



A Partnership To Restore and Protect The Sound

Fall 1999

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Avoid pouring kitchen grease and solids down your kitchen sink to minimize malfunctioning septic systems. Inspect septic tanks annually, and pump out every three to five years. An improperly working septic system can contaminate ground water flowing to local streams and can pollute Long Island Sound.

# UPDATE

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A watershed is the land area from which rainfall drains to a specific stream or waterbody. Large watersheds are often referred to as river basins and are named after the river the land area drains to, such as the Connecticut River basin. The watershed of Long Island Sound includes the drainage areas of multiple river basins, such as the Connecticut, Housatonic, and Thames. Extending through New England and, at the headwaters of the Connecticut River, right into Canada, the Long Island Sound watershed covers 16,000 square miles and also includes portions of New York City, Westchester County and Long Island. Eight million people live in the watershed, with millions more within 15 miles of its shoreline.

All the activities within the watershed cumulatively affect the quality of adjacent and downstream waters and, ultimately, Long Island Sound. As a result, watersheds are used to organize water management efforts. *Watershed management* is the process of involving local communities and individuals from the watershed as key partners in the effort. Collectively, watershed stakeholders assess conditions and identify problems, set goals, develop actions plans, and implement improvements.

This issue of the **UPDATE** highlights efforts to implement a watershed approach to protecting the Sound. Two successful examples are detailed, the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative and the Westchester County Watershed Advisory Committees. State efforts to expand the approach are also presented.

The case for watershed management is building. Two decades of implementing national treatment

technology requirements for industrial and municipal waste treatment facilities have resulted in cleaner waters. Further improvements will depend on assessing the cumulative effects of these treatment facilities and the threats from polluted runoff, landscape modification, and habitat loss. Local communities, landowners, and individuals must be partners to address the underlining issues of land use and stewardship. And that's the challenge - effective watershed management requires an informed citizenry. As a recent survey conducted by The Center for Watershed Protection<sup>1</sup> indicates, many individuals and homeowners don't understand the watershed concept and routinely do things that can cause water pollution. That is not a formula for strong stewardship of Long Island Sound's watersheds.

What can you do? Learn about watershed management efforts around the Sound highlighted in this issue of the **UPDATE**. Many include local watershed associations that you can join. Try attending your town's planning and zoning commission meeting. At home, adopt *Sound Gardening* landscape practices, inspect your septic system annually and pump it out regularly. Pooper-scoop after your dog and dispose the waste properly. These are just a few examples. The LISS *Supporting the Sound* fact sheet offers more suggestions. One more thing, try to educate and influence at least one neighbor. Together, our efforts can make a real difference. 

Mark Tedesco

<sup>1</sup>A Survey of Residential Nutrient Behavior in the Chesapeake Bay. The Center for Watershed Protection.

# C O R N E R

## L I S C o n g r e s s i o n a l C a u c u s B r i e f i n g

CAC

by David Miller and John Atkin

On October 14, 1999 we went to Washington to testify before the LIS Congressional Caucus on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee. We highlighted the need for increased federal funding and the importance of federal legislation that is currently before Congress.

The states of Connecticut and New York have stepped up to the plate with financial resources to address the issues identified in the Long Island Sound Study's *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP). New York passed the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act with \$200 million dedicated to Long Island Sound. To date over \$80 million have been appropriated for nitrogen removal projects at sewage treatment plants, for nonpoint source pollution control efforts and for specific habitat restoration projects. In Connecticut, the Governor and the General Assembly have placed \$108 million in the State's Clean Water Fund for FY 1999 and \$120 million for FY2000.

The LISS currently receives a little over \$1 million a year from the National Estuary Program and the LIS Caucus to carry out coordination and planning efforts. However, the bulk of

the funding to implement the plan, an estimated billion dollars over the next twenty years, is coming from the two states. For example, the federal government is not providing matching funds to New York's Bond Act, nor is the federal government providing land protection funds. The federal government has not invested in the solutions to the pollution and open space protection needs of Long Island Sound.

We encouraged the Long Island Sound Congressional Delegation to re-dedicate their efforts to get federal implementation dollars for LIS by expanding the State Water Revolving Loan Fund with set-a-sides to National Estuary Programs, passing legislation to ensure permanent annual funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the \$900 million level for open space protection, and securing \$50-100 million a year for four years to match the state expenditures in implementation of Long Island Sound's CCMP. Federal matching dollars at this time will have a synergistic impact on the state programs and leverage additional local dollars to get the job done.

Currently, there are several bills before Congress that could give LIS additional federal support. The Estuary Habitat Restoration bills H.R. 1775 and S. 835 would set up a funding mechanism

for critical restoration efforts on a partnership basis. The Water Pollution Control and Estuary Restoration Act H.R. 1096 would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide funding to States for their national estuary program CCMPs. Finally, there is a proposal to increase funding levels for EPA's Long Island Sound Office. For the past ten years, the EPA LIS office has been authorized a budget not to exceed 3 million dollars by an act of Congress. Senators Lieberman, Dodd, Schumer, and Moynihan have introduced S.1632 to extend the budget authorization for the Long Island Sound Office through 2005 and increase funding limits to \$10 million a year. Now is the time to invest in Long Island Sound. We have a unique coalition of industry, labor and environmental groups supporting the plan and the two states are investing unprecedented dollars toward the Sound's cleanup. 🐟

*John Atkin is the Connecticut co-chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee and is the president of Save the Sound, Inc. in Stamford, CT and Glen Cove, NY.*

*David J. Miller is New York's co-chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee and executive director of the National Audubon Society of New York State.*

### September CAC Meeting

#### Echo Bay Tidal Wetlands Restoration

After the September CAC meeting in New Rochelle, the Westchester County Department of Planning staff provided a presentation to CAC members on the restoration project at Five Islands Park in Echo Bay. At the conclusion of the presentation Rob Doscher guided a field tour of the site. The tour concluded with a spectacular display of bluefish predation on menhaden in the bay.



### S a v e t h e D a t e

The next meeting is December 9, 1999 at CTDEP Marine Headquarters Boating Education Center Conference Room in Old Lyme, CT. Contact Joe Salata (203-977-1541) for more information.

# CONNECTICUT WATERSHED INITIATIVES

by Mark Parker

Connecticut contains many watersheds and subwatersheds but, ultimately, nearly the entire State drains into Long Island Sound. A key component of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) efforts to improve the water quality and habitat of the Sound is its Watershed Management Program. The Watershed Management & Coordination (WMC) Section, established in 1996, under the Bureau of Water Management Planning & Standards Division, includes programs for river and lake management as well as geographical information system support.

CTDEP's goals for watershed management include improvements in water quality, habitat for fisheries and other wildlife, and recreational opportunities. CTDEP is currently focusing on priority sub-watersheds within the five large river basin areas that drain to the Sound: Thames (which includes the Pawcatuck and Eastern Coastal watersheds), Connecticut, Housatonic, Central Coastal basin, and Western Coastal basin (Fairfield County). The WMC is in the process of establishing five "basin coordinator" positions for these areas to provide public and local government assistance.

The WMC has had an eventful year for each of its constituent programs, including the concentrated efforts of the Norwalk and Quinnipiac river watershed pilot projects. Additionally, the WMC has continued its liaison efforts with watershed associations and municipalities to bring technical assistance to several watersheds throughout the state. The WMC conducts outreach and education on river watershed management activities, through the quarterly

bulletin, *River Rundown*, the Web site (<http://dep.state.ct.us>), and numerous meetings and conferences. All watershed programs emphasize nonpoint source pollution (NPS) abatement. Technical and financial assistance are also available using federal Clean Water Act Section 319 and 604(b) funds and state Clean Water Fund River Restoration Grants.

The 319 Program and the River Restoration Grant Program are administered by the CTDEP's Bureau of Water Management. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act was established as a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. The EPA defines NPS pollution as that which is ... *caused by diffuse sources that are not regulated as point sources and are normally associated with precipitation and runoff from the land or percolation*. The Clean Water Fund River Restoration Program was established in 1994 as a result of the passage of Public Act No. 94-154 by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

CTDEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs Coastal Programs Unit created staff liaison assignments for coastal watersheds. The staff serve as contacts with coastal municipal planning and zoning authorities, providing technical assistance in the review of coastal development proposals and land use planning. They also conduct outreach and education to municipal officials on coastal management-related issues such as the connection between nonpoint source pollution and land use. 

*Mark Parker works for CTDEP Bureau of Water Management, Planning & Standards Division and is the LISS Public Outreach Coordinator.*

The following is a list of active watershed projects and their associated contacts:

## Quinnipiac River

The "Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership," is a comprehensive, community-based watershed planning and implementation project. Contact: c/o Ellie Tessemer, Sec., 115 Cheshire Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492-3334, E-mail: [grwp@yale.edu](mailto:grwp@yale.edu), State Contact: Elizabeth Marks (860)424-3930, E-mail: [elizabeth.marks@po.state.ct.us](mailto:elizabeth.marks@po.state.ct.us)

## West River

Contact: West River Watershed Association, c/o Mary Tyrrell, Yale Center for Coastal and Watershed Systems, 205 Prospect St, New Haven, CT 06511, (203)432-3026, State Contact: Charles Fredette (860)424-3714 Watershed Management Coordinator, E-mail: [Charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us)

## Norwalk River

Contact: Norwalk River Watershed Association, Inc., PO Box 935, Norwalk, CT 06852, (203)846-8210, Website: [www.ridgefield-ct.com/~adminnra](http://www.ridgefield-ct.com/~adminnra), State Contact: Tess Gutowski (860)424-3096, E-mail: [tessa.gutowski@po.state.ct.us](mailto:tessa.gutowski@po.state.ct.us). See page 4 for more information.

## Sasco Brook

Contact: Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee, c/o Westport Conservation Dept., 110 Myrtle Ave, Westport, CT 06880, (203)341-1170, State Contacts: Elizabeth Marks (860)424-3930, E-mail: [elizabeth.marks@po.state.ct.us](mailto:elizabeth.marks@po.state.ct.us), Lee Dunbar (860)424-3731, E-mail: [lee.dunbar@po.state.ct.us](mailto:lee.dunbar@po.state.ct.us)

## Mattabeset River

Contact: Middlesex County Soil & Water Conservation District, PO Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438, (860)345-3219, State Contact: Charles Fredette (860)424-3714 Watershed Management Coordinator, E-mail: [charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us](mailto:charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us)

## Pomperaug River

Contact: Pomperaug Watershed Association, Larry Pond (203)263-3943, Marc Taylor (203) 264-9191, State Contact: Rob Hust (860)424-3718, E-mail: [robert.hust@po.state.ct.us](mailto:robert.hust@po.state.ct.us)

## Scantic River

Contact: Dave Askew, Tolland County Soil & Water Conservation District, (860)875-3881, ext. 108, State Contact: Charles Fredette (860) 424-3714 Watershed Management Coordinator, E-mail: [charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us](mailto:charlie.fredette@po.state.ct.us)

## Hockanum River

Contact: Hockanum River Watershed Association, c/o Doug Smith, 407 Woodbridge Rd, Manchester, CT 06040, (860)649-5678, State Contact: Stan Zaremba (860)424-3730 Nonpoint Source Coordinator, E-mail: [stan.zaremba@po.state.ct.us](mailto:stan.zaremba@po.state.ct.us)

## Jordan Cove

The Jordan Cove Urban Watershed Project is one of 22 projects nationwide being funded by CTDEP through an EPA 319 grant. The purpose of the program is to scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of watershed technologies designed to control nonpoint source pollution, and improve our understanding of nonpoint source pollution. Contact: Aqua Solutions, (860)269-7664, Website: [dep.state.ct.us](http://dep.state.ct.us), State Contact: Stan Zaremba (860)424-3730 Nonpoint Source Coordinator, E-mail: [stan.zaremba@po.state.ct.us](mailto:stan.zaremba@po.state.ct.us)

# Norwalk River Watershed Initiative

by Mel Cote

The Norwalk River watershed is located in southwestern Connecticut and a small portion of Westchester County, New York, encompassing approximately 64 square miles in portions of seven municipalities: New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton in Connecticut, and Lewisboro in New York. The Norwalk River watershed was selected by EPA, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to demonstrate watershed management techniques in support of the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) and the state's evolving watershed management approach. This watershed was identified by the LISS as a high priority basin for nutrient management, because it reflects the typical impacts associated with urbanization, and mirrors other coastal watersheds along the Sound. Another important factor in the selection of this watershed was the strong level of interest among the watershed municipalities, and local environmental and civic organizations. The purpose of the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative (NRWI) is to build local capacity to restore and protect water quality and fish/wildlife habitat, and to assist communities in integrating natural resource management considerations into local land use planning and regulatory programs. The initiative complements habitat restoration and nitrogen reduction strategies developed by the LISS to restore the Sound, and builds on lessons learned from earlier nonpoint source management programs.

