

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

RESTORATION OF COASTAL HABITATS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND

Recognizing that the coastal habitats of Long Island Sound have historically been an exceptionally productive and biologically diverse ecosystem important to the economic and ecological integrity of the Northeast and the nation,

Finding that the acreage of these key habitats for fish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife has greatly declined or degraded over the last century in part due to hydromodification, dredging, filling, water quality degradation, and general development,

Recognizing the economic and environmental benefits of coastal habitats, including flood moderation, pollutant filtration, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, tourism, and other important functions and values,


We the undersigned, to the extent permitted by our respective authorities and subject to the availability of financial and human resources, resolve to use the expertise of our agencies or organizations through the Long Island Sound Study's Habitat Restoration Initiative to:

- Work together to restore or protect an additional 300 acres of coastal habitat and open up an additional 50 miles of riverine migratory corridor to diadromous fish from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, as stated in EPA's Strategic Plan, and ultimately restore 2,000 acres by 2020;
- Use partnerships to accomplish restoration objectives and leverage limited local, state, and federal funds.

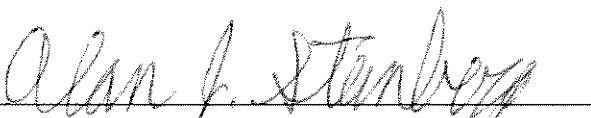
Nothing herein shall be construed to require signatories to obligate or expend funds on behalf of the goals, objectives, or responsibilities set forth in this MOU, or give rise to a claim for compensation for services performed to further the goals of this agreement. Any obligation or expenditure of funds by signatories in furtherance of the goals of this MOU must be consistent with existing legal authorities. All obligations and expenditures of funds by signatories will be subject to the availability of appropriations and the signatories' discretion in making budgetary determinations.



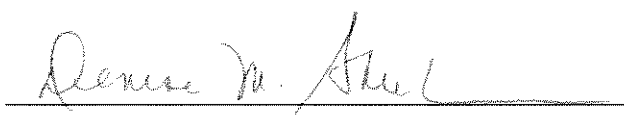
Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
New England Region



Gina McCarthy, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Environmental
Protection



Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region II



Denise M. Sheehan, Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation