

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

ECOSYSTEM TARGETS

The following ambitious, but achievable, ecosystem targets have been developed to drive progress toward attaining the **Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SC)** goal. Achieving these targets can also contribute to the goals for the other themes. Likewise, multiple strategies and implementation actions throughout the four theme areas apply directly and indirectly to these targets. Measuring, tracking, and reporting environmental indicators of each ecosystem target will provide information to assess progress and refine and adapt management as needed.

Waterfront Community Resiliency and Sustainability:

All coastal municipalities have prepared plans for shoreline resiliency and infrastructure sustainability and resiliency by 2025, with all future development compliant with those plans by 2035.

Harbor and Bay Navigability: Maintain all federal navigation channels in harbors and bays and manage dredged material in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner, consistent with a bi-state Dredged Material Management Plan, by 2035.

Public Engagement and Knowledge: Increase the knowledge and engagement of the public in the protection and/or restoration of Long Island Sound compared to the 2006 public perception survey.

Public Beach Closures: Reduce by 50 percent the number of beaches reporting at least one closure day or the total number of beach-day closures per monitored beach due to water quality impairments by 2035, compared to a five-year rolling average from 2014.

Marine Debris: Decrease the mass of marine debris in Long Island Sound by 2035.

Public Access to Beaches and Waterways: Increase by at least 10 percent the number of public access points to the Sound and its rivers by 2035.

