraction and carbon capture by seaweed and bivalve aquaculture). A new bioextraction assistant was funded for FY24 to assist the bioextraction coordinator in these efforts.

b. Modeling. LIS Partnership has invested in a multitude of modeling efforts to improve the technical tools used to understand and manage the sources and impacts of nutrients on Long Island Sound.

- CT DEEP is currently developing several models:
    - A watershed model to simulate flow, sediment, and pollutants over the landscape to the waterbody. The model will be able to estimate sediment loads, point and nonpoint source pollutant loads, and streamflow under current and possible future precipitation and land use scenarios.
    - A groundwater model to incorporate groundwater budgets, travel time distributions, and loadings to receiving waters. The model will provide an estimated time context for management scenarios that have an impact on nitrogen into the Sound.
    - Embayment models to analyze hydrodynamics and impacts of nutrients from surface and groundwater sources on surface water quality. The results will be used to evaluate loads from watershed models and develop a process-based water quality model specific to each embayment. In coordination with the watershed and groundwater models, the embayment modeling project will help develop embayment specific nutrient targets to manage water quality.
- Solute Transport Model: USGS, in collaboration with NYSDEC and Peconic Estuary Partnership, is developing this model for Long Island. The modeling looks at water table fluctuation over time, water use, and nitrogen loading—as a function of changing land use and atmospheric deposition rates—from predevelopment (e.g., 1900) through the present. Using FY2020 and FY2021 funds, LIS Partnership is supporting the completion

of the central and western portions. Once complete, LIS Partnership will be able to use the model to predict how nitrogen reduction strategies will impact the Sound. Furthermore, this modeling effort, combined with the companion groundwater modeling effort in CT will provide complete coverage of the groundwater contributing area to the entire Long Island Sound watershed. Coordination between these modeling efforts will eventually allow for a comprehensive analysis of time-varying nitrogen loading and the simulation of the effects of various nitrogen-management scenarios at the regional watershed scale for the Sound.

- Systemwide Eutrophication Model: LIS Partnersihp and NYC Department of Environmental Protection are developing a new systemwide model to simulate water quality in LIS and system response to changes such as warming temperatures and increased development that threaten water quality. The newly updated model will allow researchers to better understand how the Sound may respond to changes in human (e.g., pollution) and natural (e.g., weather) drivers that impact the system. The model will also enable managers to evaluate potential impacts of point source nutrient inputs on water quality. From a Request for Proposals (RFP) released in 2019, NYCDEP entered into a contract with HDR, Inc., in 2020, to conduct the modeling effort. A Management Advisory Group meets regularly to coordinate work with agency needs and a Model Evaluation Group provides independent technical review. ROMS-RCA was selected as the hydrodynamic-biogeochemical model, and model calibration and validation is currently underway. This multi-year project will guide investments in pollution control for the next decade by NYCDEP, NYSDEC, CT DEEP, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and EPA.
- Compound Flood Risk Model: As part of the first year of the implementation of the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Plan, USGS was funded in FY2021 to quantify coastal flood risk and the impacts of sea-level rise on stormwater infrastructure and management. The project will improve understanding of compound flood risk on event, seasonal, and long-term scales. The resulting risk assessment may be used by public and private entities seeking to identify future capital-improvement and operational management needs that address increased flooding caused by sea-level rise and groundwater table rise. This underlying framework can help agencies develop cost and benefit data associated with financing projects under future climate scenarios. This model is expected to launch in the summer of 2025. LIS Partnership has funded outreach and education regarding the model in FY24 to reach a broad audience and help municipality staff and others understand how to use the model. Additional applications of the model are being planned to expand the use and impact the model may have on planning activities.
- Hypoxia Forecast Tool: In collaboration with EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), LISO is developing a Long Island Sound Hypoxia Forecast Tool to predict the hypoxia extent and duration in Long Island Sound and its embayments for each summer and to enhance the communication and awareness of hypoxia and its impacts – from water quality to habitat quality. The tool will include both a natural science element that will inventory, synthesize, and review existing models that predict hypoxia in the Sound based on early-season environmental observations, and develop new models using existing data that emphasize quantifying variability and uncertainty; and a social science element that identify effective communication methods and use them to produce a web-based communication platform to share and contextualize the forecast for stakeholders. To guide the development of the forecast tool and identify

best engagement approaches to use hypoxia forecasting, an in-person workshop was held to gather input from people at the interface of science and practice in LIS. As a result of the workshop, EPA developed workshop proceedings to guide the development of the tool and its associated communication products. In FY25, EPA ORD, LISO, and NEIWPCC developed communication materials, as part of the Hypoxia Communications Toolkit funded in FY24, to communicate the history of pollution in Long Island Sound, nutrient management success, ongoing Long Island Sound Partnership monitoring and modeling to better understand hypoxia, and launches the hypoxia forecast model to predict the hypoxia extent and duration in Long Island Sound and its embayments. See Success in the Urban Sea: Breathing Oxygen Back into the Long Island Sound's Waters StoryMap. This work emphasizes understanding community needs and values to improve targeted communications and motivate community behavioral change to mitigate environmental challenges.

c. **Monitoring.** LIS Partnership has continually invested in several water quality monitoring programs, including in 2023. These programs include:

- CT DEEP's Long Island Sound Water Quality and Hypoxia Monitoring Program: Since 1991, the program has monitored surface and bottom waters at 17 stations throughout the Sound. The following water quality parameters are measured: temperature, salinity, dissolved nitrogen, particulate nitrogen, water clarity, and dissolved oxygen. The program provides the basis for the determination of hypoxic, and other ambient conditions in LIS and to determine state compliance with water quality standards for DO. This information is reported by CT DEEP and is used by the Partnership to report annual progress in meeting CCMP goals.
- IEC Long Island Sound Monitoring: Since 1991, IEC has monitored the far western Sound (the Narrows) and its embayments and the Upper East River. The following water quality parameters are measured: temperature, salinity, DO, pH, and secchi disk depths. Additionally, IEC also measures chlorophyll-a, total suspended solids, biological oxygen demand, and nutrients in surface samples.
- UConn's Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System (LISICOS) Buoys: Implemented in 2003, LISICOS was conceptualized as part of a water quality monitoring program that combined the traditional ship-based point sampling surveys with continuous, real-time sampling stations. LISICOS continuously monitors in situ water quality parameters and meteorological parameters, every 15 minutes, at up to 8 stations across the Sound.
- USGS's River Monitoring Stations: Since 2017, USGS has performed enhanced monitoring of the Connecticut River to establish a long-term record of observations of temperature, salinity and sea level that will allow the assessment of the effect of global-scale changes in climate on the ecosystem of the Sound and Connecticut River. In 2019, the Partnership supported a three-year USGS pilot project to expand water quality sampling in the three major tributaries to Long Island Sound (Thames, Connecticut, and Housatonic Rivers). The goal of the project is to continue to characterize the tributaries to develop a longer-term monitoring plan for each of the three tributaries.
- Save the Sound's Unified Waters Study (UWS): Since 2018, the UWS monitors 40 embayments conducted by 25 monitoring groups which include various communities, organizations and citizen scientists. The following parameters are collected: water depth, temperature, salinity, DO, alkalinity, pH, Secchi disk, light intensity, chlorophyll-

a, turbidity or TSS, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, dinoflagellates and their toxic products, nonindigenous plants/animals, presence of sewage, biological monitoring.

- EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA)**:** Initiated in 2020 and continued in 2021, EPA HQ contractors conducted NCCA probabilistic sampling each year at 60 sites in Long Island Sound embayments. This project utilized the power of random statistical design and standard collection and analytical techniques of the NCCA Program to characterize the nutrients, sediments, and benthic macroinvertebrate community in embayments. The data from this sampling became available in FY25 and was used to guide the development of the Toxic Contaminantes objective. The LIS Partnership has executed another contract for FY24 to conduct the survey again in 2025.
- Long Island Sound Coastal Acidification Monitoring**:** In 2022, the Partnership initiated coastal acidification monitoring within the Sound and its embayments. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and University of Connecticut are monitoring a suite of acidification parameters within their existing monitoring programs. This monitoring program will initiate a baseline to better understand the overall trends of coastal acidification, its interaction with other stressors, and impacts on important services on three different spatial levels – 1) the Open Sound, 2) Embayments, and 3) Watershed. The first initial years of this program will focus on better understanding the variability of trends in the open Sound and the embayments. Once that variability is determined, the LIS Partnership will focus to tease apart multi-stressors interactions, and their impacts on foundation species (i.e., shellfish beds).

2. **Healthy Ecosystems.** Healthy Ecosystems is addressed under the Thriving Habitat and Abundant Wildlife Theme of the CCMP as the Partnership sets out the mission to restore and protect the Sound's ecological balance in a healthy, productive, and resilient state to benefit both people and the natural environment. The Habitat Restoration and Protection is the only program activity that applies to this section. Because of the complexity of planning, organizing and carrying out restoration projects in both states, the Partnership funds two habitat coordinators, one each in NYSDEC (via NEIWPCC) and CT DEEP, who develop priority Long Island Sound projects, including fish passage projects, in their state. These staff positions are included in the description of LIS Partnership-funded staff in this Work Plan in Attachment 1. It should be noted that the acres restored/protected and river miles reopened were not all funded by the Partnership; the CCMP called for many and varied funding sources to implement its actions. LISFF projects do help contribute to the total acres restored/protected, to the extent that eligible projects are qualified, apply, and are approved for funding.

   a. **Habitat Restoration and Stewardship**. As reported in EPA's NEPORT reporting system, The LIS Partnership completed nine projects in which coastal habitats were restored, totaling 55.1 acres in 2024. The program achieved its goal to restore 350 acres of coastal habitat in 2018, two years ahead of the 2020 target. The Partnership protected 383.20 acres of open space through acquisitions or easements at 19 sites. By the end of the calendar year 2024, the program has now achieved 83 percent of the goal to protect 7,000 acres of land by 2035 from the 2014 baseline.

      In 2024, 10.75 new stream miles were reported opened, due to the Harrington Apartment

Dam Removal and Shewville Dam Fish Ladder, in CT. The program is at 70.1 percent of the goal to reconnect 200 river miles to Long Island Sound for fish passage by 2035 from the 2014 baseline. The LIS Partnership-funded CT DEEP and NYSDEC habitat restoration coordinators develop projects to reopen fish passage in each state. Because CT's river and stream network along the Long Island Sound shoreline is much more extensive than NY's, the bulk of the fish passage projects are in CT rivers and streams. Historically there were approximately 1,858.5 miles of river in CT that supported diadromous fish runs; currently there are approximately 447.85 miles of river reaches open to fish passage. This is not meant as a management target for restoration. It should be noted that the river miles reopened were not all funded by the LIS Partnership; the CCMP called for many and varied funding sources to implement its actions.

The LIS Partnership has been conducting the following activities in pursuit of our goals for FY2025:

- Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative: Additionally, the LIS Partnership website contains an updated online Stewardship Atlas. The LISFF supported several Stewardship Initiative projects and public involvement efforts centered around trails days at stewardship sites. In the fall of 2024, EPA LISO revitalized the Stewardship Initiative by developing a Stewardship Strategy to highlight the challenges and needs of these sites to bring awareness and outline actions that the Partnership can take to better support them. This strategy was developed by having conversations with managers at each site individually as well as through a series of virtual meetings. The strategy went through a 60-day public comment period and the final version will be posted on the website in summer 2025. The development of the Stewardship Strategy lays the foundation for building this network by summarizing the site-specific challenges, needs, and priorities at each of the 33 Stewardship Areas, identifying approaches to enhance the collaboration and communication among the managers and partners, and establishing a framework for action to support key priorities and address existing challenges and needs. Recommendations from the strategy will be continued in FY25 starting with the idea of creating a Stewardship Network among the sites. The strategy can be found here.
- Long Island Sound Eelgrass Management and Restoration Strategy: In December 2022, the Partnership developed the Long Island Sound Eelgrass Restoration and Management Strategy. In FY23, LIS Partnership funded several projects to start implementation the strategy such as advancing mapping, monitoring, and modeling efforts, enhancing collaboration and communication, and better understanding barriers to restoration. In FY25, LIS Partnership will continue to progress these ongoing projects and incorporate results into the newly funded long-term and large-scale seed-based restoration program. To communicate the importance of the strategy, LISO also published a StoryMap highlighting the history, threats, and importance of Long Island Sound eelgrass meadows.

3. **Strong Communities.** Strong Communities is addressed under the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Theme of the CCMP as the LIS Partnership sets out the mission to support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect Long Island Sound. The following program activities are used as subsections to highlight our FY2024 accomplishments and introduce planned FY2025 activities, including project details: Public Education and Outreach, and Stewardship and Resiliency.
   a. **Public Education and Outreach.** The LIS Partnership provides grants to several of its

partners to support their public outreach, information, and education (PI&E) program activities, a key Program Element of the LIS Partnership. NEIWPCC, NYSEA and CTSEA are primarily responsible under their grant awards for public outreach assistance. The LIS Partnership communications team consists of staff of these partners and other interested parties, including members of the LIS Partnership Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The communications team meets periodically to develop and carry out work as reflected in each grant award. The LISNPO and LIS Partnership provide significant support to the CAC, which is co-chaired by an elected member each from NY and CT. Coordinated by the NY/CTSEAs, the CAC meets quarterly at alternating locations in CT and NY in the LIS watershed (however, this past year was all virtual due to COVID-19) and provides advice to the Management Conference partners in implementation of the CCMP. The CAC operates under its Bylaws and is composed of up to 60 members who represent organizations with a demonstrated interest in Long Island Sound. Financial support for CAC meetings is provided through NEIWPCC's PI&E line item in its assistance award. CAC members are reimbursed for their travel expenses directly related to attending CAC meetings. However, this past year there was minimal travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in which all CAC meetings were held virtually **[see Attachment 5].** In addition, the CAC meets as needed with the STAC to jointly review program priorities from a scientific perspective and to update each other on issues of scientific and public concern. The CAC co-chairs are members of the Management Committee and provide a public perspective at Management Committee meetings. The CAC also appoints two liaisons to the STAC, one each from New York and Connecticut to represent the CAC at STAC meetings. CAC members participate on LIS Partnership teams and work groups and attend those meetings as appropriate.

The LIS Partnership will continue to fund the CT and NY Sea Grant LIS Mentor Teacher program, which trains a cadre of K-12 educators to train-the-trainers in the use of LIS as a teaching tool and resource for NY and CT teachers. The Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher (LISMT) program has consistently recruited high quality, creative, and respected teachers to assist their peers in incorporating LIS content into curricula within the scope of the CT Science Frameworks. In addition to the Mentor Teach Program a new partnership, which will create a network of Long Island Sound schools to increase participation in helping to protect the sound, was funded in FY24.

- LIS Partnership Communications: The Partnership produce their own materials and press releases to communicate their accomplishments and plans to their public or special audiences. The Partnership, via a grant to NEIWPCC, maintains its website for public information and access, and produces *SoundBytes*, an electronic email product to keep constituents informed in topical and timely areas. *Sound Update and Outlook* are also produced several times a year, but paper copy distribution has been phased down to conserve resources and be more 'green.' LIS Partnership-produced materials emphasize the bi-state nature of public information on the Sound, its ecology or status, while individual partners' public information programs may focus on single state or communities of interests' priorities or needs. Examples of these publications are on the LIS Partnership website. Furthermore, the LIS Partnership developed a five-year strategic communication plan to increase the knowledge of and engagement in the Sound's restoration efforts by key stakeholders.
- Communications, Outreach, and Engagement Plan: In FY2021, LIS Partnership funded NEIWPCC, in collaboration with CTSEA, NYSEA, and The Nature Conservancy, to develop a new coordinated Sound-wide Strategic Communications, Outreach, and

Engagement Plan ("COE Plan") with measurable objectives, including the additional resources sufficient to implement the new COE Plan, that will maximize the impact of communications, outreach, and engagement efforts and ensure the effective use of resources by and among the LIS Partnership Communications Team. Marstel-Day, LLC ("MD Team") was contracted to develop the new COE Plan that will provide guidance for LIS Partnership staff and partners to implement effective COE efforts that inform, educate, and engage stakeholders and residents living in Long Island Sound. The COE Plan was approved by the Management Committee in FY2022.

- Communications, Outreach, and Engagement Work Group (COE): The Public Involvement and Education Work Group (PIE) was revived, transformed and renamed to the Communications, Outreach, and Engagement Work Group (COE) in March 2023. This new work group aims to encourage deeper and wider collaboration across the full diversity of Sound communities in support of the Long Island Sound Partnership's mission to conserve, restore, and sustain the Sound and its magnificent aquatic and shoreline resources. The work group is made up of LIS Partnership, non-formal educators, outreach professionals, and communications specialists from organizations and community groups whose work aligns with that of LIS Partnership: to connect the people living in the Long Island Sound watershed to the Long Island Sound estuary through communications, outreach, and engagement to improve environmental awareness, knowledge, stewardship, and equal access to the local environment.
- CCMP Outreach: LIS Partnership has been working on outreach for the CCMP revision throughout the year and has planned several ways the public can contribute. With the help of ERG there is an email address for the public to send comments throughout the process as well as find updates on the website. In May 2024 LIS Partnership hosted 9 engagement sessions for feedback on the draft mission, vision, and values as well as the 4 goals and their objectives. These engagement sessions were help both online and in person in both the New York and Connecticut portions of the watershed. In addition to these sessions a storymap is being curated to take people on a journey through the revision.

b. Stewardship and Resiliency. In FY2021, LIS Partnership developed two new working groups to progress this Stewardship and Resiliency, in which LIS Partnership has set out the following goals: Adopt and support the five-year action plan, created by the new Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group, to help communities plan for environmental impacts while strengthening ecological health and protecting local economies; foster and support public engagement and knowledge; and increase local community considerations in implementation and decision-making.

- Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group: In FY2020, the LIS Partnership funded CT and NY SEA to support a year-long process to develop a focused and strategic five-year work plan for the Sustainable and Resilient Working Group. The work group was charged with improving implementation of CCMP goals related to the Sustainable and Resilient Communities theme. Through a transparent and inclusive process, the work plan identifies five priorities: 1) better coordinated regional response, 2) better trained community decision makers, 3) infrastructure improvements planning, 4) viability of government services, and 5) facilitated implementation. The first year of the work plan was approved for funding in FY2021. In FY2021, CT and NY SEA published

the completed five-year work plan on the LIS Partnership website and hired five Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals to support local communities. In January 2025, a sixth Extension professional joined the team. This workplan will be updated in FY25 and be implemented from FY26-FY30 and will ensure alignment with the 2025 CCMP. The Extension Professionals finished conducting a Needs Assessment in November 2022 to improve understanding of Long Island Sound coastal communities needs to increase resiliency. In November 2023, CT and NY Sea Grant launched a resiliency planning assistance program, an expansion of the existing Breaking Down Barriers program that assists entities in writing grant applications. This new program will help municipalities scope out the best path forward to resiliency by helping them identify important and feasible projects to address their issues. Announcement of the funded candidates were announced in June 2024. A second round of funding was released in FY24 with candidates to be announced in June 2025.

