



The Long Island Sound Office *of the US Environmental Protection Agency*

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Public Participation Program

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Long Island Sound Study Funds

15 New York and Connecticut Community Projects

Stony Brook, NY, November 5, 2002 The Long Island Sound Study announced \$64,674 in grants to fund 15 community projects through out the Sound's watershed. The 15 grant recipients were selected from 35 proposals submitted to the Long Island Sound Office of the US Environmental Protection Agency. The funded projects focus on increasing public participation in controlling floatable debris, building aquaculture platforms, multimedia presentation of the lobster industry, educational materials on boat waste collection, a video on Connecticut's Outer Island, a harbor seal census, children and family programs, analysis of water quality data, tracking diamond back terrapins, and introducing real estate agents to the Sound.

This is the ninth year of funding for the Long Island Sound Study Public Participation, Information, and Education Small Grants. A total of 100 projects have been funded since 1995, amounting to more than \$395,000. "It is exciting to see diverse projects that center on Long Island Sound and encourage the public to get involved," said Kimberly Zimmer, Sea Grant Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study. "This year we are funding several projects that will introduce communities to the value of this national treasure and encourage their continued support with the cleanup."

Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office said, "This program continues to bring together civic groups, government officials, environmental organizations, and universities to work on projects in their communities that will improve the health of Long Island Sound."

The next request for proposals will be distributed during the summer of 2003. If you are interested in being placed on the mailing list please contact Kimberly Zimmer at the New York Sea Grant office at (631) 632-9216 or visit the Long Island Sound Study web site at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis for more information.

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Public Participation and Outreach Activities for the Long Island Sound Study are conducted by New York Sea Grant Extension Program.

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