



NYSG in partnership with CT Sea Grant identified and prioritized goals, objectives, strategies, and actions and completed an Action Plan to reduce marine debris in their shared coastal region of Long Island Sound

Long Island Sound Marine Debris Plan Completed

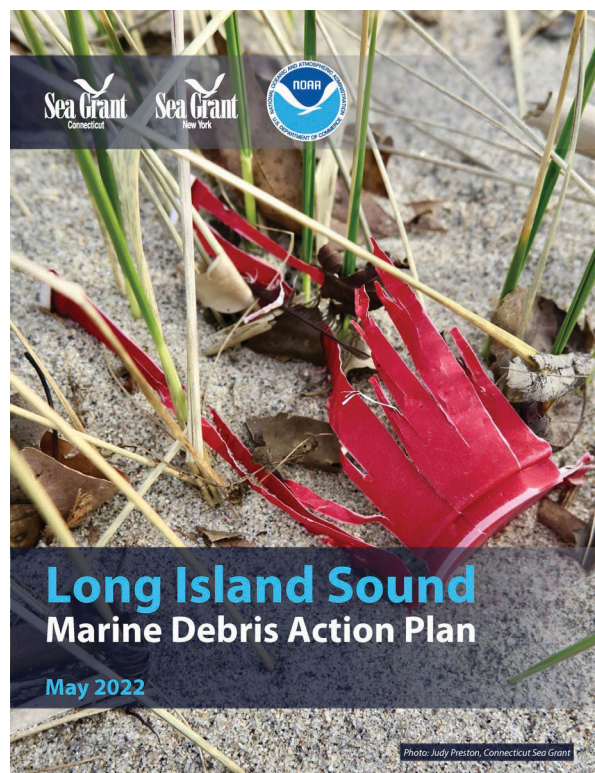
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines marine debris as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes. Long Island Sound (LIS) is an estuary bounded by Connecticut, Long Island, and Westchester with a coastline stretching more than 600 miles. Known as the “Urban Sea,” LIS is a prominent feature in one of the most densely populated areas of the U.S., with nearly nine million people living in the watershed; as such, it is highly susceptible to marine debris issues.

A bi-state marine debris planning team led by the New York and Connecticut (CT) Sea Grant Programs, under the guidance of the NOAA Marine Debris Program, met regularly to coordinate the development of the LIS Marine Debris Action Plan. Vision and mission statements were developed and numerous stakeholders were engaged through topically focused work groups, one-on-one calls, emails, and virtual meetings. Opportunities were provided for verbal and written partner feedback to prioritize and finalize the actions.

The LIS Marine Debris Action Plan is now finalized and the LIS marine debris community will partake in regular communication, capacity building, coordination, and involvement of diverse stakeholders who are essential to successfully accomplish the identified goals. Over the next five years (2023-2027), NY and CT Sea Grants will facilitate the implementation of the plan, and monitor and report progress semi-annually to the NOAA Marine Debris Program. The LIS marine debris community recognizes that this action plan should be assessed within the five-year time frame, as unforeseen opportunities, challenges, or gaps may arise during implementation. After five years, the plan will undergo a full evaluation and an accomplishment report will be generated.

Partners:

- Connecticut Sea Grant
- **Funding:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program



Long Island Sound Marine Debris Action Plan:
<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/regional-action-plan/long-island-sound-marine-debris-action-plan>

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies.

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