



UPDATE

Winter/Spring 2000

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

One year ago, the **UPDATE** newsletter focused on the health of living resources in the Sound. The outlook was mixed, with both positive and negative news. There was also a hint of caution; a warning that naturally occurring diseases can unpredictably wreak havoc on populations of fish and wildlife. Massive oyster mortalities in 1997-98 caused by a single-celled parasite called MSX accentuated the point, along with reports of an unusual die-off of American lobster in the fall of 1998, tempering the good news of recent record harvests.

But the 1998 lobster die-off was but a harbinger of what was to come in 1999 when the mass mortality of lobsters in Long Island Sound crippled a multimillion dollar industry and put many fishers and dealers out of work. Marine disease became front page news and a source of editorial page finger pointing.

Lobster fishers and dealers began reporting significant numbers of dead and dying lobsters in lobster pot gear in the western half of Long Island Sound in mid-September of 1999. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) Long Island Sound trawl survey also started to see a drop off of lobster catch in September and a more noticeable decline in abundance, as well as an increase in sick lobsters, in October. It was clear by November that the die-off was unprecedented in scope and catastrophic to the lobster fishery. The lobster die-off continued throughout the fall and winter. On January 26, Commerce Secretary William M. Daley declared Long Island Sound a federal fishery disaster area. On February 29, President Clinton asked Congress for \$10 million; \$6.6 million for research to determine what is causing the die-off and another \$3.4 million for economic assistance and development initiatives. Congress has yet to act on the bill.

Based on preliminary work, Dr. Richard French, a University of Connecticut veterinary pathologist, has linked the die-off to a protozoan parasite, *Paramoeba*, known to cause death in lobsters, crabs, and sea urchins. But additional research is needed to confirm the parasite's link and to identify other possible contributing environmental factors.

The need for more research was emphasized at the April 17-18 LIS Lobster Health Symposium, which brought together experts from around the country with people in the industry to discuss what happened and to develop an action plan to better understand and manage lobsters in the Sound. This action plan will guide management and research efforts.

A word of caution: the question of what caused the die-off is complex and the likelihood of being able to manage it is uncertain. The course and causes of disease are often poorly understood. For example, human health authorities haven't answered why the region saw an outbreak of mosquito-borne viral encephalitis, with fatal effects, in 1999. Understanding why a paramoeba is killing lobsters in Long Island Sound may be just as complex an undertaking. Aid in response to the fishery disaster designation has been proposed but still needs to be approved by Congress in an emergency appropriation package.

If there is a positive side to the lobster mortalities, it is the discussion it has spurred on how to strengthen the region's capability to study, understand, and respond to the array of marine diseases that can devastate living resources *and* the livelihood of people that harvest them. It's an investment that seems especially wise after the events of the past year.

Mark Tedesco

CAC CORNER

by David Miller and John Atkin

There has been a lot of discussion over the last year about the concept of a Long Island Sound Reserve. The recent Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance annual conference focused on the concept, and there has been discussion in the CAC, the EPA, and in New York's DEC and in Connecticut's DEP. Now is the time for the public to be heard on the concept.

To that end, ten citizens' hearings are scheduled around Long Island Sound in May and June. The National Audubon Societies of New York and Connecticut, with local Audubon chapters, Save the Sound, the Regional Plan Association, and many other organizations concerned about the Sound's future are joining under the campaign banner "Listen to the Sound 2000."

Its aim is to gather public input and mobilize public concern to create a comprehensive system of protected open space and restored habitats - a Long Island Sound reserve system around the estuary. If you live, work, or play near the Sound, please attend and tell us about the natural treasures along its rim that you cherish, and your concerns and vision for protecting them for future generations to enjoy. It is our opportunity to once again be the voice for Long Island Sound.

The Sound is an extraordinary scenic and recreational attraction in the heart of the country's most densely populated region. The costs of restoring and protecting it are public costs and the public deserves the opportunity to have a connection to this resource. Yet the Sound's shore is among the least publicly accessible in the country and, as water quality improves, its parks, beaches, and shoreline preserves - the jewels of the shoreline - are increasingly overwhelmed by the public. We need more public access sites to protect what we already have from overuse.

Now few unprotected open sites remain along the shore, and most of

these are likely to be developed within the next decade unless we mobilize quickly to save them.

