



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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\$90,000 IN SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR WORK ON LONG ISLAND SOUND Program Targeting Invasive Species Education, National Estuaries Day Activities

Stony Brook, NY, July 28, 2003 –The Long Island Sound Study [small grants program](#) will be offering up to \$90,000 in grants this year for educational projects and for local actions to help protect and restore Long Island Sound, including targeting programs toward invasive species education and National Estuaries Day activities for September 2004.

Groups have until Sept. 12 to submit grant applications. Up to \$20,000 is available for National Estuaries Day activities, with a maximum grant of \$2,000 for each project selected. Two, \$10,000 grants are available for invasive species programs. Up to \$50,000 is available for other proposals, with a maximum grant of \$5,000 for each project selected.

The Long Island Sound Office is also offering a grant writing workshop to guide applicants through the proposal process. The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New York Sea Grant Conference Room, 146 Suffolk Hall, at SUNY Stony Brook on July 30, 2003. Call Kimberly Zimmer at (631)632-9216, or e-mail her at kszl@cornell.edu for more information and to reserve a space at the workshop.

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The Long Island Sound Study is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states of Connecticut and New York to analyze and correct the Sound's most pressing environmental problems. Since 1993, the Long Island Sound Study small grants program has provided more than \$395,828 for 99 projects in both states.

“Involving the public in the protection and restoration of Long Island Sound is one of our major goals,” said Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office in Stamford. “We look forward to working with local communities to educate the public about estuaries and to the threats that invasive species pose.”

Invasive or exotic species are those plants and animals that invade ecosystems beyond their historic range. Invasive species disturb ecosystems by out competing native species. In Long Island Sound, pervasive invasive species include the Asian shore crab and the purple loosestrife plant.

National Estuaries Day is held every year on the last Saturday of September. Communities around the country sponsor activities designed to increase public awareness of the value of estuaries, unique places where salt water and fresh water mix. Estuaries such as the Sound are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, providing feeding, breeding, nesting and nursery areas for diverse animal and plant life. For more information about National Estuaries Day visit <http://www.estuaries.gov/welcome.html>.

Non-profit organizations, local governments or public agencies, educational institutions, and classroom teachers can obtain a grant application packet by visiting the Long Island Sound Study web site at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis, by calling Kimberly Zimmer at (631)632-9216, or by e-mailing her at kszl@cornell.edu.