



*A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound*

**The Long Island Sound Office**  
of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Long Island Sound Study Announces Research Grant Awards: Seven Research Projects receive total of \$850,000**

Dec. 9, 2004 -- Long Island Sound Study has awarded \$850,000 in grants to seven research projects that will look into some of the most serious threats to the ecological health of Long Island Sound, Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office announced today.

The projects are expected to provide valuable information to resource managers to support the cleanup plan to restore and protect the Sound.

“Hundreds of years of intense human development have contributed to the pollution problems the Sound now experiences,” said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “Scientific research helps us understand the problems we have identified and set the right course to correct them. Research also provides us with insights into emerging threats.”

The Long Island Sound Research Grant Program is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant. Since 1999, more than \$1.8 million in funds have been awarded.

“Long Island Sound is probably the most urban water body in the world and the research topics indicate both the diversity and complexity of its restoration,” said New York Sea Grant Director Jack Mattice. “We hope that additional large grants of Federal and State government funds can be found, because more funds are needed to solve the Sounds multitude of problems.”

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“We are fortunate that we can tap into the capabilities vested in the excellent universities around Long Island Sound to address many important questions,” said Edward Monahan, director of Connecticut Sea Grant.

The latest round of projects was selected by the Long Island Sound Study’s Management Committee from an initial response of 40 applications to a request for proposals.

The seven research projects funded this year are designed to: model oxygen production and consumption in Long Island Sound (University of Connecticut); trace human sources of nitrogen in the Sound (Wesleyan University); evaluate food webs in Long Island Sound (University of New Haven); use remote sensing to assess coastal marshes and species (University of Connecticut and Wesleyan University); study impacts of nutrient enrichment in tidal marsh losses (Yale University); evaluate copper speciation and toxic metal concentrations in the Sound (Stony Brook University); and assess effects of temperature and chemical conditions on sediment release of sulfide and ammonia (University of New Haven). Detailed information on the proposed research and the grant recipients is available at: [www.longislandsoundstudy.net/research\\_projects.htm](http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/research_projects.htm).

The Long Island Sound Study, conducted under the EPA’s National Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort between the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York to restore and protect the Sound and its ecosystem. Connecticut Sea Grant, based at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, and New York Sea Grant, based at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, are both part of the National Sea Grant College Program. Their mission is to foster the conservation and wise use of our coastal and marine resources through research, outreach and education.

For more information about the Long Island Sound Study and the Research Grant Program call the EPA Long Island Sound Office at 203-977-1541.