Outstanding New York sites currently at risk include: Riverhead's Grandifolia Dunes, home to a unique dwarf forest; further east, several miles of largely undeveloped bluffs - the largest remaining stretch of open land on the Sound; and yet further east, Gardiner's Island, home of the last old growth forest stand on the east coast. Outstanding Connecticut sites include the 29-acre, virtually undeveloped Calves Island off Greenwich, the barrier beach to Great Meadows salt marsh at Stratford, and 42 acres of uplands and tidal wetlands next to Hammonasset State Park in Madison.

In response to these needs, National Audubon, Save the Sound, and the Regional Plan Association have launched the Long Island Sound Reserve Project to establish a comprehensive network of open space and natural areas along the Sound's rim, as well as to provide for more opportunities for public access and habitat restoration. National Audubon will organize all of the citizen hearings and pull together all of the testimonies into a Citizens Agenda Report. This report will be provided for a conference in early 2001 on establishing a reserve system that includes open space, habitat restoration, public access, and parks. Save

the Sound will coordinate the participation of the Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance, a grassroots network of some 200 organizations brought together by the first Listen to the Sound campaign. Save the Sound will lead our efforts on habitat restoration issues and incorporate programs included in the CCMP. Regional Plan Association (RPA), as a partner, will use its influential position as a planning organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of the tri-state area, as well as bring extensive planning and mapping expertise to the project.

Please join us in this exciting venture by enlisting your own local group and other community groups - such as, scout troops, garden clubs, and community associations. All you and they need to do is to agree to speak out for Long Island Sound. History tells us that only then will the Sound be heard. See page 3 for the hearing schedule.

John Atkin is the Connecticut co-chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee and is the president of Save the Sound, Inc. in Stamford, CT and Glen Cove, NY.

David Miller is the New York co-chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee and executive director of the National Audubon Society of New York State.

March 9 CAC Meeting Port Jefferson, New York

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met in Port Jefferson on Thursday, March 9. The CAC was briefed on LIS lobster mortalities by NYSDEC biologist Carl LoBue. The CAC also reviewed a draft policy paper on financial responsibility for sediment sampling costs by the Sediment Focus Group.

The CAC meets quarterly on the second Thursday of March, June, September, and December at alternating New York and Connecticut Long Island Sound communities. Meetings are open to the public. The CAC provides advice to the LISS management conference partners and communicates issues of concern on LIS to their organizations' membership.

S a v e t h e D a t e

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8 at the Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Call the EPA Long Island Sound office at (203) 977-1541 or check the LISS Website at: www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/calendar.htm for the schedule of 2000 CAC meetings.

Listen to the Sound 2000 Hearing Schedule

The National Audubon Society is urging citizens to testify on establishing a Long Island Sound Reserve System. You may submit written testimony by mail, fax, e-mail, the web page or at one of the meetings listed below.

Tuesday, May 30 - 7:00 pm

Essex Town Hall
29 West Ave., Essex, CT

Thursday, June 1 - 7:00 pm

Jones Auditorium
CT Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington St., New Haven, CT

Tuesday, June 6 - 7:30 pm

Maritime Aquarium
10 North Water St., Norwalk, CT

Thursday, June 8 - 7:30 pm

Cole Auditorium, Greenwich Library
101 E Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT

Tuesday, June 13 - 7:30 pm

Court Room, Mamaroneck Town Center
740 West Post Rd., Mamaroneck, NY

Thursday, June 15 - 7:00 pm

Morris Yacht Club
(end of) City Island Ave., City Island,
NY

Tuesday, June 20 - 7:30 pm

North Hempstead Town Hall
220 Plandome Rd., Manhasset, NY

Thursday, June 22 - 7:30 pm

Cold Spring Harbor High School
82 Turkey Ln., Cold Spring Harbor, NY

Tuesday, June 27 - 7:00pm

Village Hall Court Room
121 West Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY

Thursday, June 29 - 7:00 pm

Southold Town Hall
53095 Main Rd., Southold, NY

For more information, including brochures with hearing listings and co-sponsor sign-up forms, or to volunteer help, contact Jane-Kerin Moffat, Listen to the Sound 2000, Box 51, Cos Cob, CT 06807, (203) 629-1248, e-mail lts2000@mindspring.com, website: www.rpa.org/listentothound

Connecticut's Restoration Accomplishments for 1999

by *Lori Benoit*

The Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team, a subcommittee of the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration Initiative, accomplished a significant amount of tidal marsh restoration during 1999. Members of the Tidal Wetland Team include representatives from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) and Save The Sound (STS). Five tidal marsh projects were completed for a total of 67.9 acres restored. The team also worked on an additional 17 projects that are in earlier phases of development such as preliminary engineering or design.