- LIS Sentinel Monitoring Program: Initiated in 2017, the LIS Partnership Sentinel Monitoring strategy included three pilot projects to informed the Sentinel Monitoring work team to update the strategy. The report, *Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change in the Long Island Sound Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems of New York and Connecticut (Vol 2)*, was completed and posted on the LIS Partnership website in 2018. The work team also reviewed drafts of the LIS Climate Vulnerability Assessment conducted by Dr. Juliana Barrett of Connecticut Sea Grant. Dr. Juliana Barrett presented the completed LIS Climate Vulnerability Assessment at the July 18, 2019, Management Committee Meeting. Using FY2020 funds, NEIWPCC held a workshop in June 2022 to engage Long Island Sound stakeholders to help identify monitoring gaps and develop a LIS Partnership sentinel monitoring network. As a result of the workshop, the LIS Partnership work groups are working to address data gaps (i.e., tidal marshes indicators) and a new project revolving around saltmarsh monitoring was funded for FY24.
- Climate Ready Estuaries: Under an agreement, UCONN acquired, deployed, and tested the pH and total CO2 sensors for monitoring acidification in Long Island Sound. These systems require additional development to reduce operations and maintenance effort and to improve data quality. In addition, remote sensing reflectance and derived products from several sensors and methodologies were tested. Algorithms to retrieve chlorophyll concentrations were tested. The evaluation of data suggests that data from new sensors, such as Sentinel, may allow the distribution of near real-time Chl products for LIS in the future. This work allowed for a more thorough application of a local algorithm relating optical patterns and environmental forcing that may drive their variability over time and space. LIS Partnership assisted in the development of EPA's *Measuring Coastal Acidification Using In Situ Sensors in the National Estuary Program* report, which discusses LIS Partnership's experiences, and nine other NEPs, in conducting coastal acidification monitoring using these sensors. LIS Partnership has initiated their own extensive coastal acidification monitoring program (see Monitoring for more details).

4. **Sound Science & Inclusive Management** sets out the mission to manage Long Island Sound using sound science and cross-jurisdictional governance that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative, and accountable. The following program activities are used as subsections to highlight our FY2023 accomplishments:
   a. **Coordination.** As mentioned throughout the workplan, LIS Partnership has funded staff

positions to carry out the program, in addition to the EPA staff. Please refer to Attachment 1 for a full list of staff positions that better our coordination.

- Federal Partners Coordination Group: In FY2022-3, EPA coordinated and lead the Federal Partners Coordination Group to advance collaboration among participating agencies, and expand involvement to other agencies as needed. Efforts to develop consistent Federal policies, priorities, strategies, and projects for addressing the CCMP and assisting in the appropriate management of the related federal resources by capitalizing and focusing on utilizing existing federal resources. The group works to ensure that our collective efforts will energize ongoing programs, bridge cross-agency partnerships, engage new federal partners, and leverage existing resources. Currently LIS Partnership has agreements collaborating on specific projects with USGS, NOAA, USFWS, and Department of Agriculture.
- Tracking and Reporting: As the only Federally led NEP, EPA's authority to require and collect information is limited to that contained in enabling statutes and regulations. CWA §320 and §119 indicate specific reporting requirements and EPA regulations, under 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31, provide further reporting requirements for grantees. Finally, EPA grant regulations provide several reporting requirements (e.g., quarterly or semi-annual reporting on grant progress). EPA LISNPO is responsible for the overall LIS Partnership tracking and reporting systems for the NEP. In 2011 the Management Conference partners agreed to a process to revise and update the 1994 CCMP, which was completed and issued in Spring 2015. The 2015 CCMP also sets 20 ambitious, but achievable, long-term targets for the ecosystem. These ecosystem targets are intended to drive progress toward attaining CCMP goals. Measuring, tracking, and reporting environmental indicators of each ecosystem target will provide information to assess progress and refine and adapt management as needed. Some of the targets include intermediate goals. For example, the ecosystem target to reduce effective impervious cover by ten percent in twenty years would assume a pace of 0.5 percent per year. Progress at any point in time would be assessed against the rate needed to attain the long-term target. In July 2018, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) completed a review of the LIS Partnership, Long Island Sound Restoration: Improved Reporting and Cost Estimates Could Help Guide Future Efforts (GAO-18-410). The GAO recommended that the EPA work with the LIS Partnership to ensure that it fully incorporates leading practices into performance reporting efforts. The LIS Partnership supported contractor work to enhance performance tracking and reporting of implementation actions and progress, most likely through web-based platforms. This new system will replace the annual e-Sound CCMP Implementation Tracking Report, which was organized around the 1994 CCMP.

  To better coordination efforts, the EPA LISNPO developed a LIS Partnership SharePoint Tracking and Reporting Tool to better track the progress of the 2020-2024 CCMP Implementation Actions. This tool fulfills the GAO recommendation to ensure that as the Partnership finalizes its reporting format, it fully incorporates leading practices of performance reporting by mid-year 2021. As we developed this tool, we recognized that there are many overlaps between all of our tracking and reporting efforts, and therefore collecting all information into a centralized location and creating linkages will streamlines our efforts. The tool consists of three interconnected data tables: 1) Implementation Actions Table, 2) Projects Table, and 3) Progress Reporting Table.

By linking these three tables, we are able to use grant progress reporting to fulfill our Implementation Action reporting requirement since the progress of Implementation Actions directly relies upon the progress of LIS partnership funded projects. The tool helps guide our annual cycle including providing financial assistance to partners to complete projects that address the CCMP, in which semi-annual Progress Reports, linked to the CCMP, are used to populate the Tool. We then utilize SharePoint and associated apps like Power Business Intelligence (BI) to build reports to drive future informed decision making and investments which is then communicated with LIS Partnership and the public. Additionally, LIS Partnership has developed a Program Progress and Implementation webpage which includes selected fields from the tool. This will enable the program to communicate in a transparent way how investments of public funds are achieving desired outcomes in the condition of the Long Island Sound ecosystem. The Tool holds the program accountable by linking our investments back to the CCMP and effectively measuring program implementation and progress.

b. **Research.** The LIS Partnership STAC met four times in FY2024, with primary investigators of funded projects and others making presentations to report on progress. The three meetings focused on shellfish, eelgrass, and macroalgae restoration, wind energy, hypoxia and climate change, modeling efforts, invertebrate monitoring, and open science, respectively. STAC meeting minutes are posted on the LIS Partnership website.

- Long Island Sound Research Program: Scientific research provides a key to better understanding and more effectively managing Long Island Sound. Recognizing the important role that research plays in decision-making, the EPA, CTSEA, and NYSEA developed a cooperative program to fund research in support of the LIS Partnership. Initiated in 1999, the Long Island Sound Research Grant Program awards funds to researchers whose work helps meet the needs of decision-makers to improve the management of Long Island Sound. Generally, the LIS Partnership has held competitions biennially, combining funds from two fiscal years. Research projects funded from prior cycles of the Research Program are ongoing. In FY2024, CT and NYSEA released an RFP for preliminary proposals to select research projects. Thirteen projects were selected for funding and will take place from 2025-2027.
- Ecosystem Status and Trends: The LIS Partnership federal, state, local and academia partners monitor ecosystem status and trends for a suite of environmental indicators. The indicators are linked back to CCMP ecosystem targets and provide information on the abundance, diversity, distribution, viability, and/or quality and trends of the resource being monitored. As noted previously, the 2015 CCMP sets 20 ecosystem targets. Measuring, tracking, and reporting the ecosystem targets and indicators provides information to assess progress and refine and adapt management as needed. Reporting on targets and indicators on a periodic basis is a complex process, because the LIS Partnership does not directly pay for or support the data collection efforts for many of them. These are the province of other entities that are either directly responsible for that data collection by law, statute, regulation or by history or organizational preference. Instead, LIS Partnership works to use existing data when available, and collect new data as needed. In October 2021, the Indicators Review Team developed an EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, which was updated and approved in 2024, to management the Ecosystem Target and Supporting Indicators

Microsite. The 2025 CCMP outline 15 objectives that will be incorporated into the microsite over the course of the next fiscal year

c. **Implementation Assistance.** The LISFF Grant program is the primary LIS Partnership vehicle for funding implementation projects to address CCMP and other program priorities at a local scale. The LISFF is administered by NFWF who provide technical Assistance to communities of practice in developing project proposals for their communities.

In FY2023, the LIS Futures Fund was funded at $12,500,000. The LISFF announced 31 grants totaling $12.5 million to local government and community groups to improve the health and ecosystem of Long Island Sound. The LISFF 2024 projects will reach more than 25,000 residents through environmental and conservation education programs. Water quality improvement projects will treat over 1.7 million gallons of stormwater, install over 30,000-square-feet of green infrastructure and engage people in environmental education from all over the Long Island Sound watershed. The projects will also restore coastal habitat for fish and wildlife through invasive plant removal and management. The funds will be matched by $12.2 million from the recipients, resulting in over $24 million in funding for on-the-ground conservation projects.

The LIS Partnership initiated the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in 2005 through the U.S. EPA's Long Island Sound Office and NFWF. Since then, the LISFF invested over $68 million in 673 projects. The program has generated an additional $76 million in grantee match, for a total conservation impact of $144 million for regional and local projects. The projects have added 121 river miles for fish passage, restored 862 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat, treated 212.5 million gallons of pollution, and educated and engaged 5 million people in protection and restoration of the Sound. These projects are responsive to the new Long Island Sound CCMP and other LIS Partnership priorities.

For FY2022, the funding categories have changed to Implementation Project ($50,000-$1,500,000), Design/Planning Projects ($50,000-$500,000), Community Science/Water Quality Monitoring ($50,000-$100,000), and Education and Public Participation Grants ($50,000-$250,000). When the projects are selected and awards are administered, they will be categorized into one of the following program activities for tracking and reporting purposes: 1) Coordination, 2) Water Quality Planning and Implementation, 3) Modeling, 4) Monitoring, 5) Research, 6) Habitat Restoration and Protection, 7) Public Education and Outreach, or 8) Stewardship and Resiliency. These categories were again used for FY2025.

C. FY2025 IIJA Projects

The benefits of the IIJA are meant to reach all communities through the provision of technical and financial assistance. The IIJA identifies EPA's Geographic Programs and NEPs as key partners to enhance implementation projects and assistance to communities.

The LIS Partnership's goal for IIJA funding is to significantly improve Long Island Sound's environmental health, climate resilience, and economic vitality in communities across the Sound's watershed. Stated in the F*Y2022-2026 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law National Estuary Program Interim Funding Guidance*, IIJA funding is to implement the CCMP with emphasis on supporting

climate resilience projects. Furthermore, IIJA funding should meet the following elements: 1) accelerate and more extensively implement the CCMP, 2) build the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities, and 3) leverage and support additional resources. The Partnership will abide to all guidance as it is developed. Match for all IIJA funds has been waived for LIS Partnership via the Partnership approval of the LIS Partnership equity strategy, which was received in 2023.

LIS Partnership has taken the opportunity of guaranteed funding and waived match to fund multi-year projects through FY24, such as NYSDEC WQIP and MassDEP wastewater treatment plant upgrades, that began in FY22. Decisions for FY25-FY26 appropriations were made in FY25.

Like Section B, this section outlines the IIJA projects in which are 'broken up' by the following categories:

1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds (Clean Waters)
2. Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife (Healthy Ecosystems)
3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities (Strong Communities)
4. Informed and Engaged Public

The following describes the multi-year projects that have been funded thus far:

1. **Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds.**
   The first year and future years of IIJA funding will focus on infrastructure improvement projects in Connecticut, New York, and the upper watershed state of Massachusetts to enhance water quality. This will include funding toward green infrastructure, transition to innovative septic systems, and nitrogen reduction upgrades to wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, to better understand the embayment conditions and implement site-specific infrastructure improvement projects, the LIS Partnership will invest in a new vessel to be used for CT DEEP's Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring program and associated research projects.

   A. Clean Water Infrastructure

   - **Water Quality Improvement Projects**: NYSDEC has released the first RFA for the LIS Partnership WQIP program in June 2023. Projects were announced in February 2024 with IIJA funding going towards a project that will support improvements of the Port Washington Water Pollution Control District's treatment plant in Nassau County. The project will rehabilitate approximately 16,000 linear feet of gravity sewer main to reduce sanitary sewer overflows. These improvements will boost efforts to improve Manhasset Bay's water quality and support ongoing work to restore the Long Island Sound. A second RFA was released in May t2024 where $2,394,000 of IIJA funds were used to partially fund the New York City DEP Central Sewer Overflow Wastewater project. This project will reduce combined sewer overflows and improve the water quality of the Bronx River.
   - **Septic System Replacement Program:** NYS's Septic System Replacement Fund Program provides critical funding to counties to assist homeowners with replacing cesspools, or inadequate septic systems that impair water quality. Using state funding, each county has built a local grant program to allow homeowners to upgrade their systems with innovative/alternative on-site

treatment systems (I/A OWTS) that treat nitrogen to at least 19 mg/L. . The Long Island Sound funding is being utilized to support hardworking and engaged counties, Suffolk and Nassau, to fund additional I/A OWTS systems.

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**: Since the start of its IIJA-funded incremental award, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) provided subawards for nitrogen reduction upgrades to facilities in Chicopee, Gardner and Pittsfield, MA. Work has begun for the facilities' planned projects: Chicopee is at ~60% design, Gardner is at ~30% design and work in Pittsfield was initiated in FY24.

2. **Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife**.
In addition to water quality, the LIS Partnership will focus on enhancing habitat quality through water infrastructure improvements. Specifically, the Partnership will work to restore existing or implement new fishways and remove dams. Additionally, LIS Partnership is restoring, protecting, and monitoring habitat to enhance climate resilience and sustainability. This will include living shorelines, wetland restoration, and flood mitigation.

A. Healthy Ecosystems

- Strong Pond Dam Removal: Complete deconstruction of Strong Pond Dam was completed by CT DEEP and partners in September 2023. This dam and river restoration opened 10 miles of river for fish passage. In 2020, LIS Partnership awarded CT DEEP $2.2 million for the dam's removal and demolition began in 2021. The final phase of construction, completed in September 2023, focused on removing the dam and restoring the river section. To support the final demolition phase, LIS Partnership contributed an additional $250,000 to the project using IIJA funds. As of April 2024, 1.5 acres of vegetation have been planted to restore the riverbank to benefit birds, mammals, amphibians, and other wildlife.
- New York Land Acquisition: NYSDEC, in partnership with the LIS Partnership Stewardship Initiative, aim to provide water quality, tidal wetland, and coastal habitat protection to Long Island Sound through the preservation of land in its watershed. Watson and Kozikowski would be additions to NYSDEC's Conscience Bay- Little Bay State Tidal Wetland Area in the Conscience Bay-Little Bay-Setauket Harbor Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat. The Watson property is a 1+/- acre residential lot adjoining the Stell Property which NYSDEC is in the process of acquiring with a previous LIS Partnership grant. The acquisition of the Kozikowski property will allow continuity of management, prevent new development (the existing structure is a tear-down), and restore the parcel to a natural condition. It contains 1.5+/- acres and is situated between two other LIS Partnership acquisitions, Witczak and Besunder. The Gyrodyne property is a 45 +/- acre open field in the village of St. James. It is a part of the Stony Brook harbor watershed and connects to the Avalon Preserve.

3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities.
A key component to building strong communities was EPA's release of a RFA to select an organization to support and build community capacity; Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) was selected in December 2022. Additionally, the Partnership is also working to better understand barriers – more specifically, language barriers with Connecticut's coastal

anglers to better communicate and educate about environmental health issues associated with fishing.

B. Strong Communities

- Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF): Since being selected to administer LISCIF, RAE stood up this program that links grant making and capacity development to enhance the health and resilience of organizations and communities in CT & NY. After a successful first round of subaward funding for 18 projects announced in May 2024, RAE released the second RFA for LISCIF subaward funding (up to $1,500,000 available) in September 2024. Like the first round, RAE's RFA was adapted to meet needs of smaller, lower capacity organizations through a two-step application process that makes LISCIF more accessible and allowed applicants sufficient time to participate. In this second round, RAE received 27 letters of intent (LOI) for a total funding ask of more than $2.4 million. After narrowing the LOIs, RAE and a proposal review team selected 16 projects for funding, distributing approximately $1.5 million to organizations in CT & NY. The selected projects are being announced at press events in July 2025. Additionally, RAE planned, organized, promoted and hosted a series of technical assistance trainings geared towards potential LISCIF applicants. Training topics are delivered in parallel with the RFA and project implementation process. They cover topics like Project Design & Building Partnerships, Grant Writing: Writing a Strong Narrative, Budgeting & Staffing, Fundraising, Procurements & Recordkeeping, Hiring & Retention. These are held as live webinars and recordings are available on the RAE LISCIF website (all at no cost). An in-person event – the second LISCIF Annual Learning Exchange is being held in NY on June 30, 2025. This is meant to be a networking and learning forum for subawardees and local community organizations. More than 80 people attended the first Annual Learning Exchange in June 2024.
- CTDEEP Annual Angler Survey: In order to eliminate language barriers to improve data accuracy from annual recreational fishing surveys, CT DEEP utilized LIS Partnership IIJA funding to release seasonal position opportunities for translational support in Spring 2023. Additional recruitment materials and flyers in multiple languages were released and circulated in Summer 2023 to aid in engaging the public. New technical assistance partnerships with CTs Labor are helping to train potential applicants on the State's application process which is showing early signs of success.

D. Previous Year's (FY2024) Projects/Activities Highlights

1. **GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.** ***Describe goals that the program met and highlight programmatic accomplishments as well as project/activity short-term and intermediate outcomes. Highlight long-term environmental results achieved wherever possible. Include outcome and/or environmental results information about projects that required substantial NEP staff time, but which were sponsored/funded by others, e.g., foundations, Federal or state partners.***

The following goals and accomplishments focus on the areas of special interested

mentioned in the NEP Program Evaluation Guidance: a) Reduction in Nutrient Pollution, b) Water Reuse and Conservation, c) Marine Litter Reduction, and d) Green Infrastructure and Resiliency. In Section B, we highlight FY2024 activities and accomplishments related to 1. Clean Waters, 2. Healthy Ecosystems, 3. Strong Communities, and 4. Sound Science and Inclusive Management. The LIS Partnership is willing to discuss any of its ongoing programs and activities with NEP staff that were felt to be worthy of technology transfer to other NEPs; this can be done in conjunction with this Work Plan. The LIS Partnership website, the nitrogen TMDL, the bioextraction projects funded in prior years, the LIS Partnership environmental indicators, *Sound Health* and *Protection & Progress* are all examples of successful and transferable products and activities from which the other NEPs may benefit**.**

a. Reduction in Nutrient Pollution

Point Source Load Reduction. The LIS Partnership continued the point source nitrogen reduction program in Long Island Sound in 2021. The total Trade-Equalized (TE) point source nitrogen load for 2021 was 18,338 TE lbs/day. This is below the wasteload allocation set in the 2000 Nitrogen TMDL. In total, the 100 NY and CT wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) discharging to Long Island Sound have reduced nitrogen by 49 million pounds annually compared to baseline levels established in the 2000 TMDL. In 2021, discharges decreased by 4.8% compared to 2020, and remained below the final TMDL targets. In both 2018 and 2019, the annual total nitrogen discharged from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in CT and NY increased for the first time since 2011 but remained below the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation and permit limits. The observed increase was likely caused by a greater than normal amount of precipitation in both years. Rainfall entering a wastewater treatment plant, either through the sewage pipe system or by depositing directly onto sewage storage tanks, can reduce the efficiency of the plant's ability to treat and remove nitrogen before discharging into Long Island Sound. However, the annual total nitrogen discharged from WWTPs has been the lowest on record for CT and NY. While the LIS Partnership does not directly fund this goal area and important CCMP activity, funds for STP nitrogen upgrades result from a combination of EPA State Revolving Funds, Connecticut's state Clean Water Fund and Bond Acts, and New York State's Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funds and other sources, including NYC bonds and funding for NYC STP upgrades. Attachment 6 depicts the reductions in Trade-equalized point source loadings from 1995-2024.

