

LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

A PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE AND PROTECT THE SOUND

Crab Meadow Huntington, NY

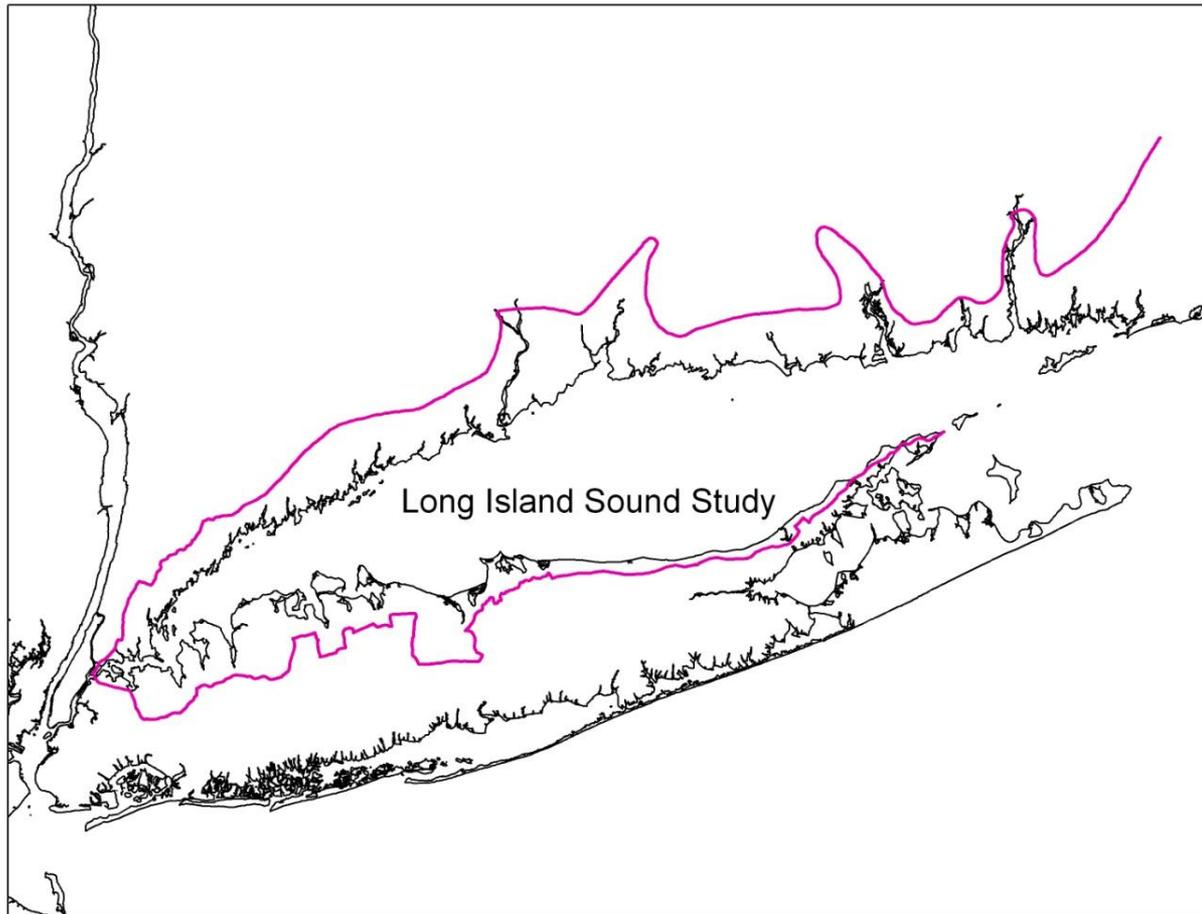
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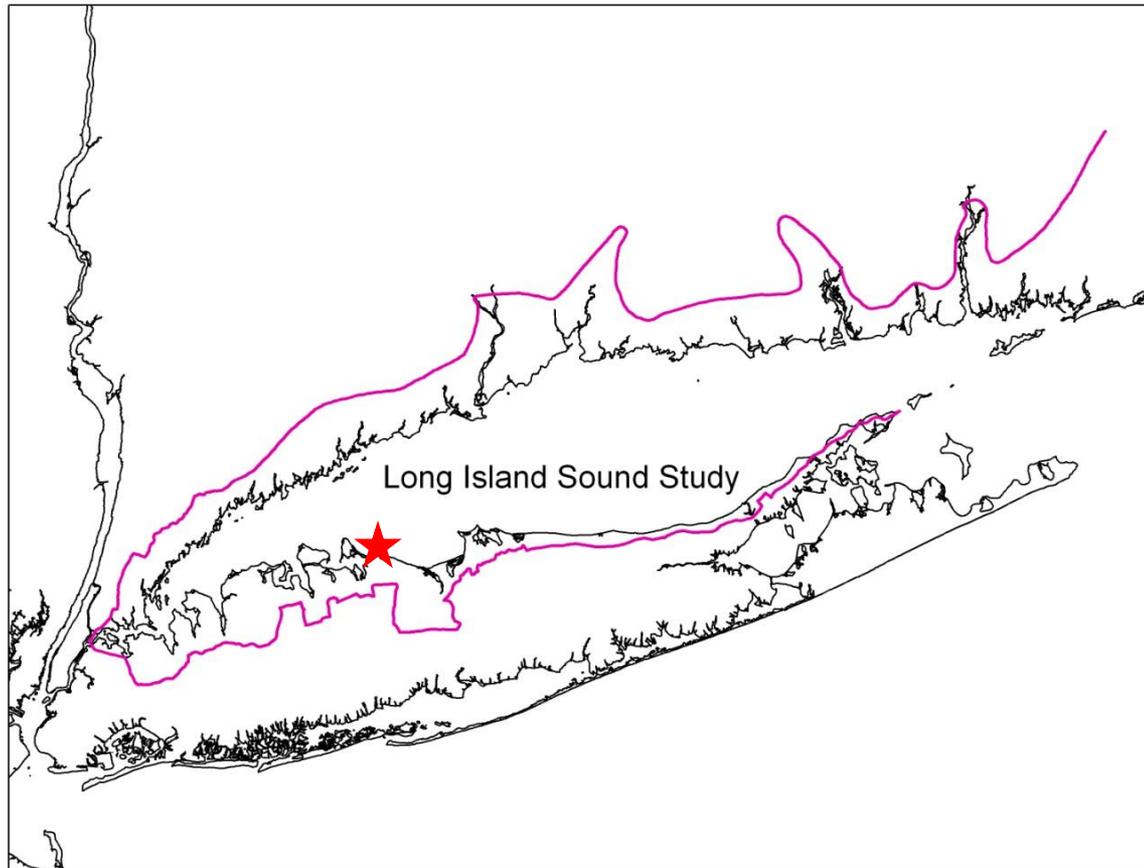
Where and What is Long Island Sound?