One of the biggest challenges to completing restoration projects is securing funding. Funding sources have included the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CT DEP's Coves and Embayments Program, Ducks Unlimited, USFWS and Connecticut Waterfowl Association. The agencies represented on the Teams have contributed funds, staff time, and equipment to the restoration efforts. Also, federal funds are available through the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA). The Federal Highway Administration and the State Department of Transportation oversee this program, which provides 80% of the cost of a project, while the state contributes 20%. These funds can be used for enhancement projects where a transportation structure, such as a road, railroad track, or bridge, has adversely impacted an ecosystem such as a tidal marsh.

Once funding has been identified, project plans are developed and permits secured. More complex projects, such as the restoration at Mill Meadows (See related article on page 4), requires the services of an engineering firm to study the degraded marsh and make

recommendations for possible corrective actions.

The Riverine Migratory Corridor Team came into existence at the end of 1999. Last year the Team, consisting of CT DEP (Fisheries Division, Bureau of Water Management, and Office of Long Island Sound Programs), in cooperation with project partners such as NMFS, USFWS, and Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), removed or breached four dams and installed seven fish ladders. These projects resulted in a gain of 22.5 miles of river habitat that is now open to migratory fish species. The four dam removals were the result of a negotiated mitigation agreement with the City of Waterbury involving a Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade. Four of the fish ladders were funded by a variety of sources including the Long Island Sound license plate program, National Resources Conservation Service, Native American tribes, Trout Unlimited, private landowners, and CRWC. The other three fish ladders were the result of two mitigation settlements and a dam licensing agreement.

Although the Riverine Migratory Corridor Team has already worked together on the anadromous fish restoration projects outlined above, it is expected that as part of the LISS Habitat Restoration Initiative there will be greater opportunities for coordinating activities such as grant-writing and project planning. For year 2000, an ambitious work plan was developed which includes the design and/or construction of 13 fish ladders.

The tidal wetlands team also has numerous restoration projects in development for this year. Additionally, plans are underway to form two new teams that will address restoration of coastal barrier beaches and coastal grasslands.

Lori Benoit works for Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and is the Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study.