The goal of the NRWI was to produce and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan with specific goals, objectives, and milestones to address outstanding resource impairments over an 18-month period utilizing a cooperative community-based planning process. The planning process

began in February 1997 with the establishment of the NRWI Committee, comprising more than 50 members including watershed residents, municipal officials, local organizations, and state and federal agency representatives. The Committee subsequently established subcommittees to develop goals, objectives, and tasks for four priority areas: water quality; habitat restoration; land use/flood protection/open space; and education/stewardship.

A draft plan was released for public comment in April 1998. Based on input from area residents and municipal officials, the Committee reevaluated and revised the plan and released the *Norwalk River Watershed Action Plan* in October 1998. The plan was formally released with a "signing ceremony," where the mayor of Norwalk and first selectmen from the other six municipalities, and representatives from federal and state agencies signed a pledge committing their support for the plan and its implementation.

In addition to developing the plan, the Committee quickly began high priority implementation activities. These included: securing Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source grant funds from EPA and CTDEP to implement riparian restoration demonstration projects and develop educational materials on the importance of restoring and maintaining vegetated buffers along the river; securing a grant from Trout Unlimited to restore and enhance fisheries habitat; establishing an early flood alert warning system for the watershed communities; publishing and distributing newsletters and other public information materials on the initiative to watershed residents; and establishing a volunteer, citizen water quality monitoring program.

With the release of the plan, the work of the NRWI Committee was completed. The next step was the creation of the Norwalk River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee, which is charged

with overseeing and coordinating implementation activities. The Advisory Committee first met in February 1999 and has 20 members representing federal, state, and local government, environmental and civic organizations, and business and industry. Additional section 319 funding was secured to support implementation activities in 1999-2000; these activities include: hiring a "watershed coordinator" to assist the Committee; continuing water quality monitoring; restoring riparian buffers; promoting septic system maintenance; and working with municipal departments of public works to reduce the impact of road sanding practices on the river and its tributaries. The Advisory Committee also has received a grant from a local foundation to supplement the section 319 funds for the watershed coordinator position. 

*Mel Cote works in the US Environmental Protection Agency, New England Regional Office as the Regional Program Manager for the LISS and Connecticut Nonpoint Source Program.*

## Norwalk Receives Awards

The NRWI has received numerous awards, including a 1999 Environmental Merit Award from the EPA New England Office, a 1999 Outstanding Regional Planning Program award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the 1996 River Conservationist of the Year Award from the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. In addition, EPA and NRCS, with local representatives, have presented the NRWI as a national model for community-based watershed management at numerous conferences and workshops around the country.

# NEW YORK WATERSHED INITIATIVES

by Libby Smith

New York State has revitalized its commitment to restore and protect its wealth of coastal, surface, and underground water resources. Using a watershed approach to manage water quality and natural resources, programs at the state, regional, and local level consider the many factors that affect rivers, lakes, and ocean shores.

A watershed is all the land that contributes water and water-borne pollutants, over and under the ground, to a specific body of water.

Using a watershed approach means examining all influences within a hydrologically defined drainage area instead of viewing individual problems in isolation. Watershed planning and management integrate social, environmental and economic issues within the drainage area's natural boundaries. In practical terms, using a watershed approach means assessing and managing resources as a whole, considering up and downstream effects of an action and working cooperatively with all stakeholders.

Because so many aspects of environment, economics, and society are involved in a watershed approach, partnerships are a natural and necessary mode of action. Communities are best equipped to identify their own problems - they don't need someone from the outside to do this for them. But as they may not always be equipped to solve those problems, they may need to call upon a variety of experts for technical advice, funding,

encouragement, and training. An evolving function for federal, state, and regional agencies and organizations is helping communities to tackle their own problems. Building local capacity is now an important policy direction, a newly emphasized relationship between governments and people.

Taking part in the federal Clean Water Action Plan, New York analyzed its watersheds for environmental and natural resource factors and submitted a Unified Watershed Assessment to EPA in 1998. Through the assessment, the State identified those watersheds most in need of restoration and set forth a five-year schedule to address high priority areas in each of its major basins. The watersheds adjacent to Long Island Sound have been identified as among those that will be addressed in the first year of the five year schedule.

