

## COORDINATION WITH NY-NJ HARBOR PROGRAM

Long Island Sound and New York-New Jersey Harbor are components of an interconnected tightly coupled natural system. The physical processes that drive the motion and mixings of waters throughout the system do not recognize the boundary that separates the two National Estuary Programs. While we have limited our attention to Long Island Sound, we recommend in the strongest possible terms that the modelling, monitoring and data/information management programs for the two interconnected water bodies at the very least, be coupled if not fully integrated. The water quality of NY-NJ Harbor affects the water quality of Long Island Sound and vice versa. It's clear that the scale of management must match the scale of the natural system.

Of particular significance are the current modeling plans being developed by the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program and the NYCDEP. Modeling is proceeding in two phases. First, a Harbor Eutrophication model, technically equivalent to the LIS 3.0 model, will be developed to assess more accurately the effect of reducing pollutant loads on the water quality in the Harbor. Second, monitoring will begin late in 1994 to collect data to construct a system-wide eutrophication model that combines Long Island Sound, NY-NJ Harbor and the NY Bight. A system-wide model could be used to assess more far-reaching alternatives approaches, including relocation of sewer outfalls on the regional ecosystem.

Integration of the two National Estuary Programs would improve efficiency and effectiveness. Failure to integrate, or at least to couple, the two

programs will at best be a lost opportunity and at worst, result in a failure of management strategies to meet their objectives. Either way, society and the environment lose.