

# Working Draft of 2025 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management



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**Vision Statement:** Long Island Sound and its watershed have clean waters, healthy habitats, thriving wildlife, resilient coasts, and an engaged public.

**Mission Statement:** The Long Island Sound Study leads a collective effort to restore and care for the Sound and its watershed.

## Values

- **Environmental Justice:** Fairly treat and meaningfully involve people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. Strive to uphold equitable, inclusive, and accessible practices in decision-making and implementation of the CCMP. Those interested and affected by LISS activities have the ability to represent themselves and their perspectives.
- **Robust Science:** Support science that follows high standards of the scientific method to understand and care for the health of the Sound and its watershed. This includes identifying and incorporating local and Traditional Knowledge. Make science fair, equitable, and accessible to all communities.
- **Sustainable Adaptation to a Changing Climate:** Support initiatives and projects that encourage sustainable adaptation to reduce risks from a changing climate.
- **Adaptive and Inclusive Management:** Use science-informed processes and learning from collective experiences, including local and Traditional Knowledge, to make implementation and management decisions. Include everyone in caring for the Sound by engaging diverse audiences and working to make resources accessible to all.
- **Respect and Trust:** Operate in a way that fosters respect and trust among collaborators, communities, and the public in decision-making and program implementation.

## Goal Statements

- **Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds:** Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.
- **Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife:** Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.
- **Sustainable and Resilient Communities:** Empower communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.
- **Informed and Engaged Public:** Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

## Objectives

- **Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds:**
  - Nutrients: Achieve and maintain nutrient levels across the watershed that restore and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Long Island Sound.
  - Watershed Condition: Improve watershed health through conservation and positive land use practices.
  - Pathogens: Reduce pathogens and increase monitoring to protect water quality and human health, ensuring safe recreational and commercial use
  - Toxic Contaminants: Research, monitor, assess, and reduce emerging and legacy toxic contaminants to mitigate impacts on water and habitat quality in Long Island Sound
  - Physical Debris: Reduce physical debris in the Sound by increasing clean-up efforts and preventing additional debris from entering.
- **Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife:**
  - Coastal Habitat: Protect and enhance the current extent and health of coastal habitat and restore an additional 1,000 acres.
  - Habitat Connectivity: Increase connectivity of coastal habitat by restoring and/or protecting 100 habitat patches that increase biodiversity and support migratory pathways and reconnecting 175 additional miles of riverine migratory corridors in the Connecticut and New York portions of the watershed by.
  - Conserved Open Space: Conserve an additional 5,000 acres, while maintaining and enhancing the total area of protected land.
  - Open Sound: Protect and enhance the health of the open Sound including both pelagic and benthic habitat.
- **Sustainable and Resilient Communities:**
  - Informed Decision Makers: Municipal, nonprofit, and community leaders receive training and support to increase capacity for adaptation to environmental challenges, with an average of 100 new participants engaging for the first time every year.
  - Community Driven Resilience Planning: All 134 municipalities within the LISS coastal boundary have identified key resilience priorities through local and/or regional community-driven planning processes.
  - Resilience Initiative Implementation: Communities in the NY and CT portions of the LIS watershed implement 200 initiatives that prioritize sustainable nature-based solutions to improve their resilience to flooding and other environmental challenges.
- **Informed and Engaged Public:**
  - Public access and Sense of Belonging: Increased and improved opportunities for everyone to access and engage with Long Island Sound and its watershed.
  - Education and Environmental Literacy: Increase, improve, and expand the environmental literacy of people interacting with the LIS watershed.
  - Sustainable Behaviors and Stewardship: Increase and maintain public engagement with environmental practices that protect and conserve Long Island Sound and its watershed.