The current task is to prepare strategies for watershed restoration and protection by utilizing local partnerships, strengthen public health protections, and target watershed protection efforts at high priority areas such as Long Island Sound. In support of this process, communities will be provided with new resources through the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, the Environmental Protection Fund and other programs to improve municipal wastewater treatment, control polluted runoff, and enhance natural resource stewardship. 

*Libby Smith is the Outreach Coordinator for NYSDEC's Division of Water.*

The following is a list of active watershed projects and their associated contacts:

## **Manhasset Bay Protection Committee**

This effort is cooperative among the Town of North Hempstead and the coastal villages along Manhasset Bay shoreline. Primary concerns are nonpoint source pollution, including nutrient loading and sedimentation in Manhasset Bay. Contact: Lynn Oliva, Manhasset Bay Protection Committee (516)869-7755

## **Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee**

This is a planning effort by the entire watershed community of the Harbor. Its plan was released in May 1998. Contained in the plan is a comprehensive review and interpretation of historical water quality data, quantification of pollutant loading contributions to the Harbor, review of existing regulations, and recommendations for management and restoration projects within the watershed. Contact: LynnOliva, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (516)869-7755

## **Glen Cove Creek**

The City of Glen Cove is involved in an effort to clean up and restore the Creek and its watershed, including sewage treatment plant effluent, habitat restoration, and nonpoint source controls. Contact: Thomas Suozzi, Mayor, City of Glen Cove (516)676-2004; Sally Dewes, NYSDEC (518)457-7924

## **Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor**

NYSDEC and NYSDOS have developed management plans and strategies for the harbor. Contact: Rick D'Amico, NYSDEC (631) 444-0467, Sally Ball, NYSDOS (518)476-1208; Greg Capobianco, NYSDOS (518)474-8811; Charles McCaffrey, NYSDOS (518)473-3368

## **Nissequogue River**

The river has been declared a state scenic and recreational river, which limits the development along the corridor. The report developed for this in the 1980s contains natural resource and hydrology information on the river. Contact: Chris Balk, NYSDEC (631)444-0275

## **Stony Brook Harbor**

The Stony Brook Task Force, a committee consisting of representatives from the towns, villages, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, citizens groups and others are working on a plan for the harbor. The information for this plan is to be collected by the Marine Sciences Research Center at SUNY Stony Brook. The Town of Brookhaven and the Village of Head of the Harbor have proposed to study the creek for mitigating the impacts of stormwater runoff along its entire length. Contact: Jeff Kassner, Town of Brookhaven, (631)451-6458

## **West Meadow Creek**

The Town of Brookhaven is collecting information on hydrology, water quality, and natural resources with help from Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY Stony Brook over three years (1996-1998). Contact: Jeff Kassner, Town of Brookhaven, (631)451-6458

*Continued on page 6.*

# Westchester County's Watershed Approach Watershed Advisory Committees

by Rick D'Amico

In order to promote the objectives of the LISS, Westchester County took a watershed planning approach. In 1992, the County created the Citizen's Committee on Nonpoint Source Pollution in Long Island Sound. The committee included elected officials, municipal staff, representatives of the construction industry, environmental advocacy groups, and Westchester County staff.

The committee documented its findings and made recommendations to reduce Westchester's contribution of nonpoint source pollution in a 1993 report. The report considered: point source nitrogen pollution, nonpoint source pollution controls, land use, public education, and financing.

Westchester County's approximately 68,000 acres of Long Island Sound watershed area were divided into six subwatersheds. An individual subwatershed consists of the drainage basins of one or several adjacent bodies of water. For example,

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*Continued from page 5.*

## Port Jefferson Harbor

The Town of Brookhaven and the Villages of Port Jefferson, Old Field, Poquott, and Belle Terre developed a plan to enhance the commercial waterfront area of southern Port Jefferson Harbor; improve operating conditions for water-dependent commercial and recreational uses; ensure public and vessel safety, improve conditions for navigation; and protect and enhance environmental conditions. Contact: Jeff Kassner, Town of Brookhaven (631)451-6458

## Mt. Sinai Harbor

The Town of Brookhaven and the Mt. Sinai Civic Association conducted a study that focused primarily on land use, stormwater runoff and habitat restoration in the harbor. There is also work under way on the uses of the harbor. Contact: Jeff Kassner, Town of Brookhaven (631)451-6458