Tidal Wetland Restoration: Mill Meadows, Old Saybrook, Connecticut

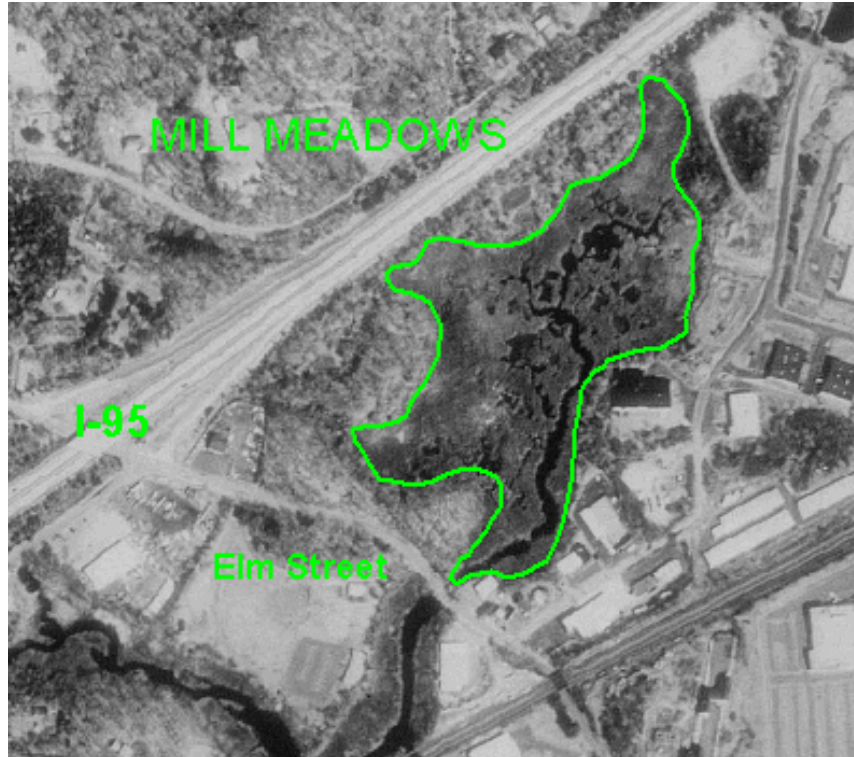
by Lori Benoit

A recent Connecticut restoration success story is the project at Mill Meadows, a 17-acre tidal wetland in Old Saybrook on the upper reaches of the Oyster River. The project, which was completed in October 1999, was the second in the country to use federal ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act) funding (see article on page 3, CT Restoration accomplishments).

In 1992-93, Coastal America, a consortium of federal agencies established to improve coastal resource restoration and protection, investigated ten degraded coastal wetlands in Connecticut to assess whether associated roads and highways were the cause of the degradation. It was determined that an undersized culvert was reducing the inflow of tidal water to Mill Meadows, causing a 1 ½ foot lower high tide elevation upstream compared to downstream of the culvert. The resulting reduction of tidal flooding of the marsh with salt water resulted in a drop in the water table, loss of elevation, and the loss of essential wildlife and fish habitat, as salt marsh plants were replaced by fresh water plant species, especially the invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs applied for and received ISTEA funding to design

and construct a restoration project for Mill Meadows. Detailed tide studies were undertaken and then used to develop a tidal flow model. The model identified an



appropriate flooding regime of the wetland and defined the modifications of the existing culvert necessary to provide



these flows. The model was also used to evaluate flood levels during various rainfall or coastal storm events, including

a combination of inland and coastal flooding to assure that the project would not increase flooding of adjacent properties. To increase tidal flow, a 3-foot diameter culvert was installed alongside the existing culvert under the road. A slide/flapper gate on the culvert can be closed in advance of a forecasted flood event to assure flood protection. The gate is then opened after the threat of flooding has passed. With the return of salt water flow into the marsh, it is expected that the amount of the invasive grass Phragmites will be reduced, and the abundance of invertebrates and foraging fish will increase.

This project was one of five tidal marsh restorations completed last year by the Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team as part of the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration Initiative. Project partners include the Town of Old Saybrook, EPA, CT Department of Transportation, Coastal America, CT DEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs and CT DEP Inland Wetlands.

Lori Benoit works for Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and is the

Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study.

New York's Restoration Activity for 1999

by Lisa Holst

Once again the Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act supplied funding to Long Island Sound habitat restoration projects. For the 1998/1999 round of awards, a total of just over \$2.42 million dollars was awarded to municipalities for habitat restoration projects. Two of these projects, Baxter Pond and the Oyster Bay western waterfront, will have the additional benefit of increasing natural filtration of nonpoint source pollution, as well as increasing habitat for the Sound's living resources. The remaining two projects, at Centre Island and Betty Allen Preserve, are targeted to benefit primarily finfish resources.

The Betty Allen Preserve project, an anadromous fish passage restoration, was ranked as a high priority project by the LISS Habitat Restoration Initiative partners. This project is a partnership between the Town of Huntington, the State of NY, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The state and town are supplying the funding for the project, while USFWS is providing design services for the planned fish ladder. The fish ladder will connect the freshwater pond system at the preserve with the estuarine waters of Northport Harbor.

The Centre Island project is a flow restoration project for an impounded tidal wetland. A larger culvert and self-regulating tide gate will be installed early this summer to reconnect the impoundment with the adjoining high quality tidal wetland and creek system. The Village of Centre Island, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State of NY, the Friends of the Bay organization, and the property owners surrounding the impoundment all worked together to make this project a reality. Staff from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have been monitoring the finfish usage of the impoundment prior to the culvert installation. Monitoring will continue after the installation in order to measure the changes brought by the project. Staff has also observed bird use and inventoried the plant communities at the site.

