



*A Partnership to Restore and Protect the*

## 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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### **EPA, CT SEA GRANT, AND NY SEA GRANT ANNOUNCE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES, FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, FOR LONG ISLAND SOUND RESEARCH**

**August 15, 2003** - The Long Island Sound Study, through the cooperation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Connecticut Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant, is making approximately \$550,000 available to U.S.-based academic institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments to support research on the Sound's ecosystem. The EPA and the Sea Grants also are providing funds for two fellowships to graduate students conducting Long Island Sound research.

Applications for the research grants must focus on one or more of the following topics: eutrophication (overenrichment of nutrients, particularly nitrogen); submerged aquatic vegetation (rooted undersea plants near the shore); tidal wetlands loss; and food web dynamics. The Long Island Sound Study will accept preliminary proposals until **September 15, 2003**.

"The Long Island Sound Study partners are identifying the key ecological areas of concern for Long Island Sound," said Mark Tedesco, director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. "These grants will enable us to tap into the knowledge of researchers whose expertise and work can help us address these priorities, and ultimately help us to restore and protect the Sound."

The grant program has awarded nearly \$1 million since it started 1999. Projects to be funded by the grants may extend for a one- or two-year period. The ideal award range is between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per year, but an award up to \$100,000 per year will be considered. Total funding for any one

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project may not exceed \$200,000. Private companies may participate in funded projects, but only as non-funded, co-investigators or through subcontracts with the awardee institution.

The graduate student fellowship program started last year. In addition to conducting research on Long Island Sound, the graduate students are required to provide support to the Long Island Sound Study's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Academic institutions have **until September 15, 2003** to submit their applications for the two fellowships, one in New York and one in Connecticut.

The Long Island Sound Study, conducted under the EPA's National Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort between the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York to protect and restore the Sound and its ecosystem. Connecticut Sea Grant, based at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, and New York Sea Grant, based at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, are part of the National Sea Grant College Program. Their mission is to foster the conservation and wise use of our coastal and marine resources through research, outreach and education.

Information on the Long Island Sound Study and copies of the research grant Request for Preliminary Proposals and the fellowship announcement can be obtained at [www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis](http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis) or by calling the EPA Long Island Sound Office at 203-977-1541. The deadline for submitting proposals and fellowship requests to the EPA Long Island Sound Office in Stamford, Connecticut is no later than 4:00 P.M. on September 15, 2003.