

**Management Committee Meeting Notes**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Meeting Conducted Remotely**



**Attendees:**

Mark Tedesco, EPA LISO  
Cayla Sullivan, EPA LISO  
Esther Nelson, EPA LISO  
Kristen Laccetti, EPA LISO  
Melissa Duvall, EPA LISO  
Nicole Tachiki, EPA LISO  
Rick Balla, EPA R2  
Leah O'Neill, EPA R1  
Bessie Wright, EPA R1  
Casey Abel, EPA R1  
Ashley Desrosiers, EPA R1  
Mel Coté, EPA R1  
Evelyn Spencer, EPA R1  
Holly Drinkuth, CAC/CT  
Nancy Seligson, CAC/NY  
Mary Arnold, NYSDEC  
Samarra Scantlebury, NYSDEC  
Cassandra Bauer, NYSDEC  
Sue VanPatten, NYSDEC  
Kristin Kraseski, NYSDEC  
Sarah Schechter, CTSG  
Elizabeth Hornstein, NYSG

Brian Thompson, CTDEEP  
Harry Yamalis, CTDEEP  
Christopher Bellucci, CTDEEP  
Kevin O'Brien, CT DEEP  
Kelly Streich, CTDEEP  
Erik Bedan, CTDEEP  
Melinda Gosselin, CTDEEP  
Tim Hunter, CTDEEP  
Kate Knight, CTDEEP  
Richard Friesner, NEIWPC  
Jordan Bishop, NEIWPC  
Jim Ammerman, NEIWPC  
Robert Burg, NEIWPC  
Rebecca Shuford, NYSG  
Sara Powell, NYSG  
Sarah Schaefer-Brown, NYSG  
Deborah Abibou, CTSG  
Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, NYSG  
Shahela Begum, RAE  
Sylvain DeGuise, CTSG  
Jonathan Morrison, USGS  
Shauna Kamath, NYSDEC

Kimarie Yap, IEC  
Arthur Johnson, MassDEP  
Kamazima Lwiza, SUNY SoMAS  
Penny Vlahos, STAC  
David Ansel, STS  
Tod Randall, USACE  
Jennifer Street, NYSDOS  
Danielle Alexander, NYCDEP  
Gary Wikfors, NOAA  
Suzanne Paton, USFWS  
Aubrey Mayer, USFWS  
Abigail Winter, CTDEEP  
Nancy Ferlow, USDA-NRCS  
DeAva Lambert, CTDEEP  
Denise Stranko, STS  
Paul Stacey, Footprints in the Water  
Emma Coffey, CTDEEP

**Introduction:** Mark Tedesco welcomed everyone to the meeting at approximately 9:00am. He reviewed the meeting agenda and opened the floor to anyone who had any personnel updates.

- Sylvain DeGuise: Stated that they have filled the position of SRC representative for Western Connecticut, Sarah Schechter, and the LISS Outreach coordinator position by Maggie Cousins.

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Updates by Penny Vlahos**

- Penny Vlahos: Gave an update from the last STAC meeting that included reviewing a report from the Chesapeake Bay STAC, presentations from UCONN and Stony Brook and discussion on a joint CAC and STAC meeting in September.
- Kamazima Lwiza: Mentioned they are also working to sort out fellowships and the procedures on how to go about it.
- Mark Tedesco: Mentioned the Chesapeake Bay presentation fits in well with CCMP discussion.
- Jim Ammerman: States that the Chesapeake Bay report is 100 pages but there is a 10-page summary and they emphasized more attention to inshore biota than deep water measurements.

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Update by Nancy Seligson and Holly Drinkuth**

- Nancy Seligson: Had a meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> that included lightening talks from folks from different workgroups, Mark gave a presentation on the CCMP proposal, and reviewed workgroup priorities. Explained the two priorities are enhancing the CAC social media content and speaking about EJ issues when talking with elected officials. Had policy subcommittee where they talked about the reauthorization of LIS Stewardship Act. Congressmen Lilota and Courtney are our caucus heads and are excited. Had meeting with Schumers staff and have one planned with Gilibrand's staff about figuring out the best way to reauthorize it. October 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Washington, DC trip and all are welcome

to join. Mentioned they did a shoreline restoration project walk after the meeting and there are opportunities for more work in that area.