Area/Duration of Hypoxia. The maximum area of hypoxia (less than 3 milliliters (ml) of DO per liter of bottom water) in 2024 was 43 square miles. The 2023 5-year rolling average for the maximum summertime area of low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia) in Long Island Sound was estimated at 92 square miles. This represents a 51 percent decrease in the five-year rolling average compared to the pre-2000 average of 205 square miles (i.e., before the Total Maximum Daily Load was put in place by EPA and the states). The five-year average hypoxic area decreased by 10 square miles from last year's five-year average of 102 square miles (for 2017-2022). Dry summer conditions during summer 2024 likely reduced nutrient loading to the Sound from the watershed, likely contributing to the observed reduction in hypoxic area for this past year. The LIS Partnership provides funding to CT DEEP to conduct the LIS WQ monitoring program year-round, with additional monitoring runs during the

summer months. Other ambient factors affect the formation of the hypoxic zone in the Sound, including water and air temperature, rainfall, solar radiation, wind direction and velocity, currents, storm events and any resulting biological effects such as algae formation. Attachment 7 depicts the area/duration of the maximum hypoxia event in Long Island Sound since 1987 as measured by CT DEEP.

NPS Load Reductions/On-Site Treatment. The CCMP calls for actions to address NPS (NPS) pollution to the Sound, including actions to address on-site waste treatment systems (OWTS), or septic systems. The LIS TMDL addresses NPS pollution, requiring a 10 percent reduction through direct projects or best management practices and other methodologies. CT DEEP also is engaged in the Second-Generation Nitrogen Strategy, which endeavors to complement the sound wide TMDL by assessing local impairments and local nitrogen sources contributing to them.

b. Water Reuse and Conservation

The LIS Partnership does not particularly fund projects focused on this special interest as it is not a prominent issue in our region.

c. Marine Litter Reduction

Typically, LIS Partnership have addressed marine litter reduction primarily through the LISFF program where projects focus on marine litter reduction, prevention, and education.; however, there were no projects closed in FY2021. However, LIS Partnership, under the guidance of the NOAA Marine Debris Program and leadership of the CT and NY SEA programs, worked to develop a bi-state action plan for Long Island Sound. The Long Island Sound Marine Debris Action Plan, published in May 2022, represents a comprehensive framework of strategic actions to mitigate the impacts of marine debris in Long Island Sound over the next five years (2022-2027). The plan is organized under three main goals: 1) Understand, Prevent and Mitigate the Impacts of Single-Use Plastic and Other Water/Land-based Consumer Debris; 2) Understand, Prevent and Mitigate the Impacts of Abandoned and Lost Fishing/Aquaculture Gear; and 3) Understand, Prevent and Mitigate the Impacts of Microplastics and Microfibers. Over the next five years, tracking and monitoring of identified actions will help assess collective progress in achieving the goals for Long Island Sound. Using data from The Ocean Conservancy's Trash Information and Data for Education and Solutions (TIDES) database, from 2013 to 2023, LIS Partnership reports a decrease in marine debris collected per mile during coastal clean-ups in the following categories: plastic grocery bags (NY-98%; CT-98%), other (non-grocery) plastic bags (NY-80%; CT-30%), balloons (NY-93%; CT-88%), cigarettes (NY-96%; CT-90%), Styrofoam (NY-94%; CT-76%), foam cups and plates (NY-92%; CT-80%), plastic bottles (NY-97%; CT-76%), and straws/stirrers (NY-83%; CT-75%). These declines may coincide with various bans implemented in New York and Connecticut municipalities. For example, New York and Connecticut, starting March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 respectively, have implemented state-wide plastic bag bans and fees to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. These declines have continued in 2023 for most of the categories mentioned other than straws/stirrers and balloons which saw a slight increase from 2022.

d. Green Infrastructure and Resiliency

The LIS Partnership have addressed green infrastructure primarily through the LISFF program. The following projects finished in FY2023 which estimated over 11,475 square feet of green infrastructure installed and 500,000 gallons of stormwater prevented annually:

- Connecticut College- Exploring Nature-based Restoration to Improve Shoreline Resilience and Public Access (CT) (75820): Installed 0.25 acres of living shoreline and evaluated the use of nature-based approaches to protect coastal shorelines at the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London, Connecticut. Project expanded the use of green strategies to reduce storm-surge and restore salt marsh as buffers from storms and sea-level rise, and open community access to Long Island Sound.
- Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment, Inc. - Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality in Northport Harbor and Long Island Sound (NY) (73479):Constructed a series of 3 rain gardens located on Bluff Rd in the Village of Northport including both bio-infiltration (rain garden) and infiltration systems to capture and treat the stormwater. Members of the community were very involved in the project. CCFE worked to developed and distributed educational literature on the importance of green infrastructure in preventing harmful pollutants from entering to Village residents. CCFE used social media to promote Green Infrastructure and collaboration with the Village of Northport and the Northport Yacht Club.

2. COMPLETED PROJECTS. ***For completed projects that were funded by a CWA §320 sub-award, indicate: project purpose; entity that led project implementation; final grant amount – if project came in under budget, describe how remaining funds will be reallocated to ensure expenditure during the project period; project deliverable(s) and project completion date.***

The LIS Partnership is an ongoing partnership of Federal, state and local organizations implementing the cleanup and restoration plan for Long Island Sound. The LIS Partnership is not organized by 'project' and its program functions are distributed across its partners. Therefore, unless there are specific and discrete sub-grant projects that have been completed, this reporting category does not adequately represent the LIS Partnership organizational and reporting structure. However, in FY2024, one partner's assistance award funded in prior fiscal years have been completed and their EPA awards closed out:

- LI96261417, $463,297, New York Sea Grant Public Interaction and Education Coordination and Support and Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher Workshop, Cornell University/New York Sea Grant
- LI96256619, $1,570,000, New York Sea Grant Research Grant Program 2019-2024, Cornell University/New York Sea Grant
- LI00A00284, $1,126,416, Connecticut Sea Grant Research Grant Program 2019-2024, University of Connecticut/Connecticut Sea Grant
- LI00A00384, $586,589, NEIWPCC CCMP Implementation Support 2018, NEIWPCC

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ATTACHMENT 1

LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM WORK PLAN
LIST OF FY2025 LIS PARTNERSHIP -FUNDED STAFF

ORGANIZATION/NAME	LIS PARTNERSHIP TITLE	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES/ACTIVITIES
EPA		
Nicole Tachiki	Acting Director, EPA Long Island Sound Office	Direction of office and program
Leah O'Neill	Lead Coordinator, EPA Long Island Sound Office	Overall Budget Lead; Grants oversight and program Support; Nitrogen Strategy
Vacant	EPA Strategic Planning Coordinator	Congressional Reporting; Sustainable and Resilient Communities; Project Officer: NY and CT Sea Grant Programs, Interagency Agreements
Cayla Sullivan	EPA Habitat & Reporting Coordinator	Habitat and Seagrass Lead; Indicators Review Team; LIS Tracking and Reporting Tool; Project Officer: University of Connecticut
Bessie Wright (0.5 FTE)	EPA Community & Tribal Coordinator	Tribal Liaison; Project Officer: Long Island Sound Futures Fund
Vacant	EPA Federal Partners Coordinator	Federal Partner Coordination; Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds; Project Officer: USFWS and Dept. of Ag./NRCS Interagency Agreements
Vacant	EPA Community Monitoring Coordinator	Community Science; Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds; Informed and Engaged Public; Project Officer: Save the Sound and IEC
Melissa Duvall	EPA Water Quality Modeler	Water quality modeling and research; Project Officer: NYCDEP and CT and NY Sea Grant Research
Vacant	EPA NY Coordinator	Sustainable and Resilient Communities; Indicators Review Team; Project Officer: NY State
Ashley Desrosiers	EPA Upper Watershed Coordinator	Project Officer: MA State, Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund, NEIWPCC
Evelyn Spencer	EPA Monitoring & Reporting Coordinator	Seafloor Mapping Lead; LIS Tracking and Reporting Tool; Project Officer: CT State and University of Connecticut
Nicole Hammond	EPA Contracts and Federal Communication Coordination	Informed and Engaged Public; Contracts and Interagency Agreements: USGS
Vacant	ORISE Research Fellow	Biogeochemical Modeling
CT DEEP		
Tim Hunter	Environmental Analyst	Coordinates overall LIS program in CT
Kelly Streich	Environmental Analyst	TMDL and technical support lead; Co-Chair for Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds Workgroup
Kathleen Knight	Environmental Analyst	Water Quality Modeling lead
Katie Clayton-O'Brien	Environmental Analyst	Conducts Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring Program

Matthew Lyman	Environmental Analyst	Conducts Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring Program
Carriel Cataldi	Environmental Analyst	Conducts Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring Program
Abigail Winter	Environmental Analyst	
Harry Yamalis	Environmental Analyst	Coordinates habitat restoration plans/projects in CT
Emma Coffey	Environmental Analyst	
NYSDEC		
Samarra Scantlebury (state funded)	LIS Coordinator	Coordinates overall LIS program in New York
Vacant	NY Long Island Sound Coordinator	NYSDEC Division of Water Coordinator
Kimarie Yap	Bioextraction Coordinator	Coordinates Bioextraction Initiative activities
Vacant	Bioextraction Assistant	Supports Bioextraction initiative activities
Sara Cernadas	NY Habitat and Restoration Stewardship Coordinator	Coordinates habitat restoration and stewardship projects/plans in NY
Mark Shuster	Real Property Coordinator	Coordinates acquisition of land in Long Island Sound
NY Sea Grant		
Jimena Beatriz-Perez Viscasillas	NY Outreach Coordinator	Develops and implements communication, outreach and engagements plans and public information/education programs in Nassau and Suffolk County, NY.
Karen Palmeri	Administrative Support	Supports Extension Specialist. (33%)
Sara Powell	NY Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and Implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in Westchester County
Sarah Schaefer-Brown	NY Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and Implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in Nassau County.
Elizabeth Hornstein	NY Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and Implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in Suffolk County
Benjamin Goldberg	NY Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and Implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in NYC
Lillit Genovesi	NY Western LIS Outreach Coordinator	Develops and implements communication, outreach and engagement programs in NYC and Westchester, NY.
NEIWPCC		
Robert Burg	Outreach Coordinator	Coordinates the overall communications program
James Ammerman	Science Coordinator	Coordinates science and research program
Alex Dumont (0.5 FTE)	Environmental Analyst	Overall coordination and support
Vacant	Science Communicator	Coordinate science communication throughout
CTSEA		
Maggie Cozens	CT Outreach Coordinator	Develops and coordinates communications, outreach and engagement in CT
Sarah Schechter	CT Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in Eastern Connecticut

Deborah Abibou	CT Sustainable and Resilient Community Extension Professional	Coordinates and implements sustainable and resilient communities activities in Western Connecticut
Erica Casper	Outreach Support Coordinator	Facilitates and supports communication, outreach and engagement in CT and NY

Attachment 2

LIS BUDGET SUMMARY BY ORGANIZATION

2025 Organization & Program Activity by Award	Final FY25 Request	Required Match	Projected Actual Award Match
1. EPA Long Island Sound Office	**$1,738,000**	**$0**	**$0**
2. CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection	**$6,947,288**	**$4,858,168**	**$6,800,000**
a. CT State Coordination & Tech Assistance	$838,838	$559,225	
b. LIS Water Quality Monitoring Program	$1,719,254	$1,146,169	
c. CT Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Coordination	$218,203	$145,469	
d. Embayment Data Collection for Modeling	$850,000	$850,000	
e. Watershed Model - Outreach, Creation & Capacity Building	$250,000	$166,667	
g. Acoustic Telemetry Array - Phase 2	$85,957	$57,305	
h. LIS Cable Fund Phase V area	$2,000,000	$1,333,333	
State Aggregate Overmatch			$6,800,000
CCMP Implementation	$900,000	$600,000	
3. NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DMR)	**$1,111,958**	**$741,305**	**$3,942,405**
NY Habitat Coordination [via NEIWPCC]	See NEIWPCC	$0	
Support for Fecal Contamination Source Assessment in Smithtown Bay	$20,000	$13,333	
Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Cetacean Species	$191,958	$127,972	
State Aggregate Overmatch			$3,942,405
CCMP Implementation	$900,000	$600,000	
4. NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DOW)	**NEIWPCC**	**$0**	**$0**
NY LIS Coordination - 2 Positions [via NEIWPCC]	See NEIWPCC	$0	
LIS Nutrient Bioextraction Coordination [via NEIWPCC]	See NEIWPCC		
5. Univ. of Connecticut/ CT Sea Grant Public Outreach	**$1,810,562**	**$515,907**	**$86,258**
a. CT PI&E Coordination & STAC support	$183,532	$9,660	$9,308
b. K-12 Mentor Teacher Program	$33,599	$1,768	$1,862
c. Sustainable & Resilient Communities coordinators	$371,107	$19,532	$18,617
d. Sustainable & Resilient Communities activities w/supplemental	$685,000	$456,667	$34,131
e. A Network of Long Island Sound Schools FY25	$302,472	$15,920	$15,307
f. Outreach Support Coordinator	$138,295	$7,279	$7,033
Environmental Education Resource Guide & Toolkit	$96,557	$5,082	$0
6. NY Sea Grant Cornell U. Public Outreach	**$3,028,532**	**$773,432**	**$238,100**
a. NY Public Outreach Program	$318,043	$16,739	$15,717
b. Outreach Coordination in NYC and the Western Basin	$293,746	$15,460	$14,000
c. Sustainable & Resilient Communities activities	$1,246,243	$65,592	$63,383
Breaking Down Barriers w/supplemental	$1,000,000	$666,667	$0
High School Summit	$170,500	$8,974	$145,000
7. NEIWPCC	**$3,101,808**	**$1,711,056**	**$0**
a. Task 1 Outreach/Education Support	$581,101	$30,584	$0

b. Task 2 Program Management & Travel Coordination Support	$347,400	$231,600	$0
c. Task 3 Habitat Restoration Coordination	$362,062	$241,375	$0
d. Task 4 LIS Regional Coordinator	$527,025	$351,350	$0
e. Task 5 Science Coordination	$160,181	$106,787	$0
f. Task 7 LIS Nitrogen Reduction Coordination	$0	$0	$0
l. Bioextraction Coordinator & support	$1,124,039	$749,359	$0
8. Interstate Environmental Commission	**$1,538,890**	**$1,104,513**	**$499,800**
9. Univ. of Connecticut Water Quality monitoring	**$477,320**	**$318,213**	**$95,830**
10. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	**$12,650,000**	**$8,433,333**	**$8,433,333**
FY24 funds	$748,000	$498,667	
FY24 funds 2nd action	$209,994	$139,996	
FY25 funds	$11,692,006	$7,794,671	
11. Save the Sound - Unified Water Study	**$1,300,571**	**$867,047**	$903,469
12. Save the Sound - River Restoration Network	**$399,634**	**$266,423**	$163,350
13. UConn/ CT Sea Grant Research Program	**$1,500,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$650,000**
14. Research Foundation SUNY/NY SeaGrant Program	**$1,500,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$650,000**
15. UConn/CT NERR	**$331,774**	**$221,183**	**$59,035**
16. USGS Interagency Agreements	**$2,593,390**	**$0**	**$0**
a. In-Stream N Monitoring in Upper CT River	$717,100	NA	NA
b. CT River at Middle Haddam	$95,990	NA	NA
d. Lower CT River Monitoring, Flax Pond & Oyster Bay Monitoring	$306,050	NA	NA
e. Monitoring Norwalk River	$139,850	NA	NA
f. Coastal Acidification Monitoring	$525,000	NA	NA
g. Tributary Monitoring	$450,000	NA	NA
h. LIS Coordination and Technical Support	$289,000	NA	NA
i. Long Island Sound Tributary Streamflow Monitoring	$70,400	NA	NA
17. USGS Interagency Agreement - CT Nonseverable	**$255,500**	**$0**	**$0**
18. USGS Interagency Agreement - NY Flood Mapper	**$82,500**	**$0**	**$0**
19. USGS Interagency Agreement - NY Clearinghouse	**$75,000**	**$0**	**$0**
20. NRCS Interagency Agreement - Severable	**$482,869**	**$0**	**$0**
a. Outreach	$170,082	NA	NA
b. Planning and Implementation	$312,787	NA	NA
21. USFWS Interagency Agreement - Severable	**$547,000**	**$0**	**$0**
a. Tidal Marsh Restoration	415,849	NA	NA
b. Eelgrass Study	$131,151	NA	NA
22. EPA Contract NCCA	**$180,000**	**$0**	**$0**
Base subtotals:	**$41,652,596**	**$21,810,580**	**$22,521,580**
Fiduciary Reserve (EPA held)	$0	$0	
Final Total	$41,652,596		
Unallocated Funds	**$157,398**		

Planning target includes FY24 & FY25 (non-BIL) at $41,452,000

Projected $40,002,000 for LIS Section 119 funds and $850,000 for NEP Section 320 funds and $650,000 FY24 carryover

Organization & Program Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Projected Award
	CWA 119 & 320 funds distributed	CWA 119 & 320 funds distributed	CWA 119 & 320 funds distributed	CWA 119 & 320 funds distributed	CWA 119 & 320 funds projection	Total Funds Requested
1. EPA Long Island Sound Office	$409,294	$471,600	$525,000	$595,000	$665,000	$2,665,894
2. Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection	$6,545,916	$6,500,000	$6,500,000	$5,750,000	$5,800,000	$31,095,916
3. NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DMR)	$2,909,800	$3,409,800	$3,409,800	$3,059,800	$3,059,800	$15,849,000
4. NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DOW)	$4,500,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$5,650,000	$5,650,000	$27,800,000
5. MA Dept of Environmental Protection	$4,500,000	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,941,260	$7,658,740	$21,100,000
6. LIS Community Impact Fund - Restore America's Estuaries	$2,364,527	$0	$2,634,262	$2,950,000	$2,950,000	$10,898,789
Total:	**$21,229,537**	**$20,381,400**	**$21,069,062**	**$20,946,060**	**$25,783,540**	
Planning Target	$21,909,800	$21,909,800	$21,909,800	$21,909,800	$21,909,800	
Unallocated Funds:	$680,263	$1,528,400	$840,738	$963,740	-$3,873,740	
$21,909,800 annual planning target				$963,740	-$3,873,740	**$72,785**
$21,000,000 for LIS Section 119 funds ($106,000,000 over 5 years) and $909,800 for NEP Section 320 funds.						
Match has been waived						

