

**Long Island Sound Study
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Thursday, Sept 10, 2009
IEC, NYC, NY**

Interactive Discussion

Pete Sattler from Interstate Environmental Coalition (IEC) led a discussion about Long Island Sound (LIS) observations this summer. Pete said that fish populations in the Sound were doing well based on his personal observations during his 30 fishing trips this summer. Pete also mentioned the dolphin pod that was spotted in Western LIS. Other attendees shared their positive observations—members saw large populations of dragonflies, tree swallows, blue mussels, osprey, and bunker this summer. Recreational fishers were reported to be catching lots of fish, including large porgies (scup), fluke, bluefish, and striped bass. The hypoxic event in the Niantic River was also discussed, and it was noted that local agencies responded quickly to the event.

Welcome/Introductions

New York CAC co-chair Nancy Seligson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and asked for introductions, 22 CAC members were present by the beginning of business, which is a quorum.

Membership Issue

Nancy informed the group that Jon Kachmar, from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) had requested to be a member of the CAC. The membership committee (Nancy Seligson, Curt Johnson, Mark Tedesco, Mickey Weiss, and Al Caccese) had discussed the request and recommended that TNC be invited as a member of the CAC. After Jon graciously left the room (in keeping with the provisions for accepting new members outlined in the CAC Bylaws) the quorum of members present unanimously voted to accept Jon Kachmar as a new member of the CAC.

Reports

Co-Chair Updates: Curt Johnson gave an update on the letter that was sent to the Senate to request that they match the House's request for \$15 million for Long Island Sound. (Currently, the Senate is only asking for \$3 million.) Initial reactions from elected officials were somewhat positive. However, Nancy stressed that CAC members need to call and support the letter, the numbers are: Sen. Gillibrand (NY): Ben Rosenbaum T: 202-224-4451 F: 202-228-0282
Sen. Schumer (NY): Anne Fiala T: 202-224-6542 F: 202-228-3027
Sen. Dodd (CT): David Kronig T: 202-224-2823 F: 202-224-1083
Sen. Lieberman (CT): Danielle Rosengarten T: 202-224-4041 F: 202-224-9750
Curt also thanked the Policy, Legislative, and Advocacy CAC subcommittee for all of their hard work in writing and reviewing the letter.

STAC: Mickey Weiss gave an update about the June 19th STAC meeting. He expressed his disappointment for the System-Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM) evaluation as it focused more on the science of the model instead of how successful the model is for management purposes. STAC discussed whether other models or multiple models should be considered as an alternative to SWEM. CAC members expressed interest in having a similar presentation about SWEM in order to understand more about the model. Members also expressed concern that the CAC should be more involved in development of the RFPs to ensure that it is tailored to the specific outcome in mind. Mickey also informed the group that an update was given about the sentinel project and the STAC pushed for the committee to move ahead with its selection of long-term monitoring sites. Lastly, the LIS Synthesis is progressing. The schedule is for a draft to be submitted to the publisher by the first of the year.

Management Committee: Nancy informed the group that, during the meeting held on July 16th, each LISS Work Group gave an overview of their process over the last year, highlighting their Work Plans and priorities in order to help the Management Committee come up with LISS funding priorities for 2011. Nancy also encouraged CAC members to review the minutes from the Management Committee meeting (<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/minutes/mgmtcomm/7.16.09.pdf>) to better understand the responsibilities of each LISS Work Group.

No Discharge Zone (NDZ): Charlie deQuillfeldt reported that NYSDEC is working on creating a NDZ throughout NY waters. Currently the state is working to compile a list of available pump-out facilities and then will file a petition to the EPA. If approval is granted, it should occur within one year. CAC members expressed an interest in creating a subcommittee to focus on the issue of maintaining properly-working pump-out stations.

2010 Budget Process: Mark Tedesco updated the group on the 2010 budget. Although the final budget is unknown, LISS Work Groups put together Work Plans, which are then incorporated into one Needs Assessment document. This document is then used by the Management Committee at its October meeting to set funding priorities for 2010. CAC members suggested the priorities be presented to the CAC for comment at its December meeting. The CAC co-chairs would then provide CAC input on budget decisions through their role on the Management Committee. CAC members can also contribute to this process by actively serving on LISS Work Groups and helping to develop the Work Plans.

CAC LIS Priority Letter

The Policy, Legislative, and Advocacy Subcommittee presented the group with a letter for the Management Committee that was drafted to identify priorities for implementing the LISS CCMP. The seven priority areas included: Water Quality, Stewardship and Habitat, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Closing the Gaps: Mapping, Monitoring, and Research, Dredging, Climate Change, and Public Education and Outreach. Members offered numerous suggestions, which will be incorporated into the revised document. Overall, the group commended this Subcommittee on their hard work compiling the letter. The Policy and Legislative Committee will accept comments for 2 more weeks. If you would like to see a copy of this letter in order to offer

suggestions, please contact Sandy Breslin at sbreslin@audubon.org. Once the CAC letter is updated, based on the CAC input provided at this meeting, it will be forwarded to the LISS Management Committee and Policy Committee as a recommendation for shaping the priorities and budget of the LISS 2010-2011 budget.