- Holly Drinkuth: Mentioned the policy committee meeting had a lot of CAC members attend and all were delighted by it. Explained their presentation at the meeting took the opportunity to describe CAC and work they've been doing, shared priorities with committee and emphasized the opportunity the CCMP revision is to realign the new priorities that have been emerging. Stressed the need for the policy committee to meet on a more regular basis.
- Chris Belluci: Got great feedback from the CT commissioner.
- Sue Van Patten: Mentioned Jim Tierney called the next day and had lots of good things to say about the meeting.
- Penny Vlahos: Asked Chris if the commissioner had any suggestions.
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#### **Federal Partner Presentations – Nancy Ferlow, NRCS & Suzanne Paton, FWS**

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    - Nancy Ferlow: Replied that they do. Mentioned they are looking to get an economist to show that the costs are too low.
    - Sue Van Patten: Asked to be updated on that so they can act as more evidence of that issue.
    - Mark Tedesco: Mentioned the Future' Fund gets applications that mention the high costs of this work.
    - Paul Stacey: Added that we need to look at agriculture different going forward. Asked what more can we do to increase the impact of this work.
      - Nancy Ferlow: Stated she is not sure she has a good answer for that. Mentioned they are trying with education but the costs they cover are too low for some people.
- Suzanne Paton: Gave presentation titled Tidal Marsh Habitat Assessment and Restoration in Long Island Sound. Explained the shared goals of restoration and protection of tidal wetlands for LISS and USFW. Outlined the workplan USFW developed with the support of EPA that included: prioritizing and identifying sites to do assessments, collaborate with landowners and stakeholders for these sites and secured permits for work, submit and get QAPP approved, project planning, hobo logger installation, baseline monitoring for birds. Next steps include collecting more data, planning partner meetings for each site to identify next steps for specific sites and identify funding opportunities for future work.
  - Penny Vlahos: Asked when they envision seeing a return on investment and what is the plan for expansion.
    - Suzanne Paton: Replied that each site is in a different stage so some sites might not see implementation until fall or winter 2024 or later and they will probably start at new sites next year as many requests have been coming in.
    - Penny Vlahos: Asked if there is signage and public knowledge of this work.
    - Suzanne Paton: Responded no but in Huntington they would like to do a sign as they're really excited about the work.

- Paul Stacey: Mentioned that even with restoration work we are losing the spatial footprint of wetlands so how long can we sustain salt marshes?
  - Suzanne Paton: Replied that there's not a lot of marsh migration room in the LIS area although some land acquisition projects can help. Mentioned the damage done to marsh like ditching degrade the ability of the marsh to be resilient so fixing that can be helpful. Mentioned the town of Huntington is exploring dredging and raising the marsh with sediment. Explained that a combination of approaches will be needed but it is likely that we will lose some.

#### **Bioextraction Overview – Kristin Kraseski**

- Kristin Kraseski: Explained what nutrient extraction is, the benefits that include water filtration and HAB reduction, explained land-based strategies won't be enough in some areas. Mentioned some limitations of bioextraction including spatial and seasonal limitations. Outlined the current bioextraction initiative and the timeline of creating a bioextraction industry in Long Island Sound. Described the sugar kelp pilot and the positive results of being able to grow them in LIS areas. Mentioned ribbed mussels are also being explored and piloted.
- Esther Nelson: Outlined EPA participation and support given to this effort.
- Mel Cote: Asked how many other NEPs are doing similar work.
  - Esther Nelson: Replied they are still working on getting that information and not everyone uses the language the same way for bioextraction. Mentioned Peconic and the Gulf of Mexico area there is work being done.
- Paul Stacey: Suggested marketing this initiative differently as what is really being done is permaculture. Mentioned the opportunity to bioextract huge growths of Hydrilla from the Connecticut River and prevent the nutrients before they reach the Long Island Sound.
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  - Esther Neslon: Mentioned the Delaware Estuary Partnership is looking into freshwater extraction as a means to prevent nitrogen from entering the estuary.
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#### **Overview of Work Plan and Budget – Mark Tedesco**