Program Code/Agreement #	Lead Project Officer	Awarding Region	Grants Specialist	Recipient	Description	EPA hold Fed Award Amount (000B67) CWA 119	R1 Fed Award Amount (000B67) CWA 119	R2 Fed Award Amount (000B67) CWA 119	Fed Award Amount (000B89) CWA 320	R1 IIJA CWA 119	R2 IIJA CWA 119	IIJA CWA 320
4S-96276200	Nikki Tachiki	2	Jada Solomon	NYSDEC/DOW	Support for WQIP and Septic System Improvement programs in NY State.						$5,650,000	
4S-96277825	Nikki Tachiki	2	Kelvin Brooks	NYSDEC/DMR	Land acquisition under the LIS Stewardship Initiative,						$2,000,000	$909,800
LI-96269624	Kristina Heinemann	2	Jada Solomon	NYSDEC/DMR	Support for Fecal Contamination Source Assessment in Smithtown Bay, Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Cetacean Species, and CCMP Implementation			$1,111,958				
LI-96244522	Kristina Heinemann	2	Nicholas Porsborg	Cornell University Office of Sponsored Programs	This cooperative agreement has two elements: 1) Conduct the planning, organization and implementation of public environmental education and involvement programs, for the Long Island Sound in the State of New York. 2) Provide technical assistance to support Sustainable and Resilient Communities, consistent with the CCMP			$3,028,532				
LI-96283425	Melissa Duvall	2	Janeime Castro	SUNY Research Foundation (Sea Grant)	This agreement provides assistance to the State University of New York - Research Foundation (SUNY Research Foundation) to administer the LIS Research Grant program to identify scientific research needs and priorities, solicit and manage scientific peer review of proposals, and manage the selection and completion of the highest priority proposals.			$1,500,000				
LI-00A01491	Melissa Duvall	1	Robert Smith	CT Sea Grant Research	This agreement provides assistance to the University of Connecticut to administer the LIS Research Grant program to identify scientific research needs and priorities, solicit and manage scientific peer review of proposals, and manage the selection and completion of the highest priority proposals. The project will result in at least one sub-award for research to improve understanding of Sound critical to improving water and habitat quality.		$1,500,000					
LI-00A01412-2	Nikki Tachiki	2	Robert Smith	CT Sea Grant PI &E	This project will 1) plan, organize, coordinate and implement public environmental education programs, including the K-12 Mentor Teacher Program, for the LIS program in Connecticut by working with the LIS partners in assessing needs and developing priorities, and 2) promote citizen involvement and citizen education to protect coastal resources in the LIS watershed. Additionally, this agreement will work to implement the SRC Work Plan.		$1,810,562					
LI-00A001415-1	Cayla Sullivan	2	Robert Smith	UConn Seagrass	Continuing to Support Long Island Sound Eelgrass Collaborative Success		$331,774					

LI-00A01868	Evelyn Spencer	1	Robert Shewack	Interstate Environmental Commission	1) conduct water quality monitoring of summer hypoxic conditions in western LIS and its embayments; 2) continue coordinated monthly, weekly and bi-weekly long-term monitoring of a suite of in-situ parameters at a network of 22 historical monitoring stations; and 3) coordinate with CTDEEP and other LIS partners.		$1,538,890					
LI-00A1494-0	Caitlyn Whittle	1	Robert Smith	Save The Sound	This agreement provides assistance to Save the Sound to coordinate and implement the Unified Water Study, which establishes a comparable bay-to-bay dataset describing the eutrophic conditions and environmental health of bays and harbors around the Long Island Sound.		$1,300,571					
LI-00A1493-0	Caitlyn Whittle	1	Robert Smith	Save The Sound	River Restoration Network		$399,634					
4S-00A01623	Ashley Desrosiers	1	Katonya Parker	MassDEP	This agreement is to fund upgrades to the Chicopee WPCF (which discharges to the CT River and LIS), to help the city meet its final permit that includes a mass-based annual average total nitrogen limit of 647 lbs/day.					$2,941,260		
4S-00A01865	Ashley Desrosiers	1	Monique Lloyd	RAE	Long Island Sound Community Impact fund.					$2,950,000		
LI-00A01624	Bessie Wright	1	Katonya Parker	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	NFWF LIS Futures Fund 2025----As directed by Section 119(d) of the Clean Water Act, this project implements recommendations of the CCMP. The grant supports activities to support community-based efforts to restore Long Island Sound by providing sub-grants, through the NFWF, on a competitive basis through the LIS Futures Fund		$12,650,000		$0			
LI-00A01492	Evelyn Spencer	1	Robert Smith	Univ. of Connecticut-WQ Monitoring	Ongoing water quality monitoring.		$477,320					
LI-00A01495-0	Evelyn Spencer	1	Robert Smith	CTDEEP	This agreement provides assistance to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to implement its project to support the CCMP to protect and restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of LIS.		$6,097,288		$850,000			
4S-00A01431	Evelyn Spencer	1	Robert Smith	CTDEEP	CTDEEP IIJA Funding					$5,750,000		
LI-00A01523	Ashley Desrosiers	1	Robert Shewack	NEIWPCC	LIS management conference support		$3,101,808					
	Nicole Hammond	1	Leon Smith	USGS CT NE	Severable. a. Major Tributaries to LIS Monitoring; b. Lower CT River Monitoring; c. CT River at Middle Haddam; d. Upper Connecticut River Monitoring (Yr 1 of 4) e. USGS Coastal Acidification Monitoring; f. Nitrogen concentrations and loads and seasonal nitrogen loads in tributaries		$2,593,390					

	Nicole Hammond	1	Leon Smith	USGS CT NE	Non-severable, Embayment summary report, N changes in groundwater, compound flood risk online mapper		$255,500					
	Nicole Hammond	1	Leon Smith	USGS NY			$82,500					
	Nicole Hammond	1	Leon Smith	USGS NY			$75,000					
DW-086-925675-3	Cayla Sullivan	2	Elizabeth Mcquay	NRCS	Severable. Nutrient Management Outreach and Planning for Animal Operations in Connecticut. Outreach and Planning for Agricultural Operations in CT			$171,048				
	Cayla Sullivan	2	Crystal Grayson	USFWS	Severable. LIS Collaborative Coastal Habitat Assessment, Restoration and Monitoring (formerly Tidal Marsh Restoration Implementation at Priority Sites Through Increased Capacity)			$547,013				
Contract	Leah O'Neill	1	TBD	EPA HQ	NCCA		$120,000					
Contract	Leah O'Neill	1	TBD	EPA HQ	NCCA		$60,000					
EPA R1	Leah O'Neill	1		R1	FTE assistance for R1 Staff Support (PC&B)		$495,000			$284,000		
EPA R1	Leah O'Neill	1		R1	WCF		$16,000			$18,000		
EPA R1	Leah O'Neill	1		R1	Travel							
EPA R2	Rick Balla	2		R2	FTE assistance for R2 Staff Support (PC&B)			$975,000			$122,000	
EPA R2	Rick Balla	2		R2	General Expenses			$10,000			$0	
EPA R2	Rick Balla	2		R2	Travel			$6,000			$0	
EPA R2	Rick Balla	2		R2	WCF			$7,000			$6,000	
EPA R2	Rick Balla	2		R2	BOC = Contracts (This for ORISE, LISO & QAPP Support)			$225,000			$154,000	
EPA HQ		HQ		HQ	EPA HQ Administration	$4,000						
EPA HQ		HQ		HQ	EPA HQ Administration BIL							
					Budget Total:	$4,000	$32,905,237	$7,581,551	$850,000	$11,943,260	$7,932,000	$909,800
					Award distribution TOTAL		$32,394,237	$6,358,551				
					Final Budget total:			**$41,340,788**		**CWA 119 IIJA TOTAL:**		$19,875,260
					Unallocated:			**$469,206**				

R2 funds	IIJA funded
R1 funds	IIJA funded
contract	
IA	
HQ	

Currently Available in BOC Grants	$31,755,994	$7,328,000	$850,000	383000	20550000	909800
amount to transfer	($638,243)	$969,449	$0	**($11,560,260)**	$12,618,000	0
				Unallocated	$1,057,740	

Attachment 5

Long Island Sound Partnership

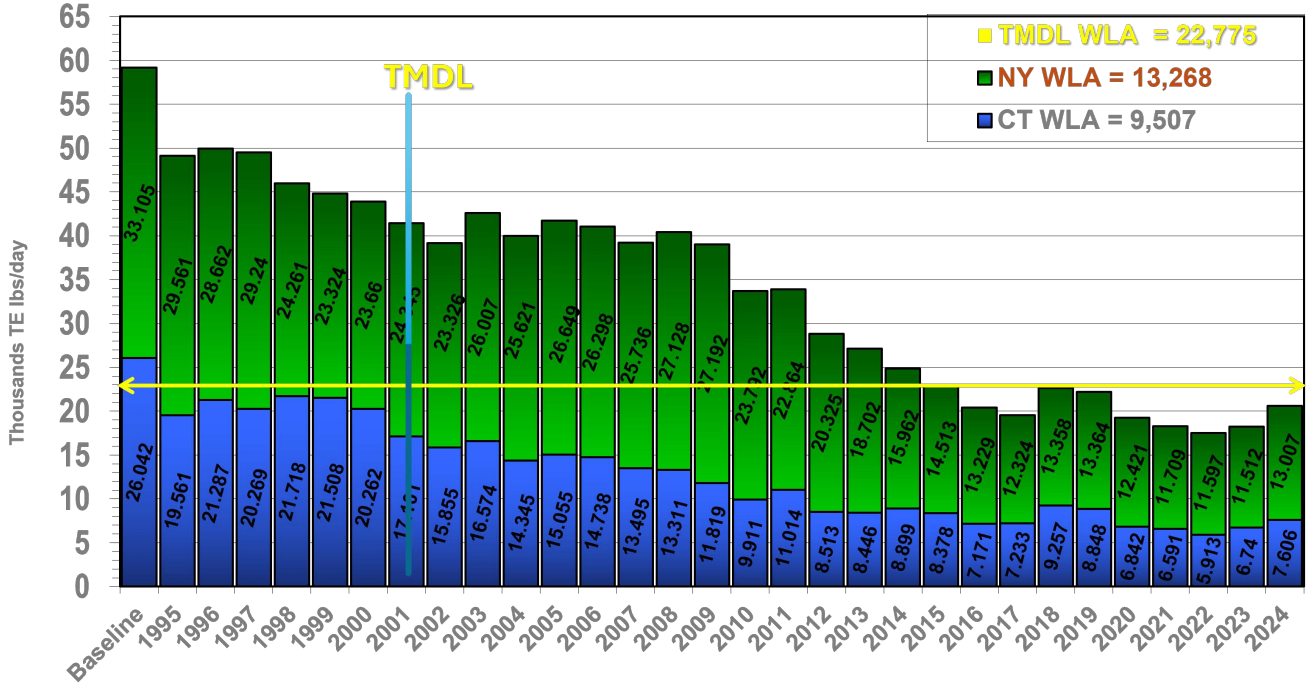
Travel Documentation for LIS NEP Work Plan

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

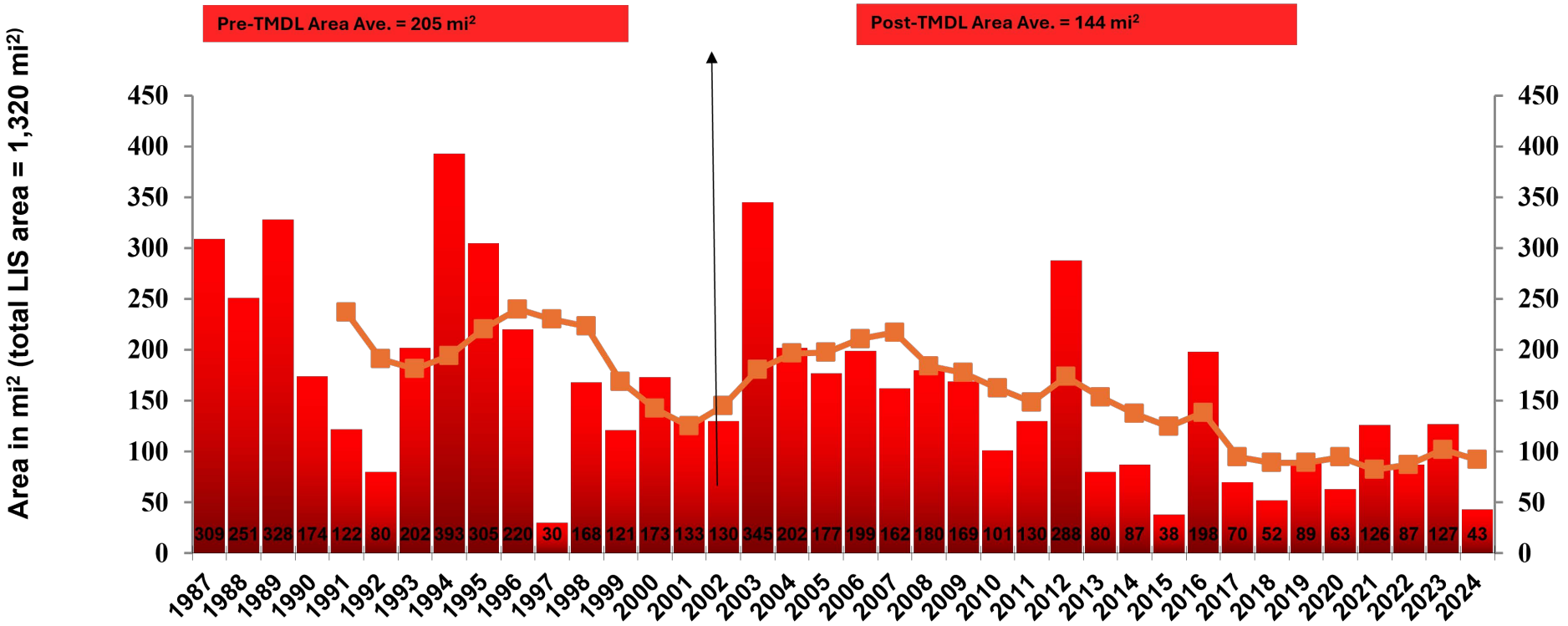
*Reimbursement transaction posted date (meeting date may be outside this timeframe)

LIS Partnership Partner Travel							
Meeting Date(s)	Meeting Title	Starting Location	Meeting Location (Destination)	Agency/Committee Affiliation	Partner/Staff	Expense ($)	Grant Number
FY24; Q4 (July 1, 2024-September 30, 2024)							
6/13/2024	LIS Partnership CAC Quarterly Meeting	Setauket, NY	Bridgeport, CT	CAC	Partner	$ 28.00	LI-00A01059
08/13/2024-08/14/2024	NERACOOS Board Meeting	Middletown, CT	Orono, ME	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 346.62	LI-00A01059
7/11/2024	Living shoreline and permitting site visits	Berlin, CT	Niantic, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 57.02	LI-00A01059
7/26/2024	LIS Partnership CCMP Video Recording	Berlin, CT	Old Saybrook, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 48.37	LI-00A01059
8/21/2024	LISFF Review Meeting	Brooklyn, NY	Bridgeport, CT	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 22.33	LI-00A01059
8/21/2024	LISFF Review Meeting	Berlin, CT	Bridgeport, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 22.33	LI-00A01059
8/27/2024	Site visits	Berlin, CT	Niantic, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 59.03	LI-00A01059
09/09/2024-09/12/2024	MACAN/OA Alliance Workshop	Middletown, CT	Baltimore, MD	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 797.34	LI-00A01059
9/12/2024	LIS Partnership CAC/STAC Meeting	Coventry, CT	Port Jefferson, NY	CT Sea Grant	Partner	$ 136.82	LI-00A01059
09/16/2024 - 09/20/2024	2024 Water Quality Modeling Workshop	Somers, CT	Philadelphia, PA	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 344.79	LI-00A01059
9/12/2024	LIS Partnership CAC/STAC Meeting	Niantic, CT	Port Jefferson, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$123.66	LI-00A01059
09/16/2024 - 09/20/2024	2024 Water Quality Modeling Workshop	Niantic, CT	Philadelphia, PA	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 1,554.90	LI-00A01059
9/12/2024	LIS Partnership CAC/STAC Meeting	Lynbrook, NY	Port Jefferson, NY	CAC	Partner	$ 69.68	LI-00A01059
9/11/2024	Site visits	Berlin, CT	Old Saybrook, CT; Wilton, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 103.92	LI-00A01059
9/17/2024	Invasive plant training	Berlin, CT	Groton, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 71.69	LI-00A01059
9/12/2024	LIS Partnership CAC/STAC Meeting	Bridgeport, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 39.00	LI-00A01059
					FY24 Q4 Total	$ 3,825.50	
FY25; Q1 (October 1, 2024-December 31, 2024)							
10/05/2024 - 10/13/2024	RAE	Berlin, CT	Washington D.C.	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 3,465.59	LI-00A01059
10/05/2024 - 10/13/2024	RAE	Queens, NY	Washington D.C.	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 1,631.52	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Hartford, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 430.80	LI-00A01523
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Niantic, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 529.15	LI-00A01523
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	New Haven, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 444.97	LI-00A01523
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	New Haven, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 237.89	LI-00A01523
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Berlin, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 430.83	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Avon, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 540.76	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Hartford, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 539.00	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	New Haven, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CAC	Partner	$ 575.73	LI-00A01523
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Kings Park, NY	Stony Brook, NY	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 196.98	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Larchmont, NY	Stony Brook, NY	CAC	Partner	$ 247.57	LI-00A01059
11/13/2024 - 11/15/2024	NEP Tech Transfer	Stony Brook, NY	Stony Brook, NY	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 56.00	LI-00A01059
11/13/2024 - 11/15/2024	NEP Tech Transfer	New Haven, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 656.25	LI-00A01059
11/13/2024 - 11/15/2024	NEP Tech Transfer	Stony Brook, NY	Stony Brook, NY	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 84.00	LI-00A01059
11/13/2024 - 11/15/2024	NEP Tech Transfer	Niantic, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 980.65	LI-00A01059
10/23/2024 - 10/24/2024	LIS Partnership MC Meeting	Wallingford, CT	Stony Brook, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 237.49	LI-00A01059
11/13/2024 - 11/15/2024	NEP Tech Transfer	Brooklyn, NY	Stony Brook, NY	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 419.76	LI-00A01059
12/05/24 - 12/06/2024	NERACOOS 15th Anniversary Meeting	Middletown, CT	Portsmouth, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 434.96	LI-00A01059
12/9/2024	WSP Pawcatuck Training	Hartford, CT	Narragansett, RI	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 23.40	LI-00A01059
					FY25 Q1 Total	$ 12,163.30	
FY25; Q2 (January 1, 2025-March 31, 2025)							
02/04/25 - 02/07/25	National Aquatic Biologists Conference	Middletown, CT	Bartlett, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 757.55	LI-00A01059
02/05/25 - 02/07/25	National Aquatic Biologists Conference	Windsor, CT	Bartlett, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 616.61	LI-00A01059
02/05/25 - 02/07/25	National Aquatic Biologists Conference	Windsor, CT	Bartlett, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$494.84	LI-00A01059
02/05/25 - 02/07/25	National Aquatic Biologists Conference	Windsor, CT	Bartlett, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 604.05	LI-00A01059
02/04/25 - 02/07/25	National Aquatic Biologists Conference	Avon, CT	Bartlett, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 1,202.50	LI-00A01059
2/25/2025	Leetes Island marsh site visit	Berlin, CT	Guilford, CT	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 55.65	LI-00A01059
3/21/2025	Long Island Natural History Conference	Brooklyn, NY	Stony Brook, NY	NYS DEC	Partner	$ 75.96	LI-00A01059
3/26/2025	Zosterapalooza XXXIV	Hartford, CT	Boston, MA	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 74.33	LI-00A01059
					FY25 Q2 Total	$ 3,881.47	
FY25; Q3 (April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025)							
04/24/25 - 04/26/25	New England Estuarine Research Society Conference	Hartford, CT	Provincetown, MA	CT DEEP	Partner	$797.76	LI-00A01059
05/19/2025 - 05/21/2025	EPA NCCA 2025 Survey - Training	Windsor, CT	Portsmouth, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 334.20	LI-00A01059
5/19/2025	LIS Partnership HRSWG Meeting	Berlin, CT	Kings Park, NY	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 244.87	LI-00A01059
05/19/25 - 05/21/25	National Coastal Condition Assessment Training	Windsor, CT	Portsmouth, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 373.30	LI-00A01059
05/19/25 - 05/21/25	National Coastal Condition Assessment Training	Windsor, CT	Portsmouth, NH	CT DEEP	Partner	$ 385.57	LI-00A01059
6/20/2025	LIS Partnership 40th Anniversary Event	Ballston Spa, NY	Rye, NY	CAC	Partner	$ 231.00	LI-00A01059
					FY25 Q3 Total	$2,366.70	
					Annual Total	$22,236.97	