## Mattituck Creek

Suffolk County SWCD has completed a watershed analysis of Mattituck Creek. Contact: Alan Connell, SWCD (631)727-2315

## Westchester County

Westchester County's subwatersheds are developing local implementation plans that will reduce nonpoint sources of pollution to their respective subwatersheds. Contact: Rob Doscher, (914)285-4423, E-Mail: rrd1@co.westchester.ny.us

Subwatershed #1 includes the drainage basins (only in Westchester County) of the Silvermine, Mill, and Mianus Rivers. Each of the six subwatersheds is to develop its own nonpoint source pollution control plan developed. All of the subwatersheds include more than one municipality. For example, Subwatershed #1 includes the municipalities of Bedford, Lewisboro, North Castle, and Pound Ridge.

In order to foster intermunicipal cooperation, Watershed Advisory Committees (WACs) were organized, corresponding to the subwatersheds. Representatives from the local communities of each WAC are given technical and administrative support from the Westchester County Department of Planning. Together, they are developing local implementation plans that will reduce nonpoint sources of pollution to their respective subwatersheds.

Each WAC's report addresses (or will address) these major items: Stormwater Management Basins-assessment and recommendations to improve the basins' ability to treat stormwater runoff by removing or filtering out nonpoint source pollutants; Natural Resources Restoration-assessment and determination of which streams and wetlands are most degraded or threatened and specific recommendations for their restoration or protection;

Local Ordinances and Comprehensive Plans - recommendations that municipal land use laws and master plans of development incorporate water quality guidelines and best management practices for controlling nonpoint source pollution; and,

Public Outreach and Education - recommendations on how to use the media to inform the public, forming partnerships for public outreach and education efforts, and educating small business and golf course operators about best management practices.

Two of the WAC's (3 and 5) plans have been completed and endorsed by all of their participating municipalities. WAC 5, which includes the drainage areas of Pine, Stephenson, and Burling Brooks, along with Larchmont Harbor, was the first to be completed. WAC 3, consisting of the basins for Blind, Beaver Swamp, and Brentwood Brooks, and Milton (Rye) and Port Chester Harbors, was also completed. WAC 4, consisting of the drainages of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers, and Mamaroneck Harbor, has been started.

For further information on WACs and Westchester County's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, contact: Rob Doscher, Associate Environmental Planner, County of Westchester Department of Planning, 148 Martine Avenue, Room 432, White Plains, NY 10601, (914)285-4423, E-Mail: rrd1@co.westchester.ny.us, Web site: [co.westchester.ny.us/planning/environmental/enviro.htm](http://co.westchester.ny.us/planning/environmental/enviro.htm). 

*Rick D'Amico is the New York State Coordinator for LISS.*

### Westchester Watershed Program Recognized

Westchester County's watershed program was recently (June 1999) featured in a report of the National Association of Counties' Watershed Management Advisory Committee's publication "Leadership in Watershed Management - The County Role." It also was awarded a 1999 Regional Water Resources Award from the Southeast New York Intergovernmental Water Supply Advisory Council, New York Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Hudson Valley Regional Council and Water-Wise Council of New York.

## Watershed Resources

**LISS CAC watershed subcommittee** - Carolyn DuBois, chair  
**US EPA Office of Water** - [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed)  
**Watershed Information Network** - [www.epa.gov/win](http://www.epa.gov/win)  
**Federal funding sources** - [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/fund.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/fund.html)  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service** - [www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/land/env/wsheds1.html](http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/land/env/wsheds1.html)  
**Model Ordinances** (real-life examples to protecting water quality - [www.epa.gov/owow/nps/ordinance/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/ordinance/))  
**Watershed Science Institute** - [gneiss.geology.washington.edu/~nrcs-wsi/](http://gneiss.geology.washington.edu/~nrcs-wsi/)

## Dredging EIS Update

by Ann Rodney

In August of this year, EPA Region I (EPA) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) had an unexpected opportunity to conduct side scan sonar surveys at the four existing dredge disposal sites in Long Island Sound. *{The sites are Western Long Island Sound disposal site (WLIS) near Stamford, CT, Central Long Island Sound disposal site (CLIS) near New Haven, CT, Cornfield Shoals disposal site (CSDS) off Old Saybrook and the New London disposal site (NLDS) near New London}*. The EPA's research vessel, the Peter W. Anderson was in the Northeast and was available five days for data collection using side scan sonar. The data collected from the side scan sonar will assist the EPA and the ACOE in assessing how sediments are naturally transported in these specific areas. Also, the data may be used to study the potential habitat value of these sites for finfish, shellfish, and other marine organisms. The data collected have not yet been analyzed.

