

Sound Bytes

NEWS FROM THE LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY



July/August 2011

LISS NEWS

Summer Schooner Tour To Highlight CAC Sound Vision Plan



The bow of the schooner SoundWaters.

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LISS's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Save the Sound this summer will be unveiling the CAC's new action plan for Long Island Sound with a schooner tour at seven harbors.

Throughout August and early September, citizen groups will be accompanied by the schooner *SoundWaters* at different harbors to discuss **Sound Vision: an Action Plan for Long Island Sound**. The plan involves a series of proposed actions designed to improve water quality, protect habitats and wildlife, encourage thriving and sustainable communities, and maintain adequate funding for the Sound. Each port of call will include a press event and schooner tour. The harbors include:

Mamaroneck, NY: Monday, Aug. 1

Port Jefferson, NY: Monday, Aug. 8

Bridgeport, CT: Monday, Aug. 15

Old Saybrook, CT: Wednesday, Aug. 24

Mystic, CT: Saturday, Aug. 27

Hempstead Harbor, NY: Tuesday, Aug. 30

Greenwich, CT: TBA

The press conferences will start at 3 p.m. followed by on-board educational displays at 3:45 p.m. and sailing (reservations required) at 5 p.m. More information about the events will soon be available at [Save the Sound's Web site](#).

Sentinel Monitoring Strategy Released



LISS's Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change Work Group released in June the final version of its strategic plan to monitor climate change along the Long Island Sound coast. The document is called: **Sentinel Monitoring for Climate Change in the Long Island Sound Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems of New York and Connecticut, Volume 1**. It describes a strategy for collecting and synthesizing data to help scientists and managers identify climate change impacts, and to determine appropriate adaptation strategies for these impacts. The document also details what steps will be taken to implement the plan. A Request for Proposals (RFP) utilizing LISS funding awarded to the states of Connecticut and New York will be released in the coming months to initiate implementation

on a pilot scale.

The strategy can be downloaded from the newly added [Sentinel Monitoring](#) section of LISS's Web site.

This program has been made possible by financial and technical awards from LISS and the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries program as well as the partnership between the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the CT and NY Sea Grant programs, the EPA Long Island Sound Office, and multiple concerned agencies, organizations, and individuals in CT and NY.

Web Site Wins 2 Design Awards



Taylor Design, a Stamford graphic design firm, received two juried awards for its design of the [Long Island Sound Study Web site](#). Taylor received an Excellence Award from the [Connecticut Art Directors Club](#) in the interactive category in June and a Silver Award in the "Web site, Public Service/Non-Profit category from the [Creativity International Media & Interactive Awards](#) Competition in May. Taylor Design was hired in 2009 by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) to redesign LISS's Web site. NEIWPCC provides communications support for the Long Island Sound Study.

CT Sea Grant Hires Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

CT Sea Grant, through a LISS grant, has hired a Spanish teacher and bilingual educator to help develop a pilot program to share information in Spanish about Long Island Sound with with Latino communities throughout Connecticut.

Since June, Maria Santana has talked to more than 450 people in Waterbury, Meriden, New Haven and West Haven about the importance of Long Island Sound in the region, the need to follow fish and seafood consumptions advisories, and the need to protect the Sound so people can continue to fish, shellfish, swim, and enjoy the Sound.

During a recent visit to Lighthouse Point in New Haven, while translating a series of interpretive panels about the Sound for Spanish-speaking residents, Santana attracted a crowd interested in hearing what she was saying.

"I am very excited to have Maria working with us and the Sound Study to share information about Long Island

Sound with the Spanish-speaking community," said Nancy Balcom, Associate director of CT Sea Grant. "She is finding that people are pleased that this effort to bridge the language barrier is being made and very receptive to learning about the Sound."

Santana can be reached at maestraunica@aol.com.

2011 Work Plan Outlines LISS Mgmt Activities

Each year the Long Island Sound Study develops a work plan that outlines the work being done with EPA funds to help achieve the goals of the Study's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The 2011 Work Plan describes LISS activities planned with 2011 federal funding for Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012. It also highlights projects undertaken from Oct. 1, 2010-Sept. 30, 2011 with 2010 federal fiscal funds. The work plan is now available as a download on [LISS's Web site](#).