Point Source Nitrogen Trade-Equalized Loads vs. Total Maximum Daily Load Waste Load Allocations 1995-2024 NY/CT STPs



Maximum Area of Hypoxia
1987-2024 (June-September)



Project Info

Title:	**NYSDEC DOW Staff to Support the New Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds Work Group and to Better Implement its Goals and Actions**		
Activity Type:	Coordination	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$329,270.00
Responsible Partners:	NYSDEC DOW	Federal Amount:	$329,270.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00
Objectives:	To bring on additional staff at NYSDEC DOW and enhance EPA support to manage the workload of the new goal and its objectives.		
Description:	This position will complement the current NYSDEC DOW staff person. The new position will lead the pathogens, toxics, and marine debris objectives.		
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028		
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation		

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Co-lead the CWHW work group for the NYSDEC DOW on CWHW objectives related to pathogens, marine debris, and toxic contaminants	CWHW 3; CWHW 4; CWHW 5	CWHW 3-1; CWHW 4-1; CWHW 5-4

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 2 - Program Management & Travel Coordination Support**		
Activity Type:	Coordination	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$347,400.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$347,400.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00
Objectives:	To support logistic coordination for in-person meetings and process participant support requests.		
Description:	NEIWPCC will complete the following sub-tasks: Meeting Support, ANEP Support, Participant Support, Program Management		
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028		
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation		

Title: **Connecticut State Coordination FY25**

Activity Type:	Coordination	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$1,398,063.33
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$838,838.00
		Match Amount:	$559,225.33

Objectives: To provide support for CT DEEP's LIS Partnership Reporting Coordinator (LIS PartnershipRC), Technical Coordinator (LIS PartnershipTC), and 3 Project Coordinators (LIS PartnershipPC) to plan, implement, coordinate, manage, and progress projects that support the CCMP.

Description: These positions are wholly devoted to the LIS Partnership; by bringing devoted CT DEEP resources to the table we assure that both Connecticut and the greater LIS Partnership will achieve the full benefits of the partnership.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2029

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
LISPRC - Participation in LIS Partnershipworkgroups and tasks	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3
LISPRC - Coordinate and support diverse participation of state agency staff in activities relevant to the LIS Partnershippartnership and implementation of the CCMP that meet state commitments to LISS	CWHW 1, CWHW 2	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 2-1
LISPRC - Manage CT DEEP projects funded with LISP funds	CWHW 1; CWHW 2; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 2-2, THAW 3-2
LISPTC - Coordinate CT DEEP review of grant proposals for LISS	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 1-2
LISPTC - Participation in LIS Partnershipworkgroups and tasks	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 1-2
LISPTC - Dissemination of LIS Information and Outreach	CWHW 1; IEP 2	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 1-2, IEP 2-3
LISPTC - Implement the LIS Nitrogen TMDL and CT DEEP's Second Generation Nitrogen Strategy (nutrient reduction programs)	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-3

LISPTC - Technical coordination of science and management for nitrogen reduction efforts.	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 1-2, CWHW 3-1
LISPTC - Watershed planning and stormwater/nonpoint source implementation; Participate in EPA's LIS Nitrogen Reduction Strategy	CWHW 1; CWHW 2; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 2-2, CWHW 3-1
LISPPC 1 - Coordinate and manage Connecticut watershed model update	CWHW 1; CWHW 2; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-3, CWHW 1-2, CWHW 3-2
LISPPC 1 - Committee and workgroup support	CWHW 1; IEP 2	CWHW 1-3, IEP 2-3
LISPPC 1 - Coordinate and manage partner and workgroup tasks	CWHW 1; IEP 2	CWHW 1-3, IEP 2-3
LISPPC 1 - Coordinate and planning for CT DEEP LIS Partnershipneeds.	SRC 2; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 2-2, IEP 3-2, SRC 2-3
LISPPC 2 - Support work groups	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3
LISPPC 2 - Manage CT State water quality projects funded with LIS Partnershipfunds	CWHW 1; CWHW 2; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 2-2, CWHW 3-2
LISPPC 2 - Work with other CT DEEP divisions sponsoring LIS Partnershipfunded projects	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3
LISPPC 3 - Support work groups	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3
LISPPC 3 - Manage CT State water quality projects funded with LIS Partnershipfunds	CWHW 1; CWHW 2; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 2-2, CWHW 3-2
LISPPC 3 - Work with other CT DEEP divisions sponsoring LIS Partnershipfunded projects	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3

Title:	**USGS Staff Support for the LIS Partnership FY25**		
Activity Type:	Coordination	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$289,000.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$289,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To 1) Designate a lead point-of-contact (POC) to better integrate USGS into LIS Partnership planning activities; (2) Continue to provide technical and staff support for the systemwide model of LIS; and (3) Participate in the LIS Partnership "Open Science" initiative to provide USGS assistance with the management and display of environmental data collected in LIS and its watershed.

Description: USGS began providing technical and staff support for development and application of the systemwide model, including data inputs to the model, model oversight and peer review, model applications, and model maintenance, in 2020. This revised scope of work for FY25 focuses the staff support role for USGS to better integrate USGS into LIS Partnership planning activities for the program overall.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
USGS coordination (Point of Contact)	IEP 4	IEP 4-2
Technical Support, Systemwide model	IEP 4	IEP 4-2
Open Science Planning	IEP 4	IEP 4-2

Title:	**Connecticut Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Coordination FY25**

Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$363,671.67
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$218,203.00
		Match Amount:	$145,468.67

Objectives: To support the coordinator to provide technical support and leadership to the HRSWG, serving as co-chair with NYSDEC. Much of the work supporting the LIS Partnership HRSWG will be through two habitat restoration sub-work groups Connecticut has developed for tidal wetlands and riverine migratory corridors. These groups meet at least once per year to formulate new work plans and coordinate implementation activities. The coordinator organizes these meetings and based upon work group priorities will assist the teams in securing funding, project engineering/design, securing permits and managing contracts where consulting firms are hired to develop restoration plans and designs. DEEP will enter into contracts to acquire and preserve habitat acreage.

Description: Connecticut's habitat restoration coordinator will continue to promote coastal habitat restoration and stewardship to maximize acres and miles restored annually. Specifically, the emphasis is upon project implementation (e.g., design, permitting, and securing funding) but will include support for habitat restoration planning (e.g., database management, outreach).

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2029

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Implementation of LIS PartnershipHabitat Restoration CCMP implementation actions including riverine migratory and tidal wetland restoration project coordination and assistance	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1, THAW 3-2, THAW 3-1
Updating the Habitat Restoration website and database	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Co-chair LIS PartnershipHabitat Restoration and Stewardship work group (HRSWG)	THAW 1; THAW 4	THAW 1-1, THAW 4-2
Coordination of LIS Futures Fund proposal reviews	THAW 1; THAW 4	THAW 1-1, THAW 4-2
Shoreline Public Access Preservation	THAW 4	THAW 4-1
Site Stewardship/Restoration	THAW 1	THAW 1-1, THAW 1-3
Coordination of annual NEPORT reporting	THAW 2	THAW 2-3, THAW 2-1

Title: **Long Island Sound Collaborative Coastal Habitat Assessment, Restoration and Monitoring FY25**

Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USFWS	Total Estimate Budget	$547,000.00
Responsible Partners:	University of Rhode Island	Federal Amount:	$547,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To 1) work collaboratively within the tidal marsh working groups to identify priority projects, 2) provide technical expertise and financial resources to advance one or more of these projects through design and permitting, 3) provide technical support for projects that are permitted for implementation, 4) collect pre- and post-restoration monitoring data across sites to inform development of best practices for subsequent projects within the Long Island Sound watershed, and 5) to continue annual mapping and monitoring of eelgrass beds as part of a long term strategy informed by the intercomparison study and through input form the eelgrass collaborative.

Description: This project will provide support two tasks 1) Tidal Marsh Project including capacity building within USFWS, hiring staff focused on working in the LIS Partnership boundary and leveraging additional Service technical expertise; and 2) Eelgrass Mapping

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
GIS database development, analysis, report writing, misc.	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3; THAW 3-1
Build efficiencies across agencies and organization. Leverage resources.	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 3-3
Initiate planning for one or more projects. Baseline data collection compiled into design plans and permitting applications	THAW 1; THAW 3; SRC 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3; THAW 3-3; SRC
Imagery interpretation, delineation, and ground-truthing field work	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3; THAW 3-1
Initiate and complete marsh restoration activities for one or more project sites.	THAW 1; SRC 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3; SRC 3-3
Initiate monitoring on using standard monitoring protocols. Build understanding of effective techniques for restoration	THAW 1; SRC 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3; SRC 3-3; SRC 3-5

Project outcomes shared with LISS, and broader scientific community, progress reports submitted. Lessons learned used to support planning and initiation of additional projects.	THAW 1	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-3

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 3 - Habitat Restoration Coordination**
Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection
Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC
Total Estimate Budget	$192,062.00
Responsible Partners:	
Federal Amount:	$192,062.00
Match Amount:	$0.00
Objectives:	To support activities to be carried out by the LIS Partnership NYS Habitat Restoration and Stewardship Coordinator.
Description:	NEIWPCC's NYS Habitat Restoration and Stewardship Coordinator will conduct activities associated with the Long Island Sound Partnership including: Preparing, assisting, and evaluating project applications for habitat restoration, assessment, monitoring, and research funding; Developing partnerships to restore LIS habitats and promote stewardship (public access, land acquisition, land management); Working with regional staff to help partners prepare project workplans that are compatible with state regulations; lead NYSDEC activities associated with the LIS Partnership THAW workgroup; coordinate citizen science and volunteer opportunities; manage databases and use GIS information for program purposes; assist the IRT by providing data to report on the 2025 CCMP objectives and environmental indicators.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028
CWA Program Elements	Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title: **Continuing to Support Long Island Sound Eelgrass Collaborative Success**

Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	University of Connecticut	Total Estimate Budget	$448,846.00
Responsible Partners:	Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve	Federal Amount:	$389,811.00
		Match Amount:	$59,035.00

Objectives: To implement the 2022 LIS Eelgrass Management and Restoration Strategy through activities and collaboration of regional partners.

Description: The CT NERR will host eight additional LIS Eelgrass Collaborative meetings between 2025-2027; develop and implement a new CT participatory mapping exersize designed to elicit perceptions about eelgrass interactions with aquaculture and recreational shellfisheries along with knowledge about suitability factors for eelgrass restoration sites; and develop a bi-state approch for seagrass-safe boater education to protect exisiting eelgrass habitat.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Implement participatory mapping exercise and meet with shellfish commissions and growers to identify perceptions of aquaculture and eelgrass interactions and potential restorations ites; outreach about results to various audiences	THAW 1; IEP 3	THAW 1-1; IEP 3-4
	IEP 3	IEP 3-4
Draft and implement a boater education strategy at one pilot site in NY and CT	THAW 1	THAW 1-1
Continue meeting with state partners to review and discuss eelgrass management and restoration strategies	THAW 1	THAW 1-1
Plan and organize eight Eelgrass Collaborative meetings	THAW 1; IEP 3	THAW 1-1; IEP 3-4
Improve bi-state communication and coordination	THAW 1	THAW 1-1
Provide advice and input on other LIS Partnershipfunded eelgrass project	THAW 1	THAW 1-1

Title:	**Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Cetacean Species**		
Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NYSDEC DMR	Total Estimate Budget	$319,930.26
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$191,958.26
		Match Amount:	$127,972.00
Objectives:	To better understand cetacean presence in the Long Island Sound by investigating the occurrence of vocalizing cetaceans over a two-year period.		
Description:	The NYSDEC will deploy acoustic monitors, conduct an analysis of recorded sound data, and develop a report to summarize detections of cetaceans in space and time.		
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028		
CWA Program Elements	Wetlands Program Support/Implementation		

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Quality Assurance Project Plan	THAW 2	THAW 2-1
Deployment of receivers	THAW 2	THAW 2-1
Analysis of recordings from receivers	THAW 2	THAW 2-1
Data submission and final reports	THAW 2	THAW 2-1

Title:	**Advancing Regional Stream Barrier Removal Efforts by Investing in Networked Capacity Building**

Activity Type:	Habitat Restoration and Protection	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	Save the Sound	Total Estimate Budget	$562,984.00
Responsible Partners:	River Restoration Network	Federal Amount:	$399,634.00
		Match Amount:	$163,350.00

Objectives: To increase regional project management capacity for stream barrier removal; develop a pipeline of new project managers through apprenticeships; and accelerate project development and implementation

Description: The 2025 CCMP includes targets of 100 stream barrier removals and reconnection of 175 miles of riverine migratory corridors over the next decade. Achieving these targets will require new approaches to developing regional capacity for stream barrier removals—both the initial identification and assessment of barriers and the know-how to manage the often years-long projects to remove them. This project will create and implement an apprenticeship program to conduct more stream restoration projects.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
2 full-time stream barrier removal project managers onboarded to American Rivers and Seatuck Environmental Association	THAW 3	THAW 3-2
Framework and partnerships in place for a regional apprenticeship program for project managers of river restoration projects	THAW 3	THAW 3-2
5 completed reconnaissance studies on dams and culverts utilizing River Restoration Network method.	THAW 3	THAW 3-1

Title: **Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2025**

Activity Type:	Implementation	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NFWF	Total Estimate Budget	$21,083,333.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$12,650,000.00
		Match Amount:	$8,433,333.00

Objectives: To help accelerate the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound through support of implementation activities that address the specific commitments and recommendations of the 2020-2024 CCMP.

Description: This project will 1) provide support for management of the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) grant program NFWF, the direct recipient of the EPA Co-op funds; 2) provide individual grants to subrecipients with EPA Co-op monies towards projects that contribute to the protection and restoration of the health and living resources of Long Island Sound; and 3) make investments in on-the-ground actions in communities to improve water quality, protect habitat and living resources, educate and involve the public, improve the long-term understanding of how to manage the Sound, monitor progress, and redirect management efforts as described in the 2020 CCMP.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Develop LISFF RFP and associated application materials	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Disseminate RFP through partners and multiple formats	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Deliver multiple forms of applicant and subrecipient technical assistance	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Conduct proposal evaluations	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Deliver technical networking and grant announcement event	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Deliver multiple forms of education about LISFF investments and impact	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Engage federal and nonfederal partnerships and networks	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Administer subrecipient grants and recipient cooperative agreements	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Finalize investment business planning	IEP 1	IEP 1-1

Adapt the LISFF to strategically address the CCMP Update, increased funding and changing scope of work	IEP 1	IEP 1-1

Title: **Continuation of Long Island Sound Habitat Connectivity Model Development**

Activity Type:	Modeling	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$170,000.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$170,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To standardize the habitat restoration data between CT and NY by creating shapefiles of existing habitat restoration and land acquisition projects in NY and refine and expand qualitative metrics in the pilot habitat connectivity model for quantifying coastal habitat and riverine connectivity needs; to provide tools for quantitative assessment of CT and NY progress towards achieving Connectivity goals; enabling selection of priority sites for restoring, conserving, or improving habitat connectivity; and identifying and evaluating possible options for tracking habitat connectivity improvements in LIS.

Description: NEIWPCC will contract with a consultant to continue the work of the 2021 project. In this continuation, we will improve the data inputs, refine and expand the qualitative metrics for the pilot habitat connectivity model to assess habitat connectivity wholistically between habitat patches spanning multiple priority coastal habitat types, and to develop shapefiles for existing NY restoration projects.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - January 31, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
QAPP Process	THAW 3	THAW 3-1
Develop GIS shapefiles of NY habitat restoration sites	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 3-1
Develop qualitative model metrics for quantifying coastal habitat and riverine connectivity needs	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 3-1
Develop training documents and training module	THAW 3	THAW 3-1
Coordination and Reporting	THAW 1; THAW 3	THAW 1-1; THAW 3-1

Title: **Maintenance of the USGS Compound Flood Occurrence Interactive Online Mapper**

Activity Type:	Modeling	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	
Responsible Partners:	CT and NY SG	Federal Amount:	$82,500.00
		Match Amount:	

Objectives: To maintain and update CF Mapper to ensure CF Mapper functionality and access.

Description: The USGS CF Mapper will be released in FY25, and the SRC Working Group plans to hold a series of workshops presenting the CF Mapper to stakeholders in FY25. Phase 2 of the aforementioned USGS Compound Flood study, which will include development of a process-based model framework to further study flood drivers and effects, will also be completed in FY25 and FY26 Q1. In an effort to build on lessons learned during the Compound Flood study and to create a "living" tool that could benefit future coastline resiliency planning and management decisions, continued maintenance and update of the CF Mapper after FY25 is proposed.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Maintain online mapper	SRC 1	SRC 1-2

Title: **Embayment Data Collection for Modeling FY25**

Activity Type:	Modeling	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$1,700,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$850,000.00
		Match Amount:	$850,000.00

Objectives: To collect embayment water quality and hydrodynamic data for modeling purposes in the Poquonnock River embayment.

Description: Funding is requested to continue the initial embayment monitoring and modeling, started in FY19. Using FY25 funds, CT DEEP proposes to initiate data collection in an embayment identified to receive high nitrogen loading either through a point source discharge or onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Evaluate a collaboration with the CT NERR for the purposes of data collection, education, and stewardship	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-2, CWHW 3-2
Semi-annual progress report and final grant closeout	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-3
Collection of water quality, hydrodynamic, benthic, and macrophyte data in one embayment with associated stream gage continuous and discrete measurements) at the watershed pour point	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **USGS Water Quality Monitoring at the Connecticut River at Middle Haddam, CT FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$95,990.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$95,990.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To continue collecting data for the computation of loads of nitrogen to LIS from the Connecticut River watershed at Middle Haddam, CT.