- Mark Tedesco: Reviewed the FY23 budget status and stated EPA is working to process applications. Mentioned some unallocated funds can be carried over to next year.
  - Sylvain DeGuise: Asked how close or far we are from meeting match and how much is unallocated.
  - Mark Tedesco: Replied that we had \$74,000 unallocated and that we have the match needed through overmatch.
- Mark Tedesco: Asked that the workgroups put forth their funding priorities for FY24. Mentioned the first step in the process is to look at our current commitments in our base budget and see what is left over to fund new projects. Explained we will review commitments and priorities in the October meeting so we can have a list of priorities that we can put forward to have projects come from for FY24.
- Sylvain DeGuise: Mentioned there may be redistribution of unused IRA funds and asked if it will that be an issue for LISS.
- Mark Tedesco: Responded that LISS did not get IRA funds and that our BIL funds should be safe.
- Nancy Seligson: Mentioned that while in talks with congressional leaders, they do respect the work we are doing and they think they can continue to fund us at our current level.

- Mark Tedesco: Mentioned that anyone who wants specific topics at the management committee should let EPA know.

#### CCMP Revision or Update for 2025-2029 – Nikki Tachiki

- Nikki Tachiki: Reviewed 2015 CCMP update process and outcomes. Outlined the process and ideas of how to go through the revision for 2024. Gave an overview of the plan to streamline the plan, specifically looking at implementation actions as well as other aspects of the CCMP that will change. Explained the timeline for the revision and outlined roles in each step and mentioned the idea of using contractor support. See slides.
- Mark Tedesco: Mentioned that a revision is a lot of work and implementation will still be happening at the same time so we are trying to constrain the scope of the revision while still giving the freedom to discuss or change elements.
- Mel Cote: Asked if the public meetings will be on their own or a hybrid of some of the meetings our partners are having.
  - Nikki Tachiki: Responded that it is still up for discussion, but the idea was to have two specific sessions for NY and CT.
  - Mel Cote: Mentioned the need for outreach in the upper basin if we plan to add that area to the boundary.
  - Richard Friesner: Mentioned 10-year ecosystem targets are great but also consider some kind of long-term goal as well being deliberate with how our partners are engaged.
    - Mark Tedesco: Agreed on deliberate engagement of partners.
  - Paul Stacey: Mentioned it is difficult to track progress on current targets and we should construct new targets. Stated we will be in a worse position if we lock in to 10-year time frames and that we need flexibility to go in different directions. Suggested the congressional report should show the results in the field. Suggested a focus group to flesh out some of these ideas.
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  - Mark Tedesco: Asked management committee to approve the revision of the CCMP.
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#### Updates

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- Evelyn Spencer: Mentioned the ongoing workgroup coordination and thanked everyone for keeping the workgroup notes document updated.
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**Next Meeting & Adjournment**

