



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

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Long Island Sound Summit to Highlight Latest Research to Protect Marine Animals of the Sound

Stamford, CT, March 26, 2003 – “Marine Animals in Long Island Sound: Status and Trends” will be the featured topic at the 13th annual Long Island Sound Summit held at the New York Botanical Garden on March 29. The event is being co-sponsored by the Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance, the EPA Long Island Sound Office, and Save the Sound.

Summit participants will learn about some of the fascinating creatures that live in the Sound and on its shore – a diversity of wildlife that includes more than 170 species of fish and 1,200 species of invertebrates. It will also be a forum to hear from top scientists studying the Sound about some of the threats to these animals’ health, and actions that can help to protect them.

While some animals such as harbor seals have prospered in the Sound in recent years, other populations have diminished, including lobsters. Participants will get a detailed look at the

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latest research in the field identifying environmental changes that are affecting the marine animals' health.

“The Long Island Sound is a great recreational resource for the millions of people who live in its watershed and near its shoreline,” said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “But its beautiful seascape is also home to an amazing variety of sea creatures as well as shoreline animals. The Summit provides an excellent chance to learn the latest on what’s being done to preserve and protect the Sound’s wildlife.”

“The conference also will talk about the management and policy implications of the latest scientific data,” said John Atkin, president of Save the Sound. “From these emerging trends, participants will learn what they should be doing to get involved.”

The day-long conference also will feature a key note speech by Tom Andersen, whose book, “This Fine Piece of Water: an Environmental History of Long Island Sound,” chronicles the history of Long Island Sound, and how scientists and citizens have been working to save the Sound from centuries of pollution. Andersen, a former journalist, is Projects Director for the Westchester Land Trust.

The Summit is being held from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. with an optional trip to the Bronx Zoo for a guided tour of the Sea Lion pool.

Registration for the conference, which includes refreshments and lunch, parking and admission, to the New York Botanical Garden, is \$25 in advance (\$20 for students and seniors) or \$30 at the door. For more information regarding details and registration for the conference, call Robin Kriesberg at 1-888-SAVE LIS or e-mail her at rkriesberg@savethesound.org.

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