Description: Before 2009, the USGS calculated nitrogen loads at the Connecticut River at Thompsonville, CT because it is the only streamgage on the Connecticut River without tidal influence. In 2009, recognizing that a large portion of the urbanized land use in the watershed and many wastewater-treatment facilities are downstream from this site, the USGS established a station on the Connecticut River at Middle Haddam, CT. Unlike other stations where periodic data are collected, this station can provide continuous time-series data for nitrate, streamflow, turbidity, colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM), and specific conductance. In addition, discrete samples of nitrate, ammonia, total organic nitrogen, and total nitrogen are collected approximately 18 times per year to validate the total nitrogen concentration model that allows for the computation of instantaneous total nitrogen loads .

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for five parameters important in characterizing water quality	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Discrete water quality sampling - approved discrete water quality data for a range of forms of nitrogen	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Estimates of loads of nutrients	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for five parameters important in characterizing water quality	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Discrete water quality sampling - approved discrete water quality data for a range of forms of nitrogen	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Estimates of loads of nutrients	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Title: **USGS Continuous Water Quality Monitoring in Norwalk River FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$139,850.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$139,850.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To continue continuous water quality and estuary elevation data collection in the Norwalk River Estuary at the dock near the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk.

Description: USGS has been operating a continuous water quality monitor station on the Norwalk River Estuary at the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk since the Spring of 2021. This monitoring station was equipped with both near surface and near bottom water quality monitors that collected water temperature, specific conductance, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and chlorophyll a. During the summers of 2021 and 2022 the dissolved oxygen concentrations often went below 3 mg/ L in both the near surface and near bottom water. This seasonal hypoxia is the result of excess nutrients entering the harbor and fueling algal blooms in portions of the upper Norwalk harbor. USGS has engaged with many different aspects of the Norwalk community to communicate the water quality issues that are being observed in the Norwalk River estuary. This location would be able to demonstrate the effective partnerships between the many local, state, and federal partners working together for a healthier LIS.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for water temperature and specific conductance	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Ocean elevation - approved stage data	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Develop and conduct outreach with the Aquarium at Norwalk	IEP 1	IEP 1-3

Title: **IEC 2025-2026 Water Quality Monitoring Program in Far Western Long Island Sound**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	IEC	Total Estimate Budget	$1,217,874.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$767,874.00
		Match Amount:	$450,000.00

Objectives: To conduct the IEC water quality monitoring program to understand hypoxia and acidification in western Long Island Sound that are most in need of improved management actions.

Description: In response to the increasingly critical need to document summer hypoxic conditions in western Long Island Sound and its embayments, the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) has monitored dissolved oxygen, as well as key water quality parameters relevant to hypoxia, in far western Long Island Sound since 1991. IEC seeks support from the LIS Partnership's FY25 Base Program budget to continue its coordinated long-term monitoring program in 2025-2026. The monitoring program was extended year-round in FY2018. Year-round monitoring in the far western Long Island Sound aligns IEC's WLIS monitoring with CTDEEP's monitoring program, resulting in a comprehensive, coordinated, year-round Sound-wide water quality monitoring program.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water Quality Monthly Surveys - Monthly surface data (October 2025-May 2026) for chlorophyll and TSS from all 22 historical stations and surface data for BOD and nutrients from 11 stations.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Reporting - Staff will work with the LIS Water Quality Workgroup and CTDEEP to deliver a coordinated Soundwide water quality report after the monitoring season. Improved assessment of WLIS of environmental factors affecting dynamics of hypoxia in LIS.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Coordination - Assessment of need for additional or modified monitoring in WLIS and/or embayment's. Cooperation with LIS Partnershipworkgroups, stakeholders and community groups, as appropriate.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Water Quality Monitoring Surveys - Twelve weekly (June 2026-September 2027) surveys to assess the onset, extent and duration of hypoxia and hypoxia-related parameters. Bi-weekly surveys will include nutrients and BOD at 11 stations and TSS at all 22 stations (surface)	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **USGS Coastal Acidification Monitoring FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$525,000.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$525,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To provide data from which aragonite saturation can be calculated from estuarine embayments and major tributaries across Long Island sound through operation of long-term monitoring networks and discrete sampling

Description: USGS will continue to contribute to this long-term coastal acidification monitoring, increasing spatial and temporal coverage of the Long Island Sound and its embayments. Data from this project will include parameters needed to assess the aragonite saturate state in the lower reaches of the major tributaries and embayments to the LIS. These data will enable water resource managers to provide baseline information on the current status of aragonite saturation and evaluate changes over time.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Develop QAPP	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3
Continuous water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for six water quality parameters important for characterizing water quality	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3
Discrete water quality sampling - approved discrete water quality data including total alkalinity, dissolved inorganic and organic carbon, and pH	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3
Computed aragonite saturation estimate	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3
pCO2 installation, operation, and maintenance	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1; THAW 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3

Title: **Unified Water Study: Long Island Sound Embayment Research - 2026 Season**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	Save the Sound	Total Estimate Budget	$2,204,040.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$1,300,571.00
		Match Amount:	$903,469.00

Objectives: To continue to monitor and assess the ambient conditions of water quality nearshore harbors and embayments throughout LIS, and therefore identify and control local pollution sources through community-based watershed monitoring (including community science) and protection programs.

Description: Save the Sound seeks funding to coordinate and implement the Unified Waters Study establishing a comparable bay-to-bay dataset describing the eutrophic conditions and environmental health of bays and harbors around the LIS with 26 subrecipients conducting the water-quality testing.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Addition of coastal acidification parameters in a tier III element of the Unified Waters Study: Coordinate collaborative water quality monitoring	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Addition of coastal acidification parameters in a tier III element of the Unified Waters Study: Conduct water quality monitoring	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Unified Waters Study: Conduct water quality monitoring	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 3-2
Unified Waters Study: Report water quality data	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Addition of coastal acidification parameters in a tier III element of the Unified Waters Study: Contribute to the overall understanding of coastal acidification in Long Island Sound	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Unified Waters Study: Coordinate collaborative water quality monitoring to be conducted by 30 groups	THAW 1; SRC 2; CWHW 1	THAW 1-1; SRC 2-3; CWHW 1-2

Title: **In-Stream Nitrogen Monitoring in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$717,100.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$717,100.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To: a) leverage existing and historical N data collection efforts in the upper Connecticut River watershed, and b) meet ongoing N, P, and DOC loading, fate and transport modeling data needs

Description: To optimize efforts to reduce loading of nitrogen to Long Island Sound, managers need a better understanding of relative magnitude and timing of nitrogen transported to LIS from tributaries to the Connecticut River in the northern portion of the Connecticut River watershed. The primary goal of the proposed study is to develop and implement a water quality monitoring strategy for nitrogen (N) phosphorus (P) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in the upper basin states of Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for important parameter used to characterize water quality including spectrolyzer	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Discrete water quality sampling - approved discrete water quality data for a range of forms of nitrogen and carbon	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Estimates of loads of nutrients	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Title: **Pathogen Monitoring Network in Long Island Sound Watershed**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	IEC	Total Estimate Budget	$702,936.00
Responsible Partners:	Harbor Watch at Earthplace, CT DEEP	Federal Amount:	$653,136.00
		Match Amount:	$49,800.00

Objectives: To support and expand a coordinated, geographically strategic, scalable pathogen monitoring network for fecal indicator bacteria in the Long Island Sound watershed.

Description: The proposed tasks for this project are: (1) Inventory existing watershed monitoring efforts (Year 1 task, completed), (2) Identify data gaps and priority areas based on existing data; engage municipalities (Year 1 task, completed) (3) Create a set of standardized, shared, monitoring, quality assurance, and data management protocols (Year 1 task, completed, will be updated as needed), (4) Bring new monitoring programs onboard to fill geographic data gaps; expand monitoring in areas where high pathogen levels are consistently detected and (5) Build laboratory capacity for fecal indicator bacteria analysis. This FFY25 proposal requests ongoing support for Tasks 4 and 5. Methodologies specific to these tasks are outlined below.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Onboarding of new monitoring groups	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-1; CWHW 3-2
Build laboratory capacity	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-1; CWHW 3-2

Title:	**Hempstead Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	IEC	Total Estimate Budget	$117,880.00
Responsible Partners:	Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor	Federal Amount:	$117,880.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To support monitoring in Hempstead Harbor by the Coalition to save Hempstead Harbor.

Description: The IEC will manage a subaward to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to conduct 2024-2025 monitoring surveys of Hempstead Habor.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water Quality Monitoring - Year-round monitoring including regular-season weekly monitoring of up to 21 stations for up to 15 water-quality parameters and biweekly winter season monitoring for bacteria and nitrogen	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3; CWHW 3-2

Title: **The U.S. Geological Survey Long Island Sound and Watershed Clearinghouse (Phase II)**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$75,000.00
		Match Amount:	

Objectives: To maintain map application and Clearinghouse and additional improvements

Description: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) developed a map application and clearinghouse that provide information on sources of data available throughout the LIS watershed and allows for real-time metadata output and integration into visualization and modeling tools developed through a graphical interface. Continuing to incorporate additional metadata, engaging new and existing users, and developing new tools and functionality is critical to maintaining the map application and clearinghouse and ensuring its long-term relevance and usability. The proposed approach below will be led by the USGS to continue to enhance the development of a publicly accessible long-term Long Island Sound metadata portal.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Develop data management tool	CWHW 1; SRC 1	CWHW 1-2; SRC 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Title: **Water quality monitoring observations to support the hypoxia management in Long Island Sound FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	University of Connecticut	Total Estimate Budget	$573,150.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$477,320.00
		Match Amount:	$95,830.00

Objectives: Sustaining the distribution and analyses of the CTDEEP ship survey data that are used to determine the area of the bottom of LIS subject to hypoxia, and sustaining the operation of the on-line calculator for hypoxic volume and area; Continuation of the monitoring of the near bottom dissolved oxygen concentration and duration of hypoxia in the region that is likely to experience improvement first with the ARTG buoy, together with the other water-quality and environmental parameters required to understand the variability in DO; Evaluate the effectiveness of the use of an autonomous glider to map the location of the 3 and 5 mg/l dissolved oxygen concentration contour on two 10-15 day surveys; The interannual and spatial variability in the rates of respiration and productivity in Long Island Sound has for several decades been thought to be highly variable. Recently, the deployment of in-situ respiration sensors has revealed the character of the variations quantitatively for the first time.

Description: Since 2013 the LISS has supported the deployment and operation of a buoy (ARTG) as an element of the LISICOS array, a component of the NERACOOS. LISS has also been providing partial support for the data system that allows access to the observations, and those of the ship survey program of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. In the last year, the data system was augmented to allow calculation of the hypoxic area and volume from the ship survey data archive and this will be sustained for 2023- 2024. Sampling using autonomous gliders was added to the program in 2021 to complement the ship and buoy data through a cost-sharing arrangement with MARACOOS. Finally, we propose to add Automated Respiration Chambers (ARCs) to the sustained buoy program.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Reporting - Interim Reports and Final Report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Mapping and Data Products - Data systemincluding hypoxia maps, trends and statistics	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Operate ARTG buoy with surface and bottom DO sensors - Measurements of salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen near the bottom and surface near CT DEEP station E1; Measurements of nitrate concentration, fluorescence, and light (PAR) at three buoys in LIS; Measurements of pH and pCO2 at ARTG and EXRK buoy locations.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

pH monitoring - time series of pH and pCO2	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Data Archive Restoration - Operational access to all LISICOS buoy data, QAQC metrics, and a summary report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Reporting - Interim Reports and Final Report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Mapping and Data Products - Data systemincluding hypoxia maps, trends and statistics	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Operate ARTG buoy with surface and bottom DO sensors - Measurements of salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen near the bottom and surface near CT DEEP station E1; Measurements of nitrate concentration, fluorescence, and light (PAR) at three buoys in LIS; Measurements of pH and pCO2 at ARTG and EXRK buoy locations.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Automated Respiration Chambers - High frequency estimates of the rate of oxygen utilization	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Automated Respiration Chambers - High frequency estimates of the rate of oxygen utilization	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
pH monitoring - time series of pH and pCO2	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Data Archive Restoration - Operational access to all LISICOS buoy data, QAQC metrics, and a summary report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **Long Island Sound Tributary Streamflow Monitoring FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$70,400.00
Responsible Partners:	CT DEEP	Federal Amount:	$70,400.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To support continued monitoring four important stream gages in Connecticut with long periods of record that are in danger of being discontinued.

Description: Streamflow monitoring by the United States Geological Survey at significant tributaries is critical to providing pollutant load estimates delivered to Long Island Sound. A recent gap analysis of the Connecticut stream gaging network has identified four important stream gages with long periods of record that are in danger of being discontinued due to lack of continued funding -Housatonic River at Ashley Falls, MA, Shetucket River at Taftville, CT, Rooster River at Fairfield, CT and Saugatuck River near Westport, CT.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Collect continuous streamflow data	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **Water quality monitoring observations to support the hypoxia management in Long Island Sound FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	University of Connecticut	Total Estimate Budget	$573,150.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$477,320.00
		Match Amount:	$95,830.00

Objectives: Sustaining the distribution and analyses of the CTDEEP ship survey data that are used to determine the area of the bottom of LIS subject to hypoxia, and sustaining the operation of the on-line calculator for hypoxic volume and area; Continuation of the monitoring of the near bottom dissolved oxygen concentration and duration of hypoxia in the region that is likely to experience improvement first with the ARTG buoy, together with the other water-quality and environmental parameters required to understand the variability in DO; Evaluate the effectiveness of the use of an autonomous glider to map the location of the 3 and 5 mg/l dissolved oxygen concentration contour on two 10-15 day surveys; The interannual and spatial variability in the rates of respiration and productivity in Long Island Sound has for several decades been thought to be highly variable. Recently, the deployment of in-situ respiration sensors has revealed the character of the variations quantitatively for the first time.

Description: Since 2013 the LIS Partnership has supported the deployment and operation of a buoy (ARTG) as an element of the LISICOS array, a component of the NERACOOS. LIS Partnership has also been providing partial support for the data system that allows access to the observations, and those of the ship survey program of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. In the last year, the data system was augmented to allow calculation of the hypoxic area and volume from the ship survey data archive and this will be sustained for 2023- 2024. Sampling using autonomous gliders was added to the program in 2021 to complement the ship and buoy data through a cost-sharing arrangement with MARACOOS. Finally, we propose to add Automated Respiration Chambers (ARCs) to the sustained buoy program.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Reporting - Interim Reports and Final Report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Mapping and Data Products - Data systemincluding hypoxia maps, trends and statistics	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Operate ARTG buoy with surface and bottom DO sensors - Measurements of salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen near the bottom and surface near CT DEEP station E1; Measurements of nitrate concentration, fluorescence, and light (PAR) at three buoys in LIS; Measurements of pH and pCO2 at ARTG and EXRK buoy locations.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

pH monitoring - time series of pH and pCO2	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Data Archive Restoration - Operational access to all LISICOS buoy data, QAQC metrics, and a summary report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Reporting - Interim Reports and Final Report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Mapping and Data Products - Data systemincluding hypoxia maps, trends and statistics	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Operate ARTG buoy with surface and bottom DO sensors - Measurements of salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen near the bottom and surface near CT DEEP station E1; Measurements of nitrate concentration, fluorescence, and light (PAR) at three buoys in LIS; Measurements of pH and pCO2 at ARTG and EXRK buoy locations.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Automated Respiration Chambers - High frequency estimates of the rate of oxygen utilization	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Automated Respiration Chambers - High frequency estimates of the rate of oxygen utilization	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
pH monitoring - time series of pH and pCO2	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Data Archive Restoration - Operational access to all LISICOS buoy data, QAQC metrics, and a summary report	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **Initial Environmental Characterization of the Long Island Sound Cable Fund Phase V Area**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$3,333,333.33
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$2,000,000.00
		Match Amount:	$1,333,333.33

Objectives: To collect and analyze a variety of seafloor data within a 140 square-mile corridor selected for electric transmission cable placement, where NOAA has recently acquired high-resolution acoustic data with support from the Long Island Sound Cable Fund.

Description: This study will include analysis of samples collected under the FY25 IIJA for sediment grain size and environments, physical characteristics and ecological characteristics.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Ecological characterization of the phase V primary cable corridor	THAW 2	THAW 2-2
Physical characterization of the phase V primary cable corridor	THAW 2	THAW 2-2
Data management (storage and sharing of spatial and temporal data)	THAW 2	THAW 2-2
Geological characterization of the phase V primary cable corridor	THAW 2	THAW 2-2
Synthesized project report	THAW 2	THAW 2-2

Title: **Major Long Island Sound Tributary Sampling FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$450,000.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$450,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To maintain a water-quality monitoring network in the estuarine reaches of the Thames, Connecticut, and Housatonic Rivers.

