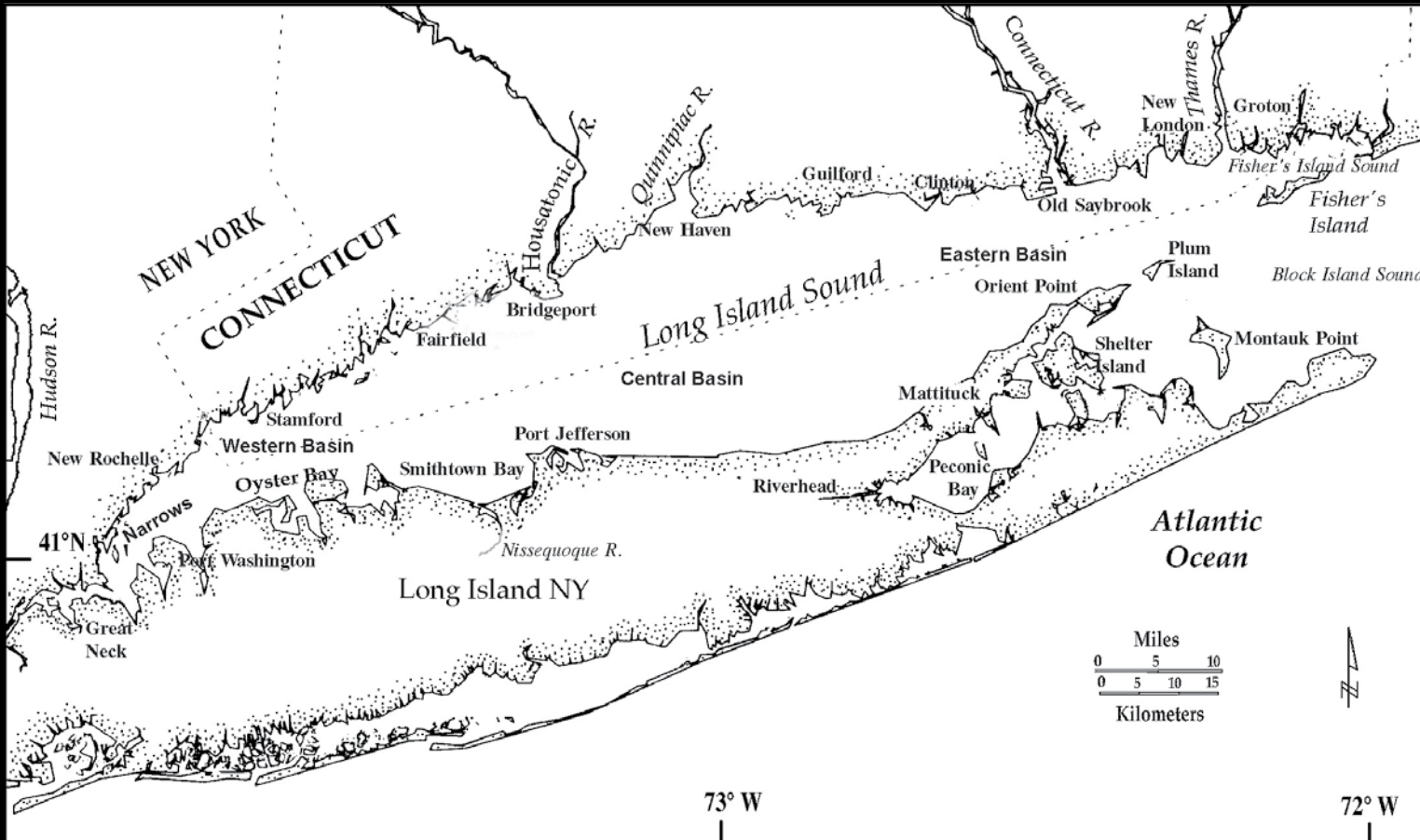


Living Treasures

Plants and Animals of Long Island Sound





Long Island Sound is bordered on the south by Long Island, New York and on the north and west by the coasts of Connecticut and Westchester County, New York.



Long Island Sound is the **nation's second largest estuary** – a special place where fresh water from rivers and streams and salt water from the ocean meet and mix.

- **Estuaries** are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, providing feeding, breeding, nesting, and nursery areas for many animals.
- They are water bodies of **constantly changing conditions**, such as temperature and salinity.
- Plants and animals that live in estuaries are able to tolerate these changes; many have **special adaptations** that help them cope.
- More than **170 fish species and 1,200 invertebrate species** live year-round or seasonally in Long Island Sound.



HABITAT
It's Where you Live



- Long Island Sound has a broad range of habitat types, which in turn support a wide variety (diversity) of plant and animal species.
- A **habitat** meets the primary needs of organisms, including food, water, air, and shelter.

Primary habitat types in the Sound are:

1. Salt marshes
2. Sandy beaches
3. Tidal flats
4. Rocky intertidal
5. Submerged bottom
6. Open water