



New York Sea Grant and partners gathered experts from New York and Connecticut to inform Long Island Sound watershed conservation action planning for the next 5 years

NYSG & LISS Partners Organize Virtual Meeting on Coastal Habitat Priorities

Given Long Island Sound's size, its economic and ecological importance, and its status as a bi-state estuary, effective dialogue and collaboration between experts is essential to properly conserve it.

In 2003 and 2014, the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) national estuary program held workshops that brought together coastal habitat researchers and environmental management professionals from across the LIS watershed for a series of talks, discussions, and panels. These workshops enabled conversations about recent projects in support of a more informed and unified conservation effort. Discussions at these events helped inform LISS's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which guides conservation work in the LIS.



Coastal marsh, one of the types of habitats for which future conservation needs were discussed during the NYSG-LISS Coastal Habitat Priorities virtual meeting. Photo: Maria Tzortziou/CUNY

When the pandemic caused indefinite postponement of the 2020 next in-person workshop that was to guide revisions to the newest edition of the CCMP, New York Sea Grant and LISS partners organized a virtual meeting with local coastal habitat experts. The main goal of this virtual gathering was to facilitate discussions on potential priority ecosystem needs. Collecting information on the participants' most recent projects also served to better understand the panorama of work in the watershed.

This Coastal Habitat Priorities meeting in 2020 was incredibly valuable to LISS for incorporating participants' insights into actions that will drive coastal habitat conservation for the next five years. This event was also essential to facilitating dialogue between local experts to shape effective management practices for the LIS watershed.

Project Partners:

- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- NEIWPC
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems.

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