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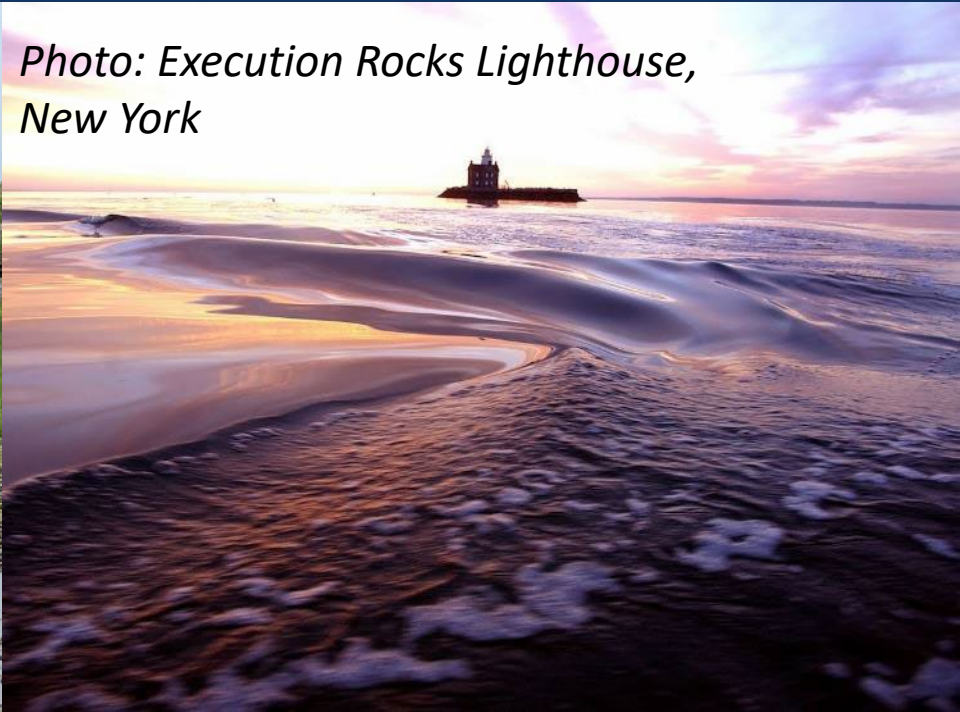
**Long Island Sound Study**

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

*Photo: Stratford Point, Connecticut*



*Photo: Execution Rocks Lighthouse, New York*



# Proposal to Revise the 2015 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

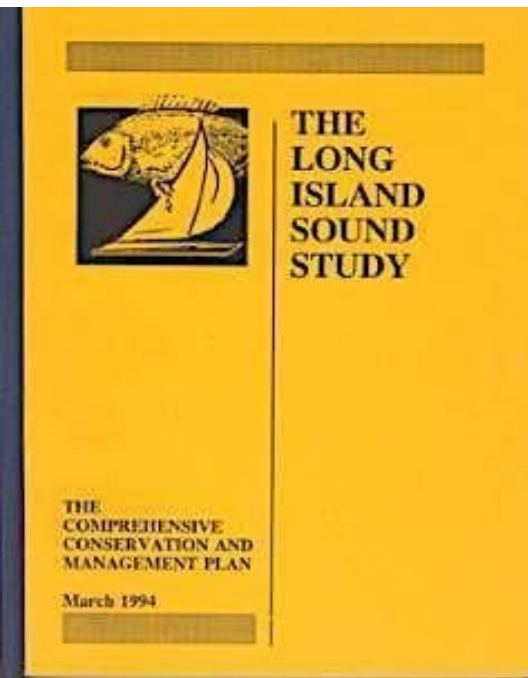
July 20, 2023

Nikki Tachiki

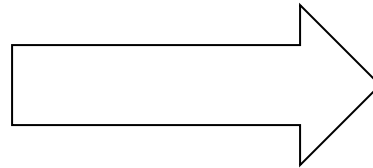


## Clean Water Act §320

**...develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan that recommends priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including restoration and maintenance of water quality, a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in the estuary, and assure the designated uses of the estuary are protected...**



## 2015 Revision of 1994 Management Plan



## 2020–2024 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update

This update contains new and revised Implementation Actions (IAs) for the 2020-2024 planning cycle. The full CCMP with the original IAs is at: [longislandsoundstudy.net/2015/09/2015-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan](https://longislandsoundstudy.net/2015/09/2015-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan).