AROUND THE SOUND

State Opens 2,500 Acres of Hempstead Harbor Shellfish Beds



A bayman clamming at newly opened Hempstead Harbor Shellfishing grounds.

On June 1, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation opened 2,500 acres of shellfish beds in Hempstead Harbor that has been closed for 40 years. Licensed fishermen are now busy working the harbor bottom for clams. The harbor had been severely polluted as a result of industrial and chemical discharges, but recovered thanks to the efforts of federal and state agencies, and local towns and environmental groups. Information about what is being done to restore the harbor is available at the [Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee Web site](#).

Bronx River Picked for New Urban Waters Federal Partnership





Volunteers plant a salt marsh grass as part of a shoreline restoration project along the Bronx River. The site was once the location of a concrete mixing plant.
Photo by Heather Young, NYSDEC

The Bronx River and Harlem River watersheds were one of seven pilot locations selected by EPA and other federal agencies as part of the newly-formed Urban Water Federal Partnership. The partnership aims to stimulate regional and local economies, create local jobs, and improve quality of life, and protect Americans' health by revitalizing urban waterways in under-served communities across the country.

The new partnership was announced June 24 along the Patapsco River in Baltimore by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Melody Barnes, Council for Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Besides the Bronx River/Harlem River watersheds, the other other pilot projects will be at the Patapsco Watershed (Maryland), the Anacostia Watershed (Washington DC/Maryland), the South Platte River in Denver (Colorado), the Los Angeles River Watershed (California), the Lake Pontchartrain Area (New Orleans, LA), and the Northwest Indiana Area. Each of the pilot locations already has a strong restoration effort underway, spearheaded by local governments and community organizations. Lessons learned from these pilot locations will be transferred to other cities in the country.

In the past decades the Bronx River, part of the Long Island Sound watershed, has turned from a polluted and debris-filled waterway to a vital urban resource for Bronx residents and for fish and other wildlife.

For more information about the partnership, visit [Urban Waters](#). Visit the [Bronx River Alliance](#) for information about progress along the Bronx River.

CT Sea Grant Picks Art Award Winner





Jeff Slomba, an artist from West Haven, has won the 2011 CT Sea Grant Arts Grant award. Slomba's proposed project, for which he won a \$1,000 prize, will be to create several sculptures that overlap Long Island Sound's ecology and commerce, using large Styrofoam pieces found floating in the Sound. Slomba said that the Styrofoam pieces "will be altered with hand-carved patterns representing natural structures of fragile regional marine flora and fauna, while invoking Eastern and Western medieval devotional objects."

Slomba will propose the completed work for exhibit for 2012 exhibitions at Artspace, New Haven, and the Islip Art Museum, Islip, NY.

He views the subjects of nature and industry as inextricably linked forces in marine environments, for a number of current issues.

"I am attracted to these large Styrofoam forms that I find washed ashore in Connecticut because they serve as both evidence of human industry and natural forces in the waterways," said Slomba. "The floats, which come off of boats and shipping vessels, have been significantly altered by erosion, and various plants and crustacea while traveling in Long Island Sound. Beautiful objects in their own right, they also have a material quality that allows them to be carved, and when finished the material has a transcendence that replicates natural materials."

AROUND THE WEB

Web Sites Track Summer Hypoxia Data

Since 1991, CT DEEP has monitored water quality for the Long Island Sound Study aboard its research vessels. From June to September, monthly sampling at stations across the Sound, increases to bi-weekly sampling, to coincide with the summer season when warmer temperatures help contribute to conditions that result in low dissolved oxygen levels, or hypoxia, a condition that can cause fish to scatter or die. Maps showing the extent of low dissolved oxygen in Long Island Sound are posted as soon as possible after each survey at [CT DEEP's Web site](#).

Besides the water quality monitoring program, UConn's Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System (LISICOS) provides real-time water quality monitoring, including measuring dissolved oxygen levels, through sensors deployed on six buoys, a lighthouse, and a dock. The data can be viewed at the [LISICOS](#) Web site.

Migratory Fish Reports Available On-line

The complete list of weekly reports that track migratory fish passing through Connecticut rivers at fishways is available at the Web site of the Connecticut River Salmon Association. The reports are compiled by CT DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division. See [Fish Counts](#) for the reports.

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