



# Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

Long Island Sound Study  
Water Quality Monitoring Workgroup GoToMeeting Webinar  
Meeting Summary

**Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 1-2:30 PM**

Jim Ammerman (Chair)—Long Island Sound Study (LISS)/NEIWPC

Carol DiPaolo—Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor

Holly Drinkuth—The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and LISS Citizens Advisory Council CT Co-Chair

Richard Friesner—NEIWPC

Michele Golden--New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

David Lipsky—New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)

Matt Lyman—Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP)

Audra Martin, NEIWPC

Katie O'Brien-Clayton—CTDEEP

Jim O'Donnell-- University of Connecticut

Leah O'Neill--EPA, R1

Victoria O'Neill—NYSDEC/NEIWPC

Evelyn Powers—Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC)

Paul Stacey—Footprints in the Water

Cayla Sullivan—EPA, LIS Office

Nicole Tachiki-- EPA, LIS Office

Mark Tedesco—EPA, LIS Office

Jamie Vaudrey—University of Connecticut

Harry Yamalis--CTDEEP

## Agenda:

1. Monitoring updates (brief)
2. Discussion of the proposed 2020-2024 [Implementation Actions](#) for the Clean Waters Theme of the CCMP and a very brief discussion of one of the Implementation Actions for the Sound Science Theme (SM-8), copies were previously distributed to the workgroup.

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## Monitoring Updates:

1. CTDEEP--Covid-19 has had major impacts on LIS monitoring programs in 2020, cancelling or delaying numerous trips. However, with the declining caseload in this region, monitoring programs are now resuming activities, though with new rules to keep participants safe. CTDEEP cancelled all cruises after early March until mid-June, and expects to resume a full schedule in July, according to Matt Lyman and Katie O'Brien-Clayton. July and August will be particularly busy as they are also participating in the EPA 2020 National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA). Currently, CTDEEP cruises are limited to three CTDEEP personnel only. Collaborators, such as the University of Connecticut's RESPIRE Project, can bring some equipment aboard for CTDEEP use, but cannot participate themselves.

2. Other LISS Monitoring Programs—Evelyn Powers said that IEC will restart its monitoring program on June 30<sup>th</sup> and coordinate their schedule with CTDEEP. The Unified Water Study (UWS) delayed its start from May until June but is now resuming with modified protocols. The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor’s monitoring program has also been delayed and modified and is using two boats, according to Carol DiPaolo. NYCDEP is likely continuing its harbor monitoring it has compliance issues that it must address according to Dave Lipsky, Dave said he would check Beau Ranheim on the current status. Finally, the Long Island Sound Integrated Coastal Observing System (LISICOS) is resuming activity as the University of Connecticut is back at work. However, Jim O’Donnell said that they need to rehab instruments which have been deployed for too long but do not currently have the ship time scheduled.

#### 2015 CCMP Progress Tracking & 2020 Implementation Action Update

1. Nikki Tachiki (EPA) started the major portion of the meeting by presenting the status of the CCMP progress tracking of the 2015-2019 Implementation Actions (IAs) and the updating of these IAs for the 2020-2024 period.
2. Mark Tedesco observed that while some 2015 IAs are being modified or removed going forward, they remain in place for the 2015-2019 period and must be reported on.
3. Paul Stacey noted a lack of ready connection between the Ecosystem Targets (ETs) in the CCMP and the IAs under discussion. He expressed concern that the LISS may have trouble making major progress in restoring LIS beyond the major reductions in nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants that have already occurred. Jim Ammerman responded that in addition to the IAs under discussion, progress for all the ETs is shown on the LISS website with progress bars indicating the degree of improvement as well as detailed discussions of each ET including the challenges of meeting and measuring it.
4. Nikki then led an extended discussion of the proposed changes (or not) in all of the IAs for the Clean Waters Theme and a brief mention of one of the Sound Science Theme IAs (SM-8), on coordinating and leveraging community water quality monitoring programs to enhance their utility and application. No change is proposed for SM-8, but it is important that this workgroup is aware of it.
5. Nikki noted that if there is text in the second column of the IA table for the Clean Waters Theme, then a change in that IA has been proposed. She added additional input from this workgroup discussion to the third column of the table during the course of the webinar.
6. Following the webinar, the Chair (Jim Ammerman) reviewed the recording of the webinar and the information in the chat file, as well as additional information provided to him after the webinar by members of the workgroup. He then added additional comments from the above sources to the third column of the table, in red text. This table is also included with this webinar summary as a separate file.
7. The Chair would like to thank Audra Martin and Nikki Tachiki for their help in running this webinar.

Monitoring Update sent by Beau Ranheim, New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), July 7, 2020

1. The Harbor Survey operated on a normal winter schedule thru the end of March. Due to the COVID pandemic we shut down normal operations for the months of April and May. We resumed full operations in June but have decided that for the foreseeable future we will maintain an every other week schedule instead of weekly. The current plan is to maintain this schedule for the entire year, thus keeping approximately the same number of visits to each site during a calendar year. We are/were in the process of eliminating some of the LTCP stations (see #2 below) but that process has been put on hold until further notice. There were/are no plans to change any of the parameters measured by the Survey at this time. The current situation has actually allowed us to focus more on data processing and other projects that were sidelined due to our workload. Hoping these projects will bear some fruit in the next few years or possibly months.
2. LTCP stations are those we have added to the Survey as a part of the Long Term Control Plan. Most of these stations were located in areas the DEP was constructing CSO mitigation structures etc. The mandate was to monitor for 10 years after construction completion. We are looking at restructuring some of these stations to better utilize our limited resources as we were pushed to the limit even before the pandemic.