The Oyster Bay western waterfront project will enhance tidal and freshwater wetlands along the creek which drains Oyster Bay Mill Pond. The wetlands will increase usable habitat as well as provide additional filtration for the water exiting Mill Pond. This project is taking place on the edge of the

recently acquired Jakobson's Shipyard property and adjacent to a Town of Oyster Bay bathing beach. Other improvements to the shipyard property for public access and education are planned and underway as well.

The Baxter Pond project was initiated by the Nassau County Department of Public Works. The project provides pre-treatment for storm water runoff in a sedimentation basin, then allows for increased filtration and shoreline stabilization with wetland plantings along the pond's shoreline. The first step in the project will be to dredge the accumulated sediments from the pond bottom to return it to a depth which will support a warm water fish population. The pond drains to Manhasset Bay in the western sound.

An additional \$2.5 million in Bond Act (see table) awards have been announced for 1999/2000, bringing the total Bond Act funding for habitat restoration projects on Long Island Sound to just over \$6 million since its passage in November of 1996.

Lisa Holst works for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration Coordinator.

New York State Bond Act Aquatic Habitat Restoration Projects

YEAR	PROJECT NAME	TOWN	AMOUNT FUNDED	LISS NOMINATED?
99/00	Aunt Amy's Creek	Brookhaven	\$106,627	Yes
	St. Johnland Road	Smithtown	\$125,000	Yes
	Whitney Lake	N. Hempstead	\$500,000	Yes
	Pond Park - Great Neck Estates	N. Hempstead	\$28,927	Yes
	Manhasset Valley Park	N. Hempstead	\$644,125	
	Tallapoosa Wetlands	Bronx	\$324,825	Yes
	Edith Read/Nature Study Woods	Rye	\$110,000	Yes
	Rye Town Park	Rye	\$489,675	
98/99	Pryor Manor Marsh Phase II	Mamaroneck	\$210,000	Yes
	Baxter Pond	N. Hempstead	\$450,000	Yes
	Centre Island	Oyster Bay	\$75,000	Yes
	Oyster Bay Western Waterfront	Oyster Bay	\$1,700,000	No, but adjoins
97/98	Betty Allen Preserve	Huntington	\$200,000	Yes
	Stony Brook Creek	Brookhaven	\$40,806	Yes
	Pryor Manor Marsh Phase I	Mamaroneck	\$34,500	Yes
	New Rochelle Aquatic/Non-aquatic plantings	New Rochelle	\$50,000	Yes, some areas
96/97	Moorewood Wetlands	N. Hempstead	\$230,756	Yes, but not this project
	Thatch Pond	Smithtown	\$20,200	
	Harrison Pond Park	Smithtown	\$90,000	Yes
	Pelham Bay Park	Bronx	\$300,000	Yes
	Forest Park Shrub Swamp	Queens	\$275,000	Yes
Total Long Island Sound Aquatic Habitat Restoration Funds from the Bond Act Awarded to date: \$6,005,441				

Partnership Focus: Working with the Army Corps of Engineers

by Lisa Holst

In the past, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was not generally associated with habitat rehabilitation. This is changing, though, through a relatively new set of programs authorized by Congress. These new programs have made the ACOE an exciting partner in the habitat restoration initiative.

For example, the New York District of the ACOE has been working with the state and local governments on several habitat restoration project planning efforts. One of these efforts is happening in Northport Harbor on a 19-acre area of dredge spoil placed on tidal wetland in 1963. This site was nominated for restoration by the Town of Huntington under the Habitat Restoration Initiative and received a site priority ranking of "High". The ACOE is cooperating with the Town of Huntington and the state representatives of Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration Initiative to develop a Preliminary Restoration Plan to reestablish approximately 10 acres of tidal wetlands at the site.

The restoration site is within Twin Ponds Park, usually referred to as "Phragmites Park" by town staff, on the north side of Route 25A. Key considerations in designing this restoration project are continued public

access to the site, preventing adjacent homes from flooding, and returning as much vegetated tidal wetland to the site as possible. This site is currently a popular hiking and bird watching destination. The proposed restoration design will allow for pedestrian access around the perimeter of the site without need for building any boardwalks or other structures. This will reduce human impacts to the restored wetland and eliminate the need for maintenance of structures.