EPA and the ACOE conducted two public workshops in October: one in Port Jefferson, NY (10/12) and one in Stratford, CT (10/13). Approximately 50 people were at each workshop, and represented a variety of interests (shellfishermen, marine industry, environmental groups, public officials, private

citizens, and others) *{Notice of the workshops was mailed to approximately 3000 people and a series of fact sheets were developed and produced for the workshops. The fact sheets were mailed to approximately 2000 people.}*

These workshops were designed for small group discussions on four fact sheet topics: Data Review and Recommendations, Site Screening Process, Evaluation Factors for Site Screening, and Dredging Needs & Alternatives. The format of the group discussion was brainstorming, which was guided by a series of questions. The information gathered from these workshops will be reviewed and will assist the EPA and the ACOE to focus and clarify the continuing development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Draft Work Plan originally targeted for release in September has been delayed. Instead information gathered at the October workshops (& June Public Scoping meetings) will be used in completing the Draft Work Plan.

If you would like to be placed on the Long Island Sound EIS mailing list, give comments, or would like more information please contact:

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US EPA - New England Region  
One Congress Street  
Suite 1100, CWQ  
Boston, MA 02114-2023  
(617) 918-1538 or fax (617) 918-1505  
E-mail: [rodney.ann@epa.gov](mailto:rodney.ann@epa.gov)

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[www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis](http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis)

Long Island Sound Study Supporting Agencies:



U.S. EPA  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



CT DEP  
[dep.state.ct.us](http://dep.state.ct.us)



NYS DEC  
[www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)

Great News! The TMDL for nitrogen highlighted in the Spring 1998 issue of **UPDATE**, is here. A TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant, in this case, nitrogen, which may be introduced into a waterbody while ensuring that water quality standards are met after the application of technology-based or other controls. Since the primary pollutant contributing to low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia) levels in Long Island Sound is nitrogen, the TMDL is a very important tool for implementing state water quality standards for dissolved oxygen.

An adequate amount of oxygen dissolved in the water is one of the most important criteria used to define a healthy aquatic ecosystem. The reduction in oxygen impacts fish presence and production, reducing available marine life habitat by 50% during peak hypoxic periods. EPA and the

states of New York and Connecticut agreed to develop the TMDL to administer and enforce the 58.5% nitrogen reduction target adopted in 1998.

The TMDL for nitrogen will focus on dissolved oxygen attainment through nitrogen reduction from point and nonpoint source pollution as well as atmospheric deposition. The TMDL will be subject to public review and comment separately by Connecticut and New York consistent with their respective public participation requirements. As a result, a series of public meetings will be scheduled in both states. This is an opportunity for concerned citizens to come out and voice their opinions. Your comments are important.

Announcements regarding the times and places for these public meetings will be made shortly, so be on the lookout for them. For the latest information about the TMDL and opportunity to comment on it visit our Web site [www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis](http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis) 

**Calendar of Events**

- November 15, 1999**, Small Grants Proposal submittal deadline
- December 7, 1999**, Small Grants Review Team Meeting in Stamford, CT
- December 9, 1999**, CAC Meeting in Old Lyme, CT see page 2 for more details
- January 6, 2000**, LIS Total Education Network Meeting, contact Kristen Consolati at (203-327-9786) Save the Sound, Inc. for more information
- January 10, 2000**, LISS Budget Proposal deadline
- January 20, 2000**, Management Committee Meeting in Stamford CT, contact Joe Salata (203-977-1541) for more information
- March 9, 2000** CAC Meeting in New York
- March 30, 2000** LIS Implementation Team Meeting
- March 31, 2000** LIS Educators Conference, Norwalk Aquarium, contact Kim Raccio (203-852-0700 ext 245) for more information

**3 New Planting Guides Available**

New York Sea Grant and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County have produced planting guides for American Beach Grass, Native Grasses, and Smooth Cordgrass. The guides describe how to start a planting project, characteristics of the plants, and how to plant them. To obtain copies of the factsheets please contact either the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County at (631)852-8660 or New York Sea Grant at (631)727-3910.



**UPDATE**

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