



***New York Sea Grant assisted the updating of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Long Island Sound***

## **Updating the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan**

In 1994, the states of New York and Connecticut and the United States Environmental Protection Agency approved the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Long Island Sound. Since then, many emerging social and environmental issues, such as sea level rise, planning for community and ecosystem resiliency, and stormwater management, have come to the forefront.

### **NYSG Responds**

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a bi-state partnership conducted under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, is a cooperative effort with the states of Connecticut and New York working together to restore and protect the Sound and its ecosystems. In early 2012, LISS began the process of updating the CCMP. This bi-state effort involved reviewing program progress, soliciting stakeholder and public input, and developing a framework for the update.

As a result of updating of the CCMP, the updated plan will help:

- re-energize partnerships around shared goals and inclusive management
- set measurable ecosystem targets and management outcomes
- incorporate new strategies such as sustainability, climate change resiliency, environmental justice
- maintain an integrated ecosystem perspective
- expand public engagement and collaboration; and
- use strong science to continually adapt and improve management.

More than 300 people were engaged in the development, review, and public input of the 20-year plan. The LISS Citizens Advisory Committee and the Science and Technical Advisory Committee noted:

*"The extent of consultation required to develop the plan and the level of detail in the draft is impressive and the team deserves the appreciation of the entire region."*

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) assisted in the update of the CCMP by serving on the CCMP Core Team and providing assistance for the Sustainable and Resilient



*EPA Long Island Sound Office Director Mark Tedesco addresses attendees at a New York public input meeting re: the CCMP for Long Island Sound. Photo: Amy Mandelbaum, NYSG/LISS*

Communities section of the plan. NYSG also held one public scoping meeting and three input meetings in New York, implemented a social media strategy, and published the summary document for the public comment period.

The updated CCMP is anticipated in spring 2015.

### **Partners:**

- Long Island Sound Study
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Connecticut Sea Grant
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- WaterVision, LLC

### ***The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems & Habitats***

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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