

Long Island Sound Study

Fall 1998

Fast Facts

15 million people within 50 miles of its shores, and projected to grow another 4.1% by 2010.

Estimated annual value of boating, sportfishing, swimming, commercial fishing, and intrinsic is \$5.5 billion (1990).

Receives more than 1 billion gallons per day of treated effluent.

Status Update & Next Steps

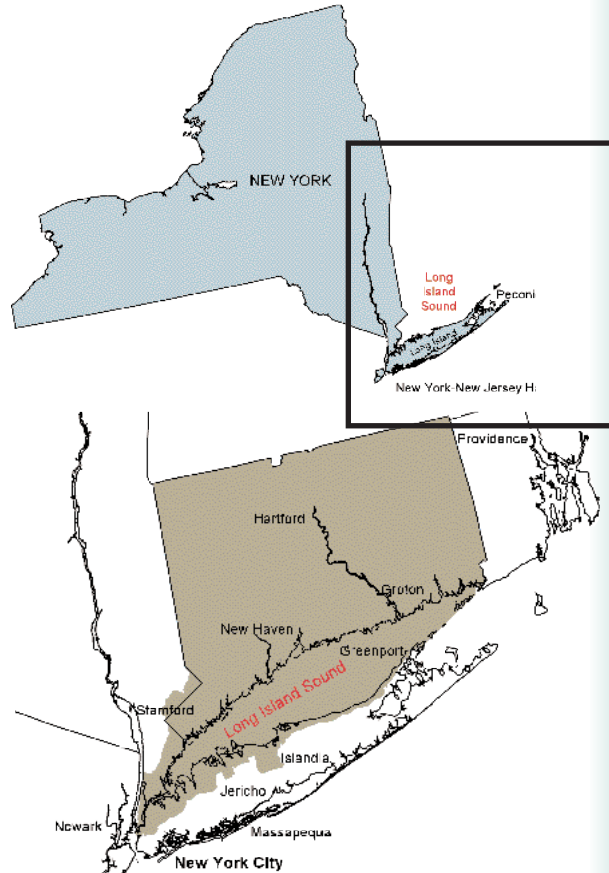
In 1994, the States of New York and Connecticut and USEPA approved a plan to restore the ecosystem and improve the water quality-dependent uses so important to the regional economy.

Environmental Goals:

1. Reduce the load of nitrogen by 58.5% within 15 years.
2. Restore 2,000 acres of coastal habitat and 100 river miles used by migratory fish over the next 10 years.

Low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia) is the most significant problem in the Sound, and a phased approach is being used to reduce levels of nitrogen which will result in improved oxygen levels. Having capped nitrogen loads from certain point sources and implemented low-cost improvements at sewage treatment plants, nitrogen loads are now 5,000 tons per year below peak levels.

The Habitat Restoration Initiative will complement nitrogen reduction efforts, as healthy habitats help filter nitrogen and other pollutants. Through a partnership of local, state, and federal



Long Island Sound watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.

degraded sites have been identified and prioritized. Restoration work has been funded at 8 of

For more Long Island Sound Study (203) 977-1 write us at State Governme



Or call us at mark@epamail.epa.gov.



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS



Association of National Estuary Programs

The Association of National Estuary Program (ANEP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible stewardship and a common vision for the preservation of our nation's bays and estuaries.

ANEP's Mission

Bring consistency to estuarine data collection and management, and turn data into useful information that is consolidated into meaningful status and trends at the national scale. Ensure that data are reliable, objective, and goal-directed. Achieve recognition of the critical roles for continued monitoring and assessment.

Educate the public on the meaning and practical application of "responsible stewardship." Ensure that the public understands the long-term nature of solutions to the environmental problems now facing bays and estuaries.

Achieve mutual support and coordination among all coastal programs. Enhance communication among NEPs and between NEPs and other coastal programs. Report both successes and failures to Congress and the American public, while understanding that through 'adaptive management' we can achieve effective management of our nation's bays and estuaries.

Seek explicit congressional support and commitment to implement Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). Capitalize on the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours invested thus far, nationwide, and recognize the important role that Management Conferences play as a continuing forum for all stakeholders.

Achieve sufficient federal funding to strengthen the federal/state/local and public/private partnerships that have been fledged across the nation. Achieve stable funding for core program operations, project implementation, and local government pass-through dollars as incentive for regional, multi-jurisdictional cooperation.



Year indicates date of program selection.