Description: The project would be the sixth year of a long-term monitoring project to collect water quality data on the three major tributaries to Long Island Sound (Thames, Connecticut, and Housatonic Rivers). The goal of the project is to characterize water quality in the three major tributary's estuaries and to further develop a nitrogen loading station in the lower tidally effected Housatonic River estuary.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Continuous water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for important parameter used to characterize water quality	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Discrete water quality sampling - approved discrete water quality data nutrients and chlorophyll-a	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Continuous streamflow gaging station - Approved continuous streamflow data on tidally influence reach of the Housatonic River	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Title: **National Coastal Condition Assessment 2025 LIS Embayment Intensification**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	EPA	Total Estimate Budget	$180,000.00
Responsible Partners:	CT DEEP	Federal Amount:	$180,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To collect quality-assured water quality, sediment quality, benthic macroinvertebrate community data at 60 sites utilizing standardized collection and analytical methods of the National Coastal Condition Assessment, provide additional data for Phase 2 of the Index Development Project to be used as needed for calibration and validation of selected metrics, support Clean Water Act 305b reporting and 303d listing for both New York and Connecticut, provide benchmarking/baseline data to allow for future change detection or trends analyses considering management actions, and assist in clarifying ecosystem targets for shellfish growing areas, sediment quality improvement, and eelgrass extent

Description: This project will utilize the power of random statistical design and standard collection and analytical techniques of the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) Program to characterize the nutrients, sediments, and benthic macroinvertebrate community in Long Island Sound embayments. This project would be conducted in addition to, not a replacement of, the normal NCCA sampling conducted by CT DEEP in the open waters of Long Island Sound.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
2025 NCCA Sampling of 60 embayments	CWHW 4	CWHW 4-2

Title:	**USGS Continuous Water Quality Monitoring of Long Island Sound Embayments in the Lower Connecticut River, CT, Flex Pond at Old Field, NY, and West Harbor at Oyster Bay, NY FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$306,050.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$306,050.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives:	To maintain a long-term record of observations of water quality parameters and sea level that will allow the assessment of the effect of global scale changes in climate on the near coastal ecosystems of the Long Island Sound. A secondary objective is to document seasonal variations of salinity and temperature gradients in the Connecticut River estuary that can be expected at different times of the year in spite of human activities in the watershed.
Description:	Long-term continuous data at four wetland locations (Connecticut River at Old Lyme, Connecticut River at Essex, Oyster Bay, and Flax Pond) to assist in understanding the range of salinity conditions that currently exist and will help understand some of the possible changes that may occur under different hydrologic conditions
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for water temperature and specific conductance	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Ocean elevation - approved stage data	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Semi-annual reporting - routine updates characterizing project progress	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Water quality monitoring - approved continuous data for water temperature and specific conductance	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2
Project QAPP	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2

Title: **Connecticut State Water Quality Monitoring for Long Island Sound FY25**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$2,865,423.33
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$1,719,254.00
		Match Amount:	$1,146,169.33

Objectives: To monitor water quality parameters year round on a monthly schedule at stations throughout Long Island Sound; To monitor the temporal and spatial extent of summertime hypoxia through Sound-wide sampling every other week from late June through mid-September; To maintain a long-term database of information collected; To review data periodically, in combination with available historic data, for trends; To assess the long-term results of management actions (e.g., no-net increase nutrient (nitrogen) policy, nitrogen strategy, 2nd generation nitrogen strategy); To provide state and federal managers and policy-makers with information on existing conditions and trends that can be used in the development, implementation, and assessment of strategies to control and improve water quality in the Sound; To make data available for related efforts such as research and water quality model development and calibration; To make data available to other interested individuals/groups

Description: Monthly nutrient water quality surveys are conducted throughout the year to document processes relevant to hypoxia and nutrient dynamics. Additional hypoxia cruises are conducted each month from June to September period, for a total of eight surveys conducted during the summer season, to document the areal extent and concentrations of dissolved oxygen during the peak period for hypoxia. CT DEEP, as weather permits, conducts supplementary Winter/Spring chlorophyll a surveys in Western Long Island Sound during February and March to document chlorophyll concentrations more accurately through this period. CT DEEP continues biological/ecosystem sampling as part of the ongoing monitoring program. LIS Partnership funding includes a plankton community sampling and analyses component, allowing the continuation of work that was started with funding from EPA's NCA program in 2002.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Monthly Nutrient Surveys - Nutrient and ancillary data to evaluate benefits of nutrient management programs and health of LIS; Conduct monthly surface/bottom water quality data collection from 17 (year round) stations in LIS	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2, CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-1
Hypoxia Surveys - Dissolved oxygen data and maps of areal extent and duration of hypoxia in LIS; Monthly oxygen profiles at 17 stations; Supplemental profiles at up to 30 stations during June – Sept period on bi-weekly basis, posted on CT DEEP website.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2

Reporting - Field and laboratory data in Access format with goal of permanent incorporation into WQX, the web accessible system replacing STORET; Contribute data to LIS Report Card; Produce an annual joint "Hypoxia Season" Monitoring Report with IEC	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-3
Plankton Community Assessment - Continue to collect plankton community data to evaluate biological condition and response to changing water quality; incorporate this data into the LIS PartnershipWQ Indicators Reporting; Monthly zooplankton & phytoplankton community data from 6 and 10 stations respectively (subset of 17 nutrient stations); Send samples to UConn and work with contract laboratory on data analysis and final reporting; Final Project Reports will be submitted by UConn PIs.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-3
Ocean Acidification Monitoring - Conduct monitoring in the open Sound for coastal acidification monitoring; To continue pH monitoring and add alkalinity and DIC to calculate at buffering capacity and omega (at 2-3 selected stations); Conduct monthly surface/bottom water quality data collection from 10 (year round) stations in LIS; Send samples to UConn and work with contract laboratory on data analysis and final reporting; Final project reports will be submitted by UConn PIs; Take an active role in the Northeast Coastal and Acidification Network	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-2, CWHW 1-3
Participate in LIS Partnershipworkgroups and tasks - Make recommendations regarding scope & effectiveness of LIS monitoring programs; take an active role in the water quality monitoring, watersheds and embayments work groups; provide technical assistance to the Unified Water Study: LIS Embayment Research work group; improving effectiveness in monitoring procedures.	CWHW 1; CWHW 3; SRC 1	CWHW 1-3, SRC 1-2, CWHW 3-2

Title: **Acoustic Telemetry Array for Tagged Migratory Fish in Long Island Sound**

Activity Type:	Monitoring	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$143,261.67
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$85,957.00
		Match Amount:	$57,304.67

Objectives: To enhance the understanding and protection of the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon in Long Island Sound through deployment of Innovasea receivers and the introduction of additional acoustically-tagged fish.

Description: To continue current acoustic telemetry technology to provide crucial spatial data for various species, including the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Prepare QAPP	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Supply Purchase	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Final Receiver Location Mapping	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Receiver and mooring preparation	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Receiver deployment	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Receiver check	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Retrieve and download receivers	THAW 1	THAW 1-3
Data processing, analysis, and mapping	THAW 1	THAW 1-1, THAW 1-3

Title: **Long Island Sound Partnership New York Public Outreach Program FY25**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$333,760.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$318,043.00
		Match Amount:	$15,717.00

Objectives: To continue to develop programs to educate NY residents about LIS and encourage environmental stewardship; to fill requests for information from the public and extent publications.

Description: Continue the NY Public Outreach Program through 2027, which will fund a full-time public outreach coordinator to oversee the dissemination of accurate, up-to-date, research-based information about the LIS, LIS Partnership, and implementation activities of the partnership; and some of the funds will be allocated for a administrative assistant to help carry out the program.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Close collaboration with LIS Partnership Communications and Outreach Staff - Coordinate with staff to create or support the development of social media content, campaigns, website updates, news releases, educational and outreach products, etc.	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-2; IEP 2-3; IEP 3-3
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) - CAC meetings coordination and planning, meeting minutes produced and distributed, maintaining contact lists and attendance tracking	IEP 2	IEP 2-1
Informed and Engaged Public Work Group - participate in IEP work group meetings and provide support as needed to achieve progress toward IEP objectives	IEP 2	IEP 2-1
Collaboration with other LIS Partnership Work Groups and Committees - Tasks in this category may include providing advice and technical assistance to work group meetings and identifying outreach products, assisting with public participation with NY projects, representing NY SG on the work group when necessary, and working with co-chairs from other work groups to develop educational or stewardship projects	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
Volunteer and Stewardship Opportunities - Involve community members in hands-on activities to increase understanding, appreciation, and stewardship.	IEP 3	IEP 3-1

Support educational opportunities and resources for students and teachers - promoting and distributing educational resources and opportunities to teachers and informal educators; adapting or developing resources, programming, workshops, and webinars as needed; participating in student or educator events; and involving students and teachers in hands-on and on-the-field opportunities	IEP 2	IEP 2-2; IEP 2-3
Support LIS Partnership NY SG Research and Implementation programs - Review proposals when appropriate, contribute ideas and resources for grant proposals or RFPs when appropriate, and assisting NY SG grantees in extending the results of research projects	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
General Outreach - Respond to requests for information, including dissemination of written materials, handling requests for information, making public presentations about the LIS Partnershipto community and business groups, and staffing LIS Partnershipdisplays	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
LIS Mentor Teacher Program - order materials, track registration, make payments, and provide support	IEP 2	IEP 2-2
Future programming: Provide assistance to the Outreach Coordinator as new programs are developed and implemented.	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
Sound Update Newsletter: Manage the mailing list database, manage contractor invoices, assist with other aspects as needed.	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Mailings: Handle all mail (incoming and outgoing) for program. Responsible for updating mailing lists and producing mailing labels. Track mailings and responses to inquiries.	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
LIS Mentor Teacher Program - support the development of workshops for teachers centered around LIS topics and led by educators	IEP 2	IEP 2-2
Budget/Finances - track and manage all finances for program	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
Travel: Manage all aspects of the fleet vehicle (reports mileage, registration, and proper maintenance).	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1
Basic Outreach: Respond to requests for information when the Outreach Coordinator is out of office. Respond to media inquiries or direct calls to appropriate staff member.	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1

Title: **LIS Mentor Teacher Program: Promoting LIS as a Teaching Tool for K-12 Formal and Informal Educators**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG	Total Estimate Budget	$35,461.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$33,599.00
		Match Amount:	$1,862.00

Objectives: To facilitate the continued development of the LIS Mentor Teacher program with two grade level cohort workshops, incorporating evaluation results from years; work with the NYSG LIS Partnership Outreach Coordinators to ensure the LISMT program works well on both sides of the Sound; continue to develop and/or distribute LIS-focused curricular resources through LISMT workshops, meetings, and conferences; continue to gather information regarding the influence of the LISMT and summer institute programs and use of LIS resources, particularly in regard to the NGSS.

Description: Continue the Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher program in CT to recruit high quality, creative and respected teachers to assist their peers in incorporating LIS content into curricula within the scope of the newly adopted Next Generative Science Standards.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Continue to develop and/or distribute LIS-focused curricular resources	IEP 1	IEP 1-3
Hold 2 LISMT professional development workshops for 40 K-12 formal & nonformal educators in spring/summer 2025	IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 2-1; IEP 2-2; IEP 3-1

Title: **A Network of Long Island Sound Schools FY25: Protecting the Sound One School at a Time**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG	Total Estimate Budget	$317,778.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$302,471.00
		Match Amount:	$15,307.00

Objectives: To provide opportunities for schools to learn about LIS, LIS research, and promote best environmental practices; develop skills to foster the next generation of LIS leaders and stewards; provide opportunities for students, teachers, parents, and friends to participate in a range of environmental activities to take care of LIS; continue to support veteran LIS schools; create a network of LIS schools to share resources and best practices

Description: Modeled on NOAA's Ocean Guardian Schools and the internation Blue Schools network, a LIS Schools network compels schools to make a commitment to the protection and conservation of local watersheds, LIS, and our one global ocean.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Revise criteria and rubric for LIS school designation; Update LIS Schools Flier	SRC 1; IEP 2	SRC 1-2; IEP 2-1; IEP 2-2
Select veteran school advisors; recruit and select schools	SRC 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	SRC 1-2; IEP 2-1; IEP 3-1
Review, finalize, and implement projects for new and veteran schools	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-3; IEP 2-1; IEP 3-1
Disseminate results	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-2; IEP 2-1; IEP 3-1

Title: **Watershed Model - Outreach, Creation & Capacity Building FY24**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$416,666.67
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$250,000.00
		Match Amount:	$166,666.67

Objectives: To engage and support local partners to utilize CTWM and enable implementation of nutrient reduction strategies.

Description: CT DEEP proposes a dual track for FY24 to ensure the investment into the Connecticut Watershed Model (CTWM) remains relevant and there is a continued expansion in capacity, and thereby continued link to real water quality benefits. This phase will incorporate learnings from the EJ Needs Assessment and USGS's Enhanced Statewide Monitoring Summary (both funded in FY23), and continue the bridge between modeling water quality benefits to implementation of strategies that realize water quality benefits.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Establish shared prioritization of minimal monitoring for ensuring longevity of CTWM	1-3.	WW-2; SC-5; SC-1
Two workshops Co-Creation	4-2; 4-3	WW-2; WW-1; SM-17
Monitoring Data	1-3.	WW-2; SM-1

Title:	**LIS Partnership New York City/Western Basin Public Outreach Program FY25**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$307,746.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$293,746.00
		Match Amount:	$14,000.00

Objectives:	To continue to develop programs to educate NYC and other western basin residents about Long Island Sound and encourage environmental stewardship.
Description:	The LIS Partnership NYC-Western Basin Outreach Coordinator will be based in NYC and focus on providing outreach support and programming materials. The goals and activities will combine community needs with LIS Partnership outcomes, objectives and measures in a manner that demonstrates the relevance of the Sound to these communities.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title: **State of the Sound Report**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$124,425.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$124,425.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To develop a report to communicate objectives and actions in all the 2025 CCMP Goals.

Description: The development of the report will communicate the health of the Sound to a general audience. This also includes the publication of a digital version and print version.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - March 31, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Develop and print and distribute a print version of the 'State of the Sound' report	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Develop and publish a digital version of the 'State of the Sound' report	IEP 2	IEP 2-3

Title: **Long Island Sound High School Summit**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$315,500.00
Responsible Partners:	CCFE, AMSEAS, and Friends of the Bay	Federal Amount:	$170,500.00
		Match Amount:	$145,000.00

Objectives: To support the continuation of the pilot educational program, in 2020-2021, that worked with high schools on Long Island to connect, engage, and activate students to protect LIS through a series of research and implementation projects.

Description: The NY Sea Grant, in collaboration with Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, and Friends of the Bay, will work with 8 schools to actively engage students in protection and restoration of LIS.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Development of educational literature - LIS factsheet		IEP 2-2; IEP 2-3
Individual student projects	IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 2-2; IEP 2-3; IEP 3-1
Long Island Sound High School Summit	IEP 2	IEP 2-2
Summary video	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Long Island Sound Student Action Plan Summary Document	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Social media campaign	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Class presentations	IEP 2	IEP 2-2

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 1 - Outreach & Education Support**		
Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$435,901.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$435,901.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00
Objectives:	To support activities to be carried out by the LIS Partnership Communications Coordinator and Science Writer.		
Description:	NEIWPCC will assist with the development, coordination, and implementation of bi-state public involvement, education, outreach, and communication activities for LIS.		
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028		
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation		

Title: **Connecticut Outreach Support Coordinator FY25**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG	Total Estimate Budget	$145,328.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$138,295.00
		Match Amount:	$7,033.00

Objectives: To support for the Outreach Support Coordinator through September 2026.

Description: Working with the LIS Partnership COE team and LIS Partnership agency staff, the support coordinator will enhance collaboration and communication between LIS Partnership partners, work groups, and the general public. The coordinator will support existing outreach efforts through the management of LIS-related educational resources, online communications, and partner engagement. The coordinator will support new outreach initiatives by expanding existing partnerships, identifying innovative communication strategies, and providing general assistance with program development and implementation with the overall goal of increasing awareness and stewardship of Long Island Sound

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
LIS PartnershipCOE Work Group	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-3; IEP 2-1; IEP 2-3
Outreach support for funding opportunities (LISFF, etc.)	SRC 1; IEP 2	SRC 1-2; IEP 2-4
General outreach as secondary contact in CT for info on LIS/LISS	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Outreach support for LIS PartnershipCAC	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1; IEP 3-5
Participation in LIS Partnershipcommittee and workgroup meetings	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Provide general programmatic and event outreach support for CT communities and audiences	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 1-2; IEP 2-3
Develop and implement opportunities for enhanced collaboration, communication, and outreach tools developed for new and existing partners	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-3; IEP 1-1; IEP 2-3

Outreach and support for LIS work groups, teams, general communities and audiences	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-3; IEP 3-4; IEP 2-3
Professional development and Sea Grant general responsibilities	IEP 1	IEP 1-1

Title: **Science Communications Training for Long Island Sound Scientists by the Alan Alda Center**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$20,775.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$20,775.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To provide 16 scientists with an opportunity to participate in a one-day seminar at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University.

Description: The primary activity of the seminar is to increase communication skills of scientists through hands-on training.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Evaluation of the science communications method	IEP 1; SRC 1	IEP 2-4; SRC 1-2
Hold science communications training seminar at Stony Brook University	IEP 2	IEP 2-3; IEP 2-4

Title: **Long Island Sound Environmental Education Resource Guide and Toolkit**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT SG	Total Estimate Budget	$96,557.00
Responsible Partners:	NY SG, CT NERR	Federal Amount:	$96,557.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To update and reimagine the original Long Island Sound curricular resource guide to best support and accommodate the changing needs of formal and nonformal educators throughout the Long Island Sound region in New York and Connecticut

Description: The CT SG, in collaboration with CT NERR, will develop a resource guide and toolkit to better support educators. This toolkit will include educational products and materials, such as an online education microsite or web portal, a "traveling trunk" rental box containing supplies and activities, and "hot-to" workshops/webinars broadcasting the launch of the project.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Update LIS PartnershipEnvironmental Education Resource Guide	IEP 2	IEP 2-1; IEP 2-3
Develop LIS PartnershipEnvironmental toolbox consisting of field trip equipment, activities, and other items	IEP 2	IEP 2-1; IEP 2-3
Develop and launch online LIS PartnershipEE Resource Guide	IEP 2	IEP 2-1; IEP 2-3
Partner with formal and nonformal educators in NY and CT to guide development of project	IEP 2	IEP 2-1
Deliver webinars, workshops, and presentations demonstrating the LISEE Resource Guide and online portal/website	IEP 2	IEP 2-1; IEP 2-2; IEP 2-3
Develop and conduct evaluation and assessment of materials	IEP 2	IEP 2-4

Title:	**Connecticut Watershed Model - Co-Creation & Capacity Building**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$416,666.67
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$250,000.00
		Match Amount:	$166,666.67

Objectives: To engage and support local partners to utilize CTWM and enable implementation of nutrient reduction strategies.

Description: CT DEEP proposes to build on the FY23 and FY24 outreach efforts to ensure modeled water quality benefits become real water quality benefits. This phase seeks to provide funding support to integrate community feedback and priorities expressed during the development of the outreach portion of this project. This proposal is to design template summaries defined by community input received during the modeling workshops that will address nonpoint source nutrient reductions by providing guiding example for local implementation and improving local grant applications.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Templates for model result use in grants	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1, CWHW 1-3
CTWM modification for bacteria	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2

Title: **Long Island Sound FY25 Connecticut Communications, Outreach and Engagement Program**

Activity Type:	Public Education and Outreach	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG	Total Estimate Budget	$192,840.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$183,532.00
		Match Amount:	$9,308.00

Objectives: To continue the support for the Connecticut Communications, Outreach and Engagement Program which includes the coordinator working to increase appreciation, stewardship, awareness, and understanding of LIS and efforts to restore and protect it.

Description: The CT-based Outreach Coordinator will use the IEP objectives to guide programming and activities to educate Connecticut residents about Long Island Sound.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Outreach programs, education and tools for traditional and multicultural audiences	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-1; IEP 1-2; IEP 2-3
Outreach support for LIS Partnershipwork groups and teams	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Outreach support for funding opportunities (LISFF, etc.)	SRC 1; IEP 2	SRC 1-2; IEP 2-4
General outreach as primary contact in CT for info on LIS/LISS	IEP 2	IEP 2-3
Outreach support for LIS PartnershipCAC	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-1; IEP 2-1; IEP 3-5
Participation in LIS Partnershipcommittee and workgroup meetings	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Expand opportunities for individuals to engage as LIS/watershed environmental stewards or citizen scientists	IEP 3; SRC 2	IEP 3-4; SRC 2-3
LIS PartnershipIEP Work Group	IEP 1; IEP 2	IEP 1-3; IEP 2-1; IEP 2-3
Outreach support for CT NERR	IEP 1; IEP 3; SRC 1	IEP 1-1; SRC 1-2; IEP 3-1

Professional development and Sea Grant responsibilities	IEP 1	IEP 1-1

Title: **Long Island Sound Research Grant Program FY25**

Activity Type:	Research	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG and NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$4,300,000.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$3,000,000.00
		Match Amount:	$1,300,000.00

Objectives: The first objective is to identify and fund high priority, high quality research needed to best achieve the vision, goals, and targets of LIS Partnership CCMP. The second objective is to promptly share the results of the research and assessment work, providing critical, new, science-based information that can inform decision-making and actions towards reaching the vision and goals for the Long Island Sound laid out in the CCMP.