- **Continues** focus on water quality and habitat protection and restoration
- **Adds** climate resiliency and environmental justice
- **Integrates** climate sustainability and green infrastructure



# 2015 CCMP Revision



**Long Island Sound Study**  
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

## 1994 LISS CCMP Priority Areas



## Updated LISS CCMP 2014 Themes



## Sound Vision Action Plan 2011 Themes



4

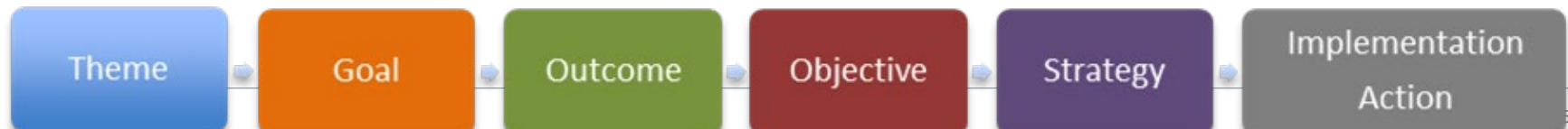
4

15

39

106

136 → 133







- **Maintain the Vision and four organizational themes and goals**
  - Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds: Improve water quality by reducing contaminant and nutrient loads from the land and the waters impacting Long Island Sound
  - Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife: Restore and protect the Sound's ecological balance in a healthy, productive, and resilient state to benefit both people and the natural environment
  - Sustainable and Resilient Communities: Support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect Long Island Sound
  - Sound Science and Inclusive Management: Manage Long Island Sound using sound science and cross-jurisdictional governance that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative, and accountable
- **Maintain the three integrative principles (resiliency to climate change, long-term sustainability, environmental justice), striving to ensure they are organic to the plan's organizational levels down to implementation actions**
- **Evaluate and revise the Ecosystem Targets**
  - Consider setting ten-year (maintaining the 2035 time period set in 2015) versus twenty-year targets



- **Evaluate the number of organizational levels with an eye toward streamlining**
  - Outcomes: Broad results needed to achieve goals
  - Objectives: Desired management accomplishments to support outcomes
  - Strategies: Broad, strategic actions needed to achieve an objective
  - Implementation Actions: Specific, tactical actions to measurably carry out the strategies over the next five years
- **Strive to reduce the number of Implementation Actions, making them more general, with a goal of setting “*Fifty actions for the next five years*” (2025-2029)**
- **Strengthen the linkage between ecosystem targets and implementation actions and the metrics that are used in the program’s performance tracking and reporting system**
- **Emphasize communication of the CCMP through a web-based story map with accessible language, imagery, and video, with a detailed written document for Management Conference use**
- **Evaluate expanding the formal program Study Area, currently the LIS drainage area in CT and NY, to include the entire watershed.**
- **Use the public review process to get feedback on and adoption of a new program name and logo**





- **The Management Conference has reviewed and provided feedback on this proposed approach**
  - Implementation Team
  - Citizens Advisory Committee
  - Science and Technical Advisory Committee
  - Policy Committee was briefed on this approach at the July 20 meeting
- **Requesting Management Committee approval to proceed with the revision**



- **July – October 2023:**
  - Evaluate progress and lessons learned from the 2015 CCMP
  - Draft and socialize CCMP revision process and timeline
- **October 18-19, 2023:**
  - Present progress made under the 2020-2024 Implementation Actions and highlight lessons learned from the 2015 Ecosystem Targets
  - Present detailed revision process and timeline to the Management Committee
- **October 2023 – September 2024: Thematic breakout groups discuss revisions under each theme**
  - Call for volunteers to lead each of the thematic breakout groups
- **Spring 2024: Public engagement sessions to solicit public input**
- **October/November 2024: Public comment period**
- **December 2024: Finalize 2025 CCMP text**



- **Utilize SharePoint tracking and reporting tool to evaluate the status of the 2020-2024 Implementation Actions**
  - Review period with WG leads
- **Collaboration with Indicators Review Team to assess strengths and weaknesses of the Ecosystem Targets**
- **Goal: Communicate lessons learned from the IAs and ETs to help frame conversations/expectations for the 2025 CCMP revision.**

# Concurrent LISS Reports/Evaluations



**Long Island Sound Study**  
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

- **2025 CCMP Revision**
- **Program Evaluation – Summer 2024**
- **Regional NEP Tech Transfer Meeting – Fall 2024**
- **2024 Report to Congress**