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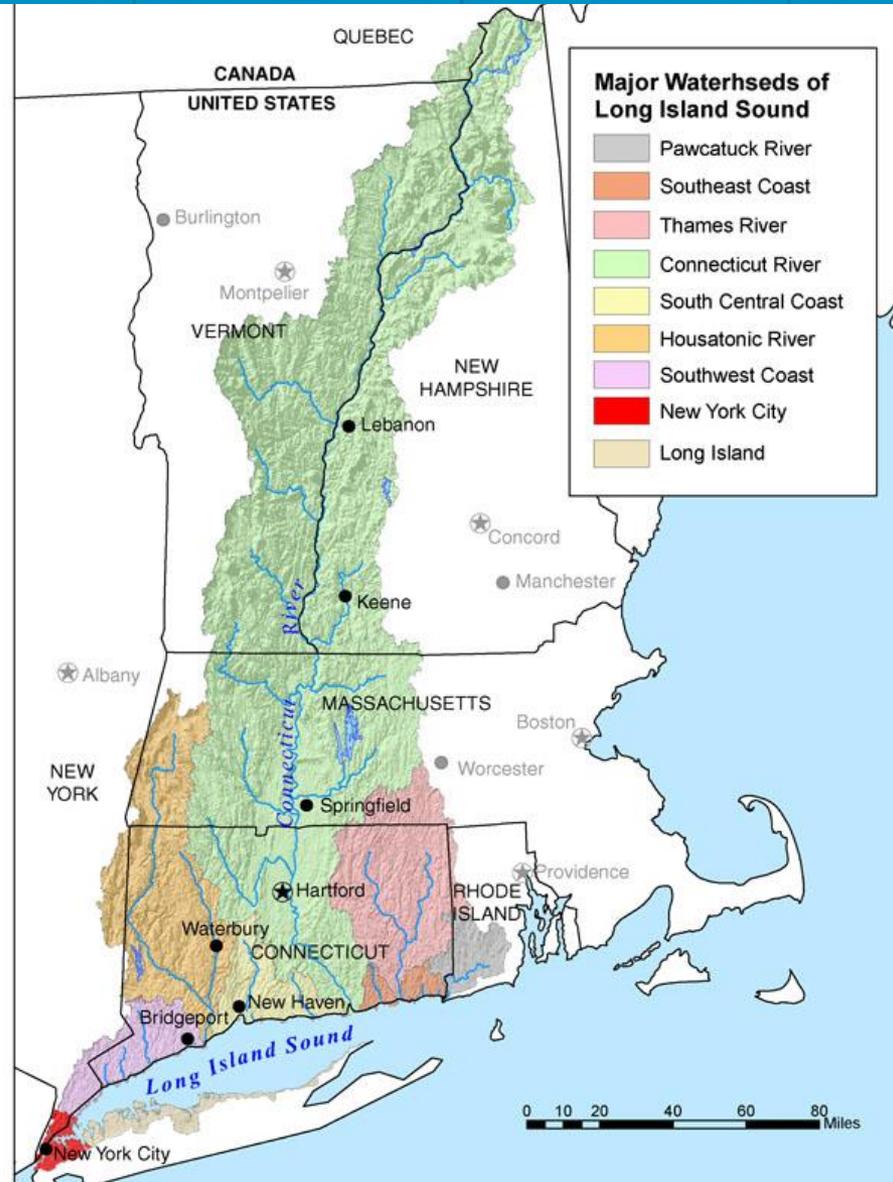
- Where and What is Long Island Sound?