Presentation: TNC Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Jon Kachmar presented a tool that TNC has created to predict sea level rise along the coast. This tool is currently only available for the south shore of Long Island, but will be developed for the entire coast of LIS by the summer of 2010. The purpose of this tool is to allow stakeholders to predict sea level rise and its effects in order to amend key laws in order to adapt land acquisitions, post-storm development, and restore key habitats. Jon urged members to experiment with the Future Scenerios Mapper at: www.coastalresilience.org. If you would like a copy of Jon's presentation, please contact Larissa Graham at ljpg85@cornell.edu.

Reports from Subcommittees

Dredging: Dan Natchez passed out a copy of the summary from a recent conference call. The Subcommittee decided to facilitate and push for a more coordinated approach for the dredging and relocation of dredge materials between Connecticut, New York, the ACE and EPA. The completion of the DDMP for Central and Western end of LIS SOUND, and the undertaking of a DDMP for the eastern end of LI Sound and other areas. Further, the Subcommittee felt that the CAC should concentrate its efforts on the need for environmentally sound and economically affordable approaches for the non ACE projects, take a more *holistic* approach to the needs, and examine NJ's approach of creating a dredging/relocation czar. CAC members offered suggestions to wording so that all members could agree on the document. If you would like to see the copy of the conference call or be involved in further discussion, please contact Dan at dsnainc@aim.com. Specific language for the CAC priority letter to the Management Committee associated with dredging was discussed and agreed on by the entire committee after a lively discussion.

Communications: Maureen Dolan-Murphy reported that the Work Group was redesigning and redeveloping the LISS website, pursuing the option of conducting a follow-up Public Perception Survey, and continuing to develop a Sound-wide social marketing campaign. Larissa Graham encouraged CAC members to help the Communications Work Group extend outreach materials and Robert Burg informed the group that a Work Group has been established to explore the idea of a 400th anniversary celebration for Adrien Block's exploration of LIS.

Accountability and Tracking: Leah Schmalz updated the group that numerous applications have been received for the consultant position for the Sound Vision project (deadline: Sept 18th). If you would like to be involved in the review process, contact at lschmalz@savethesound.org.

Sound Vision Project

Leah Schmalz from Save the Sound gave an overview of the scope of work for the Sound Vision project. The deadline for proposals for the consultant position for the Sound Vision project will close on Sept 18th. The Accountability and Tracking Subcommittee would like to have an internal review completed by Sept 25th and completed hiring by mid-October. Once hired, the consultant will examine how/where LISS, state, and federal funds have been invested into implementing the CCMP. She anticipates an update of that work to be presented to the CAC at the December meeting, and a full report completed by February. CAC discussions will begin in Feb/Mar and three to five half-day sessions will be held to review the summary the consultant compiles and to determine future funding needs. The CAC will work with the STAC to create a five-year plan for investment and recovery of LIS. Leah also encouraged CAC feedback and stated that if any members have concerns or questions, she said that they can contact her at lschmalz@savethesound.org.

LIS Future Fund

Lynn Dywer, Mike Slattery, and Tom Kelsch from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation gave an overview of the LIS Futures Fund, a program that allows on-the-ground implementation of the CCMP and other LISS Initiatives (i.e., Stewardship, Habitat Restoration). In the past five years, \$900K has been awarded for LIS projects (each year). This has allowed 138 projects to be funded (out of 2,400 applications), which have restored 290 acres of habitat, opened 40 miles of fish passages, and involved over 30,000 citizens in educational projects. The Futures Fund has incorporated emerging priorities such as low impact development and the implementation of social marketing campaigns in the RFP. Lynn elaborated on various techniques that would allow LISFF to grow in conservation and environmental impact, such as increased and targeted, and increased technical assistance.

Updates/Announcements

LISS will be holding a two-day conference on Bioextraction and its potential for LIS on Dec 3-4, 2009. For now, save the date; details will be forthcoming.

Other Business/June Agenda Items

The next CAC meeting will be in Stamford, CT on Dec 10, 2009. Possible topics for the next meeting include an update on the SWEM evaluation, potential for CAC input into research RFPs and the accountability of funded projects, maintenance of pump-out facilities, an update on the settlement funds, and a review of LISS priorities. Other suggestions for topics may be sent to the CAC co-chairs (nancy18b@aol.com or cjohnson@cfenv.org) or Judy Preston (judy.2.preston@uconn.edu).

Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.