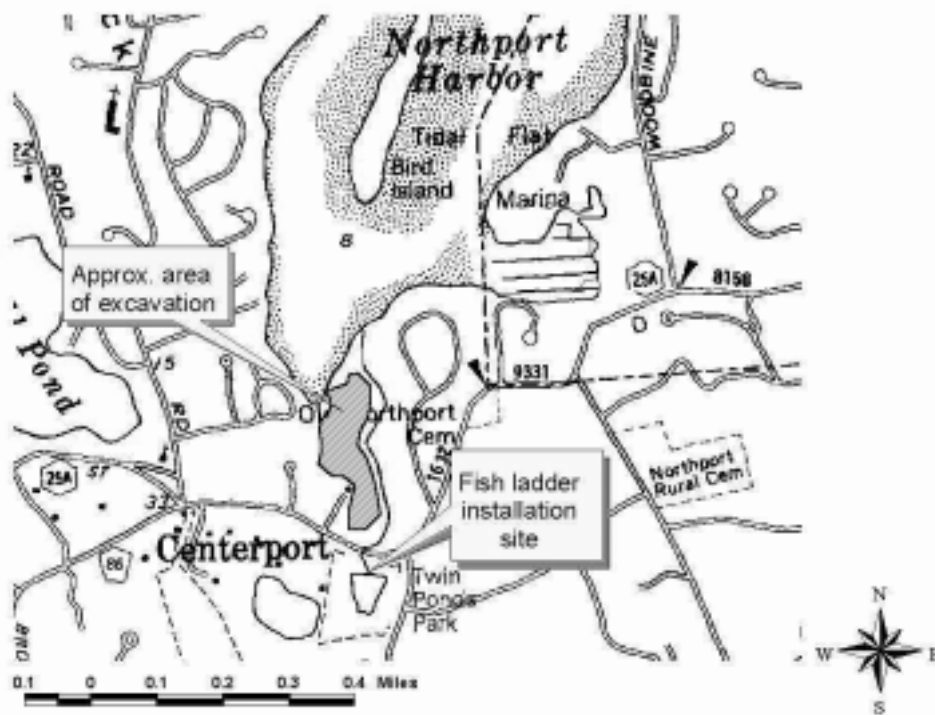
Site restoration is expected to increase finfish breeding and nursery habitat, and filter storm water that runs into the head of the harbor from surrounding roads. The tidal marsh will

the hundreds of thousands of cubic yards - an expensive prospect if all this material must be excavated and hauled away by private contractors. Ken Feustel, a planning team member with the Town of Huntington Division of Environmental Waste Management anticipates that the town will be able to use at least a portion of the material for beach nourishment projects. Excess material may also be used as landfill cover or construction fill. Fortunately, the dredge spoil is clean, coarse-grained sand, and beneficial reuse of the material should be easy. Once the volume of material to be removed is known, the project planning team will be exploring cost effective partnership opportunities to accomplish the fill removal.

An additional complication in excavating the dredge spoil is transport of the material off the site. The only land access to the site is from Route 25A, a main east-west artery which is only one lane in each direction with a blind curve just east of the site. Unfortunately, adjacent harbor waters are too shallow to allow use of barge-based equipment.

The New York State Department of Transportation will be consulted on the logistics of trucking the sand from the site. Stay tuned.

Lisa Holst works for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration Coordinator.



complement the fish ladder installation and fresh water pond restoration already happening upstream in the Betty Allen Memorial Preserve.

The project will prove to be an exercise in creative problem solving, however. The initial estimates for the volume of fill to be removed, runs into

Restoration Resources

Society for Ecological Restoration - www.ser.org/definitions.htm

Association of State Wetland Managers - www.aswm.org/wetlinks.htm

Restore Americas Estuaries - www.estuaries.org

Chesapeake Bay Foundation - www.cbf.org/rpp/index.htm

National Marine Fisheries Service Restoration Center - www.nmfs.gov/habitat/restoration/nspage.html

Dredging Update

The Work Plan for the Long Island Sound (LIS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available for public review. The Work Plan is available at the Website www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lisdreg/ or paper copy by contacting the address below. The Work Plan is the framework for the EIS, and will continue to evolve as specific issues and topics need to be clarified and refined. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) are soliciting comments on this Work Plan. Comments may be sent to the address below.