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Where and What is
Long Island Sound?



- Why do we care about Long Island Sound (LIS)?
 - It is an estuary!
 - Over 1,200 species of invertebrates, 170 species of fish, and dozens of species of migratory birds live all or part of the year within LIS estuary
 - LIS coastal community home to over 4 million people; LIS watershed home to 9 million people
 - LIS heavily used for transportation, commercial fishing and shellfishing, and recreation
 - Ability to support all of these activities in LIS generates about \$8.5 billion annually in the regional economy
 - 1987 Congress designated LIS as an *Estuary of National Significance*

- What is the Long Island Sound Study (LISS)?
 - Formed in 1985
 - A partnership of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New York, and Connecticut
 - A bi-state partnership consisting of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.
 - One of 28 National Estuary Programs (NEPs)

- What are the goals of the LISS?
 - Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) created in 1994 (*currently under revision for release in 2015*)
 - Goal: Protect and improve the health of LIS while ensuring compatible human uses within the Sound ecosystem
 - Focuses on environmental issues that are Soundwide and require a bi-state remedial effort



Hempstead Harbor



Sunken Meadow State Park



Alley Pond Park

- Top Issues of LISS CCMP:
 - Low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia)
 - Toxic contamination
 - Pathogen contamination
 - Floatable debris
 - Living resources and habitat management
 - Land use and development
 - Public involvement and education



Great Gull Island

LISS Work Groups

- Five State/EPA TMDL Work Group
- Habitat Restoration Work Group
- Nonpoint Source Pollution & Watersheds Work Group
- Sentinel Monitoring Work Group
- **Stewardship Initiative Work Group**

What is the Stewardship Initiative?

