

## North Sandy Pond Resiliency Planning

Ongoing sand transport on Lake Ontario has resulted in an extensive sand shoal deposited just beyond the inlet of North Sandy Pond, Oswego County, New York. The shoal has impeded boat traffic into and out of the pond, with negative effects on water quality within the pond.

Extensive erosion of the dune ecosystem along the north and south barrier bars of the pond has resulted in the loss of habitat for dune-dwelling plants, animals, and birds, including piping plover.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and partners formed an exploratory committee to research environmental issues regarding the deposition of the shoal and erosion of the barrier bars/spits and to develop a long-term inlet management plan utilizing beneficial use of dredge materials to restore habitat on the lakeside dunes and to improve access to Sandy Pond and the lake that will, in turn, revitalize local businesses.

In August 2018, the committee hosted a public information session for a crowd of approximately 70 residents and local business owners to detail the proposed management options and provide an opportunity for the public to voice concerns or support of the project.

Management plans were presented by committee members; Anchor QEA, a national science and engineering services firm; and The Nature Conservancy, followed by questions, concerns and responses from the residents of Sandy Pond.

Through this effort to address ongoing erosion and deposition issues at North Sandy Pond and the barrier-dune complex, as well as lakeshore erosion of dunes, NYSG and partners are enabling the beneficial



*Above: scouting an area where dredge material could be placed. Photo: NYSG*

use of dredge material for the area. New York State has recently awarded the Town of Sandy Creek with a \$320,000 grant to begin the new dredge management planning and implementation in 2019.

### Partners:

- Anchor QEA
- Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Coalition
- The Nature Conservancy
- Town of Sandy Creek
- Skidmore College

***The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy NY Coastal Ecosystem & Habitats and New York Resilient Communities & Economies***

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

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