Description: The NY and CT Sea Grant programs propose to jointly administer a competitive research program to address the needs of the LIS Partnership. These needs are derived from the LIS Partnership CCMP and prioritized for developing a request for proposals (RFP) with input from the LIS Partnership Science & Technical Advisory Committee and the Science Coordinator.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements N/A

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Fund and administer the selected projects	CWHW 1; THAW 1; SRC 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3; SRC 1-2
Share results at the LIS PartnershipResearch Conference	CWHW 1; THAW 1; SRC 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3; SRC 1-2
Select research projects through an open, competitive, peer review process.	CWHW 1; THAW 1; SRC 1	CWHW 1-2; THAW 1-3; SRC 1-2

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 5 Science Coordination**

Activity Type:	Research	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$160,181.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$160,181.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives:	To support activities to be carried out by the LIS Partnership Science Coordinator.
Description:	The NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Science Coordinator will develop and maintain professional scientific and technical contacts among the LIS Partnership partners, as well as among local/regional/national/international scientific communities, as the issues or topics warrant. NEIWPCC's Science Coordinator will manage the scientific resources of the LIS Partnership, including collecting and organizing relevant references; and organizing and conducting conferences, meetings, symposia, or other web-based discussions on topics of relevance or concern to the science of the LIS ecosystem.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title: **Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Plan FY25**

Activity Type:	Stewardship and Resiliency	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG and NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$1,699,350.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$1,617,350.00
		Match Amount:	$82,000.00

Objectives: To implement the fifth year of the work plan developed by the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Working Group to advance the Sustainable and Resilient Communities theme of the CCMP.

Description: The LIS Partnership Sustainable and Resilient Work Group developed a 5-year work plan, in which this proposal will implement year 5. The work plan has the following desired outcomes: coordinated regional response; trained decision-makers; planned infrastructure improvement; viable government services; and facilitated implementation of Long Island Sound sustainability and resilience projects.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure; Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Hold annual bi-state workshop	SRC 1; SRC 2	SRC 1-1; SRC 2-3
Maintain a clearinghouse of tools and resources	SRC 1	SRC 1-2
Support Sustainable and Resilient Communities work group and other administrative tasks, such as the LIS PartnershipCCMP Revision	SRC 2	SRC 2-2; SRC 2-3
Develop training programs based on needs assessment findings	SRC 1; SRC 2	SRC 1-1; SRC 2-2; SRC 2-3
Improve coordination among levels of government	SRC 2	SRC 2-2
Continue the development of a project pipeline	SRC 3	SRC 3-2; SRC 3-3; SRC 3-4
Continue Breaking Down Barriers to Implementation Program	SRC 2; SRC 3	SRC 2-1; SRC 3-1; SRC 3-3

Title:	**FY25 LIS Partnership Sustainable and Resilient Communities Break Down Barriers Program**

Activity Type:	Stewardship and Resiliency	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	CT SG and NY SG	Total Estimate Budget	$1,719,131.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$1,685,000.00
		Match Amount:	$34,131.00

Objectives:	To implement the fourth year of the SRC Break Down Barriers Program and address the most pressing needs in the LIS region, while advancing the goals of the LIS Partnership CCMP.
Description:	The Break Down Barriers grant writing assistance Program facilitates the hiring of grant preparation and writing support to help communities develop successful sustainability and resilience focused project grant applications.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026
CWA Program Elements	Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure; Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title:	**LIS Partnership Nutrient Loading Dashboard**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	USGS	Total Estimate Budget	$255,500.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$255,500.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives:	To develop and document a process by which the nitrogen loading dashboard can be effectively and rountinuely updated and expanded to sustain its utility.
Description:	USGS will develop a framework from which water quality data and monitoring stations can be screened for consideration to be added to the dashboard; consistent and robust appraoch for the calaculation of annual concentrations an dloads and annual flow normalized concentrations and laods; a minimium criteria for acceptable model performance; and a process to rountinuely update the infomration displayed on the dashboard every two years.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title: **LIS Partnership – Agriculture and Nutrient Management: Planning and Implementation 2025**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NRCS	Total Estimate Budget	$312,787.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$312,787.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: Connect agricultural producers and landowners with NRCS technical and financial assistance programs that benefit Long Island Sound

Description: Up to four Nutrient Management Specialist positions on the Connecticut NRCS staff and funded by the LIS Partnership will allow NRCS to drive LIS Partnership progress toward attaining their Clean Waters/Healthy Watersheds goals to measurably reduce the area of hypoxia in Long Island Sound. The planning done by the Nutrient Management Specialists will assist farmers with proper nutrient applications which will decrease contaminated runoff from entering Long Island Sound.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Collaborate with municipalities, local partners and stakeholders to strategically plan for and implement capital improvements, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and improved operation and maintenance to mitigate point and nonpoint source pollution loadings, incorporating the analysis of potential future changes in loading.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-3
Improve best management practices for agriculture and urban turf.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1
Assess sources of pathogens and nutrients and work with agricultural communities to abate or alleviate those sources.	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 8 Bioextraction Coordination**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	
Responsible Partners:	NYSDEC DOW	Federal Amount:	$264,039.00
		Match Amount:	

Objectives:	To support activities to be carried out by the LIS Partnership Bioextraction Coordinator and the Bioextraction Assistant.
Description:	The LIS Partnership Bioextraction Coordinator position will support the Bioextraction Initiative within Long Island Sound. Bioextraction Coordinator that serves as the collaborative lead in projects involving partners across state, municipal, academic, non-governmental, and federal partners. The Bioextraction Assistant position has been funded for the past two years via the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) and has been invaluable to the success of LIS Partnership and the Bioextraction Initiative. Stable funding from LIS Partnership is essential to the program's continued success.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title: **Fecal Contamination Source Assessment of Smithtown Bay and Stony Brook Harbor**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NYSDEC DMR	Total Estimate Budget	$33,333.00
Responsible Partners:	USGS	Federal Amount:	$20,000.00
		Match Amount:	$13,333.00

Objectives: To determine the identity and relative abundance of the biological sources of fecal coliform contamination in the seasonally closed areas of Smithtown Bay and Stony Brook Harbor.

Description: The NYSDEC, in collaboration with USGS Ohio Water Microbiology Laboratory, will collect water samples and use microbial source tracking to identify sources.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025, September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Delivery of water samples to USGS OWML	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2
MST analyses performed by USGS	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2
Compilation of data by USGS	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2
Technical reports written by USGS	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2
Collecting water samples	CWHW 3	CWHW 3-2

Title: **LIS Partnership – Agriculture and Nutrient Management: Outreach 2025**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NRCS	Total Estimate Budget	$170,082.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$170,082.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To connect agricultural producers and landowners with NRCS technical and financial assistance programs that benefit Long Island Sound

Description: An Outreach Specialist position on the Connecticut NRCS staff and funded by the LIS Partnership will ensure NRCS programs and services in the Connecticut-portion of the Long Island Sound area are made equally accessible to all customers, focused on the underserved. The incumbent will collaborate and work with a variety of federal, state, and community-based organizations to ensure that a consistent outreach approach will be used and will provide advice and make recommendations to the NRCS State Conservationist on outreach priorities. A focus will be on urban agriculture, riparian buffers, and wetland easements.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Public Education and Outreach	IEP 2; SRC 1	IEP 2-3; SRC 1-2
Coordinate Meetings, Workshops, and Resources	IEP 1; SRC 2; SRC 3	IEP 1-1; SRC 2-3; SRC 3-1
General Outreach	IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 2-3; IEP 3-3
Dissemination of LIS Agricultural Information and Outreach	IEP 1; IEP 2; IEP 3	IEP 1-3; IEP 2-3; IEP 3-3

Title:	**NEIWPCC LIS Partnership Program Implementation Support FY25: Task 4 - LIS Regional Coordinator**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$197,755.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$197,755.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives:	To support activities to be carried out by the LIS Partnership NYS DOW Regional Coordinator.
Description:	The LIS Partnership NYS DOW Regional Coordinator (LISRC) will co-chair the CWGW work group with a peer in CT and focus on nutrients (mainly nitrogen) and watershed health. Additionally, this funding will support the continuation of the Homeowners Rewards Program.
Estimated Milestones:	October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028
CWA Program Elements	Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Title:	**Refinement of Atlantic Ribbed Mussel (Geukensia demissa) Aquaculture Methods, Phase Two: Optimal Conditioning Practices**		
Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$660,000.00
Responsible Partners:	NYSDEC DOW	Federal Amount:	$660,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To continue development of optimal conditioning regimes needed to ensure spawning stock is properly conditioned before use, and ultimately to achieve large-scale ribbed mussel production through the establishment of reliable, quantitative, and standardized methods.

Description: This is a funding request to continue the progress of a prior ribbed mussel aquaculture refinement project, which was first funded in FY21 under assistance agreement LI-00A00688 and currently under NEIWPCC subaward S-2022-018, entitled, “Nutrient Bioextraction: Refinement of Atlantic Ribbed Mussel (Geukensia demissa) Aquaculture Methods.” The prior project (phase one) achieved its goal of discovering successful ribbed mussel spawning methods. This current funding request is for phase two of the study to continue refining aquaculture techniques for ribbed mussels, an area of research which is historically understudied.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Final report summarizing results from: conditioning experiments, comparison study to assess differences in gonad quality between mussels conditioned with different feeding regimes, and comparison study to assess differences in gonad qualitybetween hatchery conditioned mussels and wild-conditioned mussels.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Development of an applied guide for feeding regimes and gonad development of ribbed mussels for hatchery use based on knowledge gained during study.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Title: **Continuation of Long-Term Bioextraction Monitoring Project**

Activity Type:	Water Quality Planning and Implementation	Project Type:	Continuing
Implementing Agency:	NEIWPCC	Total Estimate Budget	$200,000.00
Responsible Partners:	NYSDEC DOW	Federal Amount:	$200,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: To continue a study where Stony Brook is quantifying the removal of nitrogen and carbon by seaweeds and bivalves across nearshore and open water regions of Long Island Sound.

Description: This study is seeking to assess the cumulative impact, actual and modeled, of sustained aquaculture on nitrogen concentrations (total N, nitrate, ammonium) and total chlorophyll a as related to ecosystem resilience and multiple climate signals including pH, pCO_2, and calcium carbonate saturation. Finally, the project will provide an assessment of the extent to which culturing bivalves with seaweeds benefits the growth and survival of bivalves.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Water quality monitoring data, including water samples collected and continuous water quality monitoring	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3
Four year final report (2023-2027) quantifying: pounds of nitrogen and carbon removed, changes in water quality at nearshore and open waters of LIS, actual and modeled, ecosystem-wide water quality changes within localized study sites, fractions of nitrogen loads offset b y actual and modeled bioextraction across nearshore and open waters of LIS.	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-2; CWHW 1-3

Project Info

Title: **NYS Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP)**

Activity Type:	Clean Water Infrastructure	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NYSDEC	Total Estimate Budget	$2,825,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$2,825,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The objective of adding funds to NYS's WQIP Program is to assist municipalities in the implementation of projects that would lead to improving the water quality of Long Island Sound.

Description: The Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. The program is managed by NYSDEC Division of Water staff and has funded hundreds of projects over 17 rounds of funding. It has been successful at assisting eligible applicants and at completing construction/implementation projects in categories such as wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, aquatic connectivity restoration. The WQIP program is on avenue for the NYS DEC to implement projects that advance implementation recommendations in TMDLs or Nine Element Plans for State waters.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Grant Management	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-3; CWHW 3-2

Title: **NYS Long Island Sound Watershed Septic System Replacement**

Activity Type:	Clean Water Infrastructure	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NYSDEC	Total Estimate Budget	$2,825,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$2,825,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The objective of this funding would be to grow the current septic replacement programs established in the two counties. The funds would be exclusively for the Long Island Sound watershed, as delineated by USGS in 2021. These additional funds will increase the rate and number of replacements in the watershed, leading to a reduction in the nitrogen entering the groundwater.

Description: NYS's Septic System Replacement Fund Program provides critical funding to counties to assist homeowners with replacing cesspools, or inadequate septic systems that impair water quality. Suffolk County with 380,000 systems, and Nassau County with 100,000 systems have the highest number of septic systems, per county, in New York State. Using state funding Each county has built a local grant programs to allow homeowners to upgrade their systems with innovative/alternative on-site treatment systems (I/A OWTS) that treat nitrogen to at least 19 mg/L. The level of nitrogen in the effluent from a conventional septic system is 40 mg/L.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Grant Management	CWHW 1	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-3

Title: **Nitrogen reduction upgrades to WWTPs**

Activity Type:	Clean Water Infrastructure	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	MA DEP	Total Estimate Budget	$2,941,260.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$2,941,260.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The objective of this project is to implement the recommendations for nitrogen removal at the WPCF, which involves a variable operating model approach, and therefore achieve nitrogen reductions to the Long Island Sound.

Description: The Chicopee WPCF is a wet-weather treatment facility with an average flow of 15.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak hourly flow of 47 MGD, serving a population of approximately 55,000. The WPCF utilizes a high purity oxygen (HPO) secondary treatment system that discharges to the Connecticut River, and ultimately Long Island Sound. The City has been issued a final permit that includes a mass-based annual average total nitrogen limit of 647 lbs/day (5 mg/L at 15.5 MGD). In 2017, Woodard & Curran began a high-level evaluation to study the feasibility and requirements to achieve this nitrogen limit at the Chicopee WPCF. In 2021, with the permit requirements becoming clearer coupled with a better understanding of the WPCF processes, performance and land/space available for improvements, Woodard & Curran updated the 2017 report culminating in a formal recommendation and refined cost estimates for upgrades to achieve the new total nitrogen permit limit at the WPCF.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Design of necessary improvements to the WPCF	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 3-1
Construction of the necessary improvements to the WPCF	CWHW 1; CWHW 3	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 3-1

Title: **Green Infrastructure**

Activity Type:	Clean Water Infrastructure	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$477,129.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$477,129.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: One of the primary objectives of this project is to mitigate pollution and runoff from stormwater by implementing green infrastructure that reduces the impact of impervious surfaces. By implementing green infrastructure practices such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements, the amount of pollutants entering waterways can be reduced, improving the overall health of ecosystems that drain to LIS. Another objective is to increase outreach about the benefits of green infrastructure practices. By providing educational materials, workshops, and community events, individuals and communities can learn about the importance of green infrastructure and how they can contribute to its implementation.

Description: CT DEEP is seeking funding for planning, outreach and implementation of Green Infrastructure projects. These projects shall be prioritized to address the needs of resiliency, flooding, stormwater runoff.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Strengthening WQ Standards, Improving WQ Monitoring, Developing TMDLs, Controlling NPS Pollution on a Watershed Basis, Strengthening NPDES Permits, Supporting Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure, Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Identify and install green infrastructure projects	CWHW 1; CWHW 2	CWHW 1-1; CWHW 1-3; CWHW 2-2
Education materials and programs developed and disseminated	SRC 1; SRC 3	SRC 1-1; SRC 3-3

Title:	**Support for Stewardship Land Acquisition by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**		
Activity Type:	Healthy Ecosystems	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	NYSDEC	Total Estimate Budget	$3,059,800.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$3,059,800.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The objective of this project is to continue NYSDEC efforts, in partnership with the LIS Partnership Stewardship Initiative, to provide water quality, tidal wetland, and coastal habitat protection to Long Island Sound through preservation of land in its watershed.

Description: NYSDEC is requesting funds to provide support for the acquisition of three properties: Two acquisitions (Watson and Kozikowski) would be additions to NYSDEC's Conscience Bay- Little Bay State Tidal Wetland Area in the Conscience Bay-Little Bay- Setauket Harbor Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and the third acquisition (Bateson) lies between and is in the watershed of both Little Bay and Port Jefferson Harbor, an LIS Partnership Inaugural Stewardship Area.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Purchase and protection of the Watson Property	THAW 4	THAW 4-1
Purchase and protection of the Kozikowski Property	THAW 4	THAW 4-1
Purchase and protection of the Bateson Property	THAW 4	THAW 4-1

Title: **Habitat Restoration, Riverine Connectivity, and Living Shorelines Implementation**

Activity Type:	Healthy Ecosystems	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$3,275,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$3,275,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The primary objective is to facilitate the design and implementation of habitat restoration, habitat connectivity and living shoreline projects that will benefit communities.

Description: This project will provide a ready source of funding to be used for identified and potential emergent living shoreline projects that can advance nature based approaches to mitigate erosion and support healthy coastal habitats. Another goal of this project is to restore stream connectivity in the state by developing fishways, fixing restrictive culverts, and removing outdated dams.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
QAPPs, project identification, planning, permitting, construction, and monitoring of habitat restoration, riverine connectivity, and living shorelines projects	THAW 1	THAW 1-1; THAW 1-2

Title: **Integrated Environmental Characterization of Long Island Sound**

Activity Type:	Healthy Ecosystems	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$522,871.00
Responsible Partners:		Federal Amount:	$522,871.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The primary objective is to conduct efforts that collect data across acoustic, geologic, ecologic, and physical oceanographic theme areas and subsequently develop these data into analytic products useable for managers and stakeholders to understand and assess the various benthic environments of Long Island Sound.

Description: This project will expand upon an existing collaborative effort consisting of partners from federal, state, and academic institutions supporting environmental characterizations of the Long Island Sound seafloor to support science-based management decision making processes, particularly those involving potential future placement strategies of energy transmission infrastructure.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Sediment data collection and characterization	THAW 2	THAW 2-1, THAW 2-2
Integrated habitat data products	THAW 2	THAW 2-1, THAW 2-2

Title: **Long Island Sound Community Impact Program**

Activity Type:	Strong Communities	Project Type:	Ongoing
Implementing Agency:	Restore America's Estuaries	Total Estimate Budget	$2,950,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$2,950,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: The objective is to select an organization to 1. Develop and administer a competitive grant program focused on activities that address challenges and opportunities facing underserved communities within the scope of the LIS Partnership CCMP; and 2. Develop and implement an outreach and support program focused on involving underserved communities and providing them technical support as necessary.

Description: Restore America's Estuaries will manage the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF). EPA will provide funds to the LISCIF annually to be used for awards under this competitive opportunity. EPA expects to provide up to $5 million to cover 3 years for the development of the competitive grant program, two rounds of pass-through funds in years two and three of the award, and the technical assistance and support program for underserved communities.

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements N/A

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Select an organization to develop and administer a competitive grant program focused on activities that address challenges and opportunities facing underserved communities within the scope of the LIS Partnership CCMP	IEP 1	IEP 1-1
Selected organization develops and implements an outreach and support program focused on involving underserved communities and providing them technical support as necessary.	IEP 1	IEP 1-1

Title: **Coastal Access Improvement Support**

Activity Type:	Strong Communities	Project Type:	New
Implementing Agency:	CT DEEP	Total Estimate Budget	$1,500,000.00
Responsible Partners:	N/A	Federal Amount:	$1,500,000.00
		Match Amount:	$0.00

Objectives: CT DEEP will use this funding to protect land that has been identified or may emerge as a priority opportunity for coastal land conservation and expand and create more equitable access to coastal areas.

Description: CT DEEP is seeking funding to acquire land and improve access along the Connecticut coast. The requested funds will help ensure that these communities are prioritized in land acquisition and coastal access efforts and that the acquired land will improve overall resiliency

Estimated Milestones: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2028

CWA Program Elements: Wetlands Program Support/Implementation

Anticipated Outputs or Deliverables	Anticipated Long-term Outcomes	IA #
Land conservation identification and Acquisition of LIS coastal property	THAW 4	THAW 4-1
Enhancement of access to coastal areas for recreation and fishing	IEP 1; IEP 3	IEP 1-1; IEP 3-4