- In 2006, Congress created the LIS Stewardship Initiative to help protect the diverse plants and animals that live in or near the estuary
- Stewardship Initiative ensures that local people have access to the important natural areas that make the Sound a great place to live
- The associated bi-state work group identified 33 inaugural Stewardship Areas around the Sound

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Stewardship Atlas

FOR MAPS AND SITE INFORMATION VISIT www.LISStewardshipAtlas.net

**HIKE,
BIKE, FISH,
KAYAK, BIRD,
SWIM, RIDE
THROUGH
A NETWORK
OF 33
MAGNIFICENT
STEWARDSHIP
AREAS*
AROUND THE
SOUND**



1. Barn Island, Stonington, CT

2. Fishers Island, NY

3. Bluff Point & Groton, CT

4. Great Neck-Goshen Point & Waterford, CT

5. Potters Neck Marshes & Watts Island, East Lyme, CT

6. Rocky Neck, East Lyme, CT

7. Lower Connecticut River, Various locations, CT

8. Duck Island, Westbrook, CT

9. Hammasset Beach, Madison, CT

10. Falkner Island, Guilford, CT

11. Quinnipiac River, New Haven, CT

12. West Rock Ridge, Hamden, Bethany, Woodbridge, & New Haven, CT

13. Sandy Point, West Haven, CT

14. Charles Island, Milford, CT

15. Milford Point & Wheeler, Milford, CT

16. Great Meadows, Stratford, CT

17. Sherwood Island, Westport, CT

18. Norwalk Harbor, Norwalk, CT

19. Norwalk Islands, Norwalk, CT

20. Edith G. Read & Marshlands, Rye, NY

21. Huckleberry-Davids Islands & Pelham Bay, Bronx & New Rochelle, NY

22. Alley Pond, Queens, NY

23. Manhasset Bay, Great Neck, Manhasset, & Port Washington, NY

24. Hempstead Harbor, Hempstead, NY

25. Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay, NY

26. Lloyd Neck, Lloyd Harbor, NY

27. Crab Meadow, Huntington, NY

28. Nissequogue River, Smithtown, NY

29. Stony Brook Harbor, Stony Brook, NY

30. Mt. Sinai-Port Jefferson Harbors, Mt. Sinai & Port Jefferson, NY

31. Shoreham-Wading River, Wading River, NY

32. Hallock State Park, Amport & Mattituck, NY

33. Plum & Gull Islands, Southold, NY

* SOME SITES LIMIT PUBLIC ACCESS. SEE ATLAS WEBSITE

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- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Barn Island, Stonington, CT | 9. Hammasset Beach, Madison, CT | 18. Norwalk Harbor, Norwalk, CT | 26. Lloyd Neck, Lloyd Harbor, NY |
| 2. Fishers Island, NY | 10. Falkner Island, Guilford, CT | 19. Norwalk Islands, Norwalk, CT | 27. Crab Meadow, Huntington, NY |
| 3. Bluff Point, Groton, CT | 11. Quinnipiac River, New Haven, CT | 20. Edith G. Read & Marshlands, Rye, NY | 28. Nissequogue River, Smethport, NY |
| 4. Great Neck-Goshen Point, Waterford, CT | 12. West Rock Ridge, Hamden, Bethany, Woodbridge, & New Haven, CT | 21. Huckleberry-Davids Islands & Pelham Bay, Bronx & New Rochelle, NY | 29. Stony Brook Harbor, Stony Brook, NY |
| 5. Pottersett Marshes & Watts Island, East Lyme, CT | 13. Sandy Point, West Haven, CT | 22. Alley Pond, Queens, NY | 30. Mt Sinai-Port Jefferson Harbors, Mt Sinai & Port Jefferson, NY |
| 6. Rocky Neck, East Lyme, CT | 14. Charles Island, Milford, CT | 23. Manhasset Bay, Great Neck, Manhasset, & Port Washington, NY | 31. Shoreham-Wading River, Wading River, NY |
| 7. Lower Connecticut River, Various locations, CT | 15. Milford Point & Wheeler, Milford, CT | 24. Hempstead Harbor, Hempstead, NY | 32. Hallock State Park, Amherst & Mattituck, NY |
| 8. Duck Island, Westbrook, CT | 16. Great Meadows, Stratford, CT | 25. Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay, NY | 33. Plum & Gull Islands, Southold, NY |

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Within Each Stewardship Area can be several Stewardship Sites

- Stewardship sites are places of significant ecological value because they are:
 - (1.) *rare* within the regional landscape (e.g. maritime forest, sandplain grassland, Atlantic white cedar swamp)
 - (2.) *exemplar* of a LIS-landscape/habitat type(s) (e.g., unditched tidal marsh + other habitats)
 - (3.) provides *rare species habitat* including (a.) *critical habitat* for targeted species (e.g., saltmarsh sparrow breeding area); (b.) supports significant population(s) of a single high priority species; (c.) protects an assemblage of rare species;

