



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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Stamford, CT, February 12, 2004 -- Have an idea on how best to protect and preserve the most valuable resources along Long Island Sound's coastline?

The Long Island Sound Study's Stewardship Initiative wants to hear from communities across the Sound as it identifies coastal places with significant biological, scientific or recreational value, and develops strategies to protect these important resources.

Over the next two months, the Long Island Sound Study will hold community meetings in Connecticut and New York where residents will be encouraged to speak out about actions needed to preserve open space, increase access to the Sound, protect and manage important habitats, and resolve use conflicts.

"There are special places around the Sound that we connect to because of the recreational opportunities they provide or because of their natural ecology and beauty. The Stewardship Initiative is working to identify those places and foster their stewardship", said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office

During these meetings, staff from the Long Island Study's partner agencies and organizations will present maps identifying areas of ecological and recreational importance in and around the Sound describe potential options for improving their stewardship.

"We are looking to the community, as citizens and local experts alike, to help ensure that we've captured what's special about the Sound," said John Atkin, Vice President of the Regional Plan Association, the lead organization in identifying areas of high recreational and open space value.

"The meetings will also be an excellent opportunity for people to learn about the value of coastal habitats and living resources in areas near where they live, and the threats they face," said Don Henne, project leader of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Southern New England-New York Bight

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Coastal Ecosystems Program, the lead organization in identifying areas of high biologic and scientific value..

All meetings start at 7 p.m., and will be held on:

- **February 23** at University of Connecticut, One University Place, Stamford, CT;
- **February 26** at City Hall, 515 North Ave., New Rochelle, NY;
- **March 1** at Sage Hall, 205 Prospect St., Yale University, New Haven, CT;
- **March 2** at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 229-06 Northern Blvd., Queens, NY;
- **March 3** at 120 Endeavor Hall, Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY;
- **March 4** at East Lyme High School, 30 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme, CT;
- **March 15** at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY;
- and **March 16** at Town Hall, 100 Main St., Huntington, NY.

Directions can be found by visiting www.longislandsoundstudy.net and clicking Stewardship Public Meetings.

The Stewardship Initiative is a collaborative effort involving public and non-profit organizations. Technical support is provided by: Audubon New York; the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Save the Sound; Regional Plan Association; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) is a cooperative effort created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the states of Connecticut and New York to protect and improve the health of the Sound. It involves researchers, regulators, user groups and other concerned organizations and individuals.