During the week of February 14, 2000 EPA and the ACOE conducted field work in LIS onboard the vessel *Isabelle*. This field work provided baseline information on LIS relevant to the EIS. Approximately 1000 sediment samples were collected to test sediment chemistry, toxicity, and biology. Additional field studies will be conducted in the Spring and Summer of 2000, which will include physical oceanographic data and finfish and lobster collection for tissue analysis.

EPA and ACOE held two evening public workshops, April 11 at the Danfords Inn at Port Jefferson, NY, and April 12, 2000 at the Groton Suites, Groton, CT to present and discuss specific building blocks for the EIS that have been developed since the October 1999 workshops. Topics discussed included the: EIS Work Plan and the process for public input throughout the development of the EIS, field work

accomplished to date, as well as future Field Work activities, Weights and Values for the evaluation factors (from the October 1999 workshops fact sheets) and the Alternatives Screening Process using the Weights & Values.

The workshops were designed for small group discussions on each topic and were supported with a pre-workshop packet of information. Due to the wide range of issues and the intricacy of the different topic areas, the EPA and ACOE will be forming volunteer working groups. These groups will be made up of people who have an interest in specific issues (examples: upland disposal; open water disposal; beneficial reuse; treatment technologies, etc). The working groups will be asked to give of their time by attending meetings, participating on conference calls and reviewing information within a very short time frame. These groups were explained in more detail at the workshops and the response was very positive.

If you would like to be placed on the Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement mailing list, give comments or would like more information please contact:

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www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis

Long Island Sound Study Supporting Agencies:



U.S. EPA
www.epa.gov



CT DEP



NYS DEC
www.dec.state.ny.us

dep.state.ct.us

The Long Island Sound Study, along with the EPA Long Island Sound Office, Save the Sound, SoundWaters, University of Connecticut, Southwest Area Commerce and Industry Association (SACIA), South Western Regional Planning Association (SWRPA), and the cities of Stamford, Connecticut and Glen Cove, New York are co-sponsoring a special municipal conference as a follow up to one that was held in June of 1997.

This year's conference - "Orchestrating Both Coasts for a Better Sound II" - will take place on Wednesday, June 14th from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Connecticut. More than 125 mayors and municipal leaders from coastal towns in both Connecticut and New York are invited to attend, with the highlight of the conference focusing on their recommitment to a Bi-Coastal Municipal Partnership to preserve, protect, and enhance Long Island Sound.

Convening a second conference will bring municipal leaders together again to share strategies that have been successful and to identify obstacles,

opportunities, and potential pitfalls to avoid regarding the preservation of Long Island Sound. Three panels, whose themes will focus on Land Use Success Stories, Challenges for the Future, and Waterfront Development and Sound Access, will form the core of the day's events. Penelope Davis Dalton, Assistant Administrator at the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is featured as the keynote speaker.

With this year's conference location shifted to Connecticut, Stamford's Mayor Dannel Malloy will host the conference and provide the welcome address to conference participants. The conference will open with a look at the State of the Sound through the use of environmental indicators and spotlight the next State of the Sound Report Card being issued by Save the Sound. Panelists will include municipal leaders from selected large and small communities in Connecticut and New York who will present a broad perspective of issues relating to coastal development. Mayor Thomas Suozzi of Glen Cove, New York will provide closing remarks and call participants to attend the next conference in New York in 2002.

For more information, call the Long Island Sound Office at (203) 977-1541.

Calendar of Events

May 30-June 29 Listen to the Sound 2000 Hearings. See page 3 for the schedule.

June 8 LISS Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in Bridgeport. Contact Joe Salata for more information (203)977-1541.

June 14 Orchestrating Both Coasts for a Better Sound II. See adjacent column for more information.

July 20 LISS Management Committee meeting, Stamford, CT. Contact Joe Salata for more information at (203) 977-1541.

For more events please check out the LISS Web site calendar at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/calendar.htm

New Network for LIS

For a free subscription to an e-mail discussion list for organizations and individuals working to improve LIS, contact: savethesound@snet.net and provide your name, organization, address, phone number, and e-mail address. This offer, courtesy of National Audubon Society, will provide a fast efficient, and cost-effective means of disseminating announcements and action alerts.

UPDATE

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