Focal Signature Habitats/Landscapes

- Beaches & Dunes
 - Coastal grasslands
 - Maritime & Coastal forests
 - Islands
 - Intertidal flats
 - Rocky shoreline
 - Coastal Rivers & Streams (Riverine Migratory Corridors)
 - Tidal Wetlands



Caumsett State Park



Flax Pond-Stony Brook Harbor



Sunken Meadow State Park

Stewardship Area: Crab Meadow

Stewardship Site: Crab Meadow Wetlands & Beach

- #27 LISS
Stewardship Area



Focal Signature Habitats/Landscapes

Crab Meadow Wetlands & Beach

- **Beaches & Dunes**

- Coastal grasslands

- **Maritime & Coastal forests**

- Islands

- **Intertidal flats**

- Rocky shoreline

- Coastal Rivers & Streams
(Riverine Migratory Corridors)

- **Tidal Wetlands**



Crab Meadow Wetlands & Beach

Ecological Importance

- Contains one of the few large areas of undeveloped salt marsh (approx. 300 acres) on the North Shore of Long Island and is a productive area for finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans.
- Provides nesting and feeding habitat for piping plover and least tern and feeding grounds for herons, egrets, gulls, plovers, sandpipers, and northern harrier throughout much of the year.
- The tidal creek channels serve as nursery and feeding areas for many species, and as conveyors of organic matter and nutrients from the marsh into the Sound.
- NYS Department of State Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat

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Birds



Photo: Tom Arter



All photos from www.allaboutbirds.org

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Threatened & Endangered Birds



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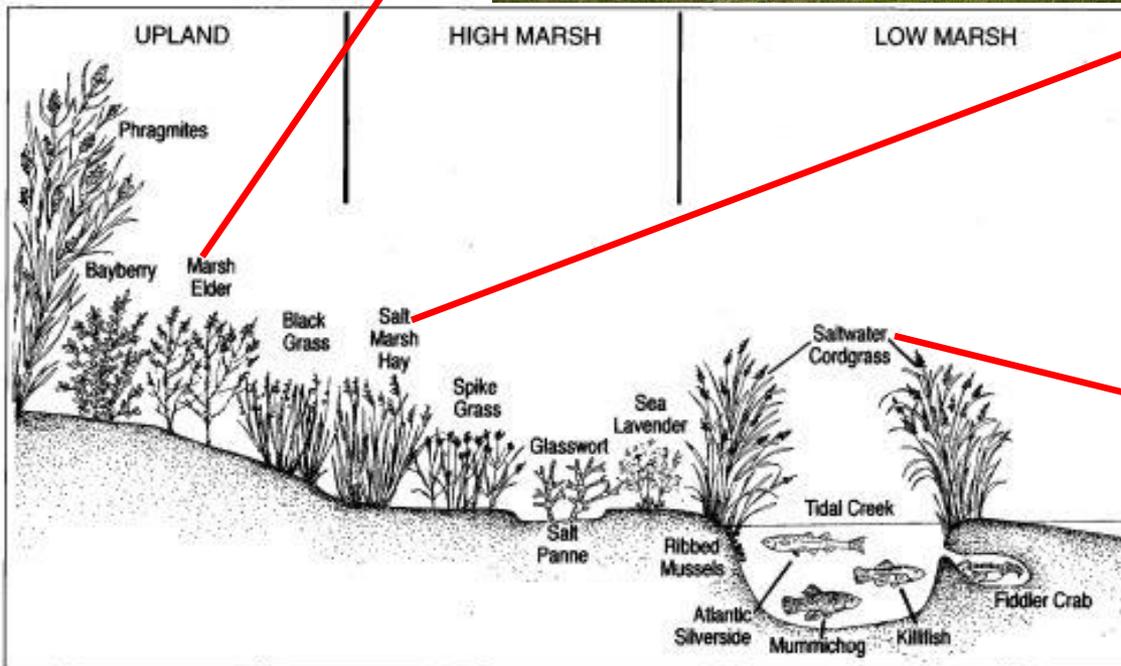
Finfish, Shellfish, & Crustacean



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Plants



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Questions??

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