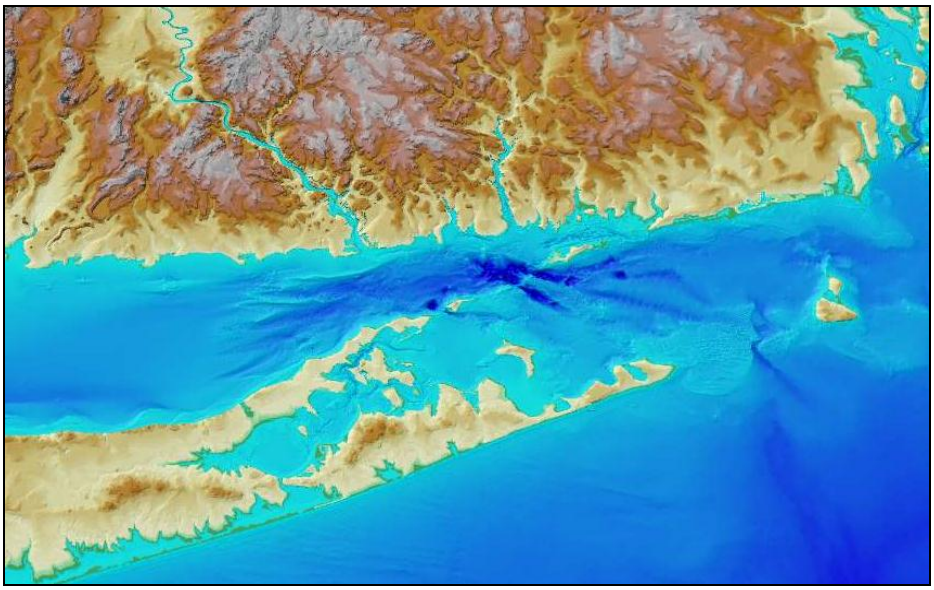
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Eastern Long Island Sound, Connecticut and New York

Report of Public Scoping Meetings 3 (Riverhead, NY) and 4 (Groton, CT)



Prepared for: **United States Environmental Protection Agency**

Sponsored by: **Connecticut Department of Transportation**

Prepared by: **The Louis Berger Group, Inc.**
(under contract to the University of Connecticut)

December 2013

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Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Eastern Long Island Sound, Connecticut and New York

REPORT OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS 3 (RIVERHEAD, NY) AND 4 (GROTON, CT)

Held on June 25 (Riverhead) and June 26 (Groton), 2013

EPA QA Tracking Number RFA 13063

Prepared for:

United States Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109

Sponsored by:

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Waterways Administration
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Prepared by:

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117 Kendrick Street
Needham, MA 02494

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Groton, CT 06340

December 18, 2013

Document Control Number: LI003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the third and fourth public meetings as part of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process for the designation of dredged material disposal sites in Eastern Long Island Sound. The SEIS will supplement the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of dredged material disposal sites in the Western and Central Long Island Sound, completed in 2004. The SEIS is prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and supported by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). The study is being conducted in consultation with other federal and state agencies of New York State and Connecticut, as well as with consultation of the public.

The two public meetings were held in Riverhead (NY) and in Groton (CT) on June 25 and 26, 2013. The primary purpose of these meetings was to present the process and first results of the screening of the Eastern Long Island Sound project area.

1. Introduction

In 2005, the USEPA designated the Western and Central Long Island Sound dredged material disposal sites, following the preparation of an EIS. The two disposal sites in the Eastern Long Island Sound, Cornfield Shoals and New London, are scheduled to close in December 2016. The EPA is in the process of preparing a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the potential designation of one or more disposal sites needed to serve the Eastern Long Island Sound region. The SEIS is being prepared in accordance with Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA; also referred to as Ocean Dumping Act [ODA]) of 1972. The USEPA has the responsibility of designating sites under Section 102(c) of the Act and 40 CFR Part 228.4 of its regulations. The SEIS is supported by the State of Connecticut through the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT).

2. Public Scoping Meetings

In accordance with USEPA's voluntary NEPA policy, the USEPA is conducting an extensive public involvement program throughout the development of the SEIS. The first two public scoping meetings were held on November 14, 2012 (Groton, CT) and January 9 (Riverhead, NY).

USEPA scheduled public scoping meetings 3 and 4 to discuss the process and first results of the screening of the Eastern Long Island Sound project area (i.e., 'Zone of Siting Feasibility' or ZSF) for potential dredged material disposal sites. Aside from the Eastern Long Island Sound, the ZSF includes Block Island Sound (Figure 1). The public was invited to attend and comment on the presented information. There was no official comment period. Meetings were held on the following dates:

- June 25, 2013 Suffolk County Community College, Riverhead, New York
- June 26, 2013 University of Connecticut, Avery Point, Groton, Connecticut York

Both meetings were held between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. The format and agenda for each meeting were identical.

Time	**Agenda Item**	
2:00 pm	*Registration*	
2:30 pm	*Ground Rules/Logistics*	Facilitator, Bernward Hay, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
2:35 pm	*Welcome/Project Update*	Jean Brochi, Project Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit, EPA Region 1
2:55 pm	*Site Screening/GIS*	Bernward Hay, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
3:30 pm	*Discussion and Next Steps*	Bernward Hay, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
4:30 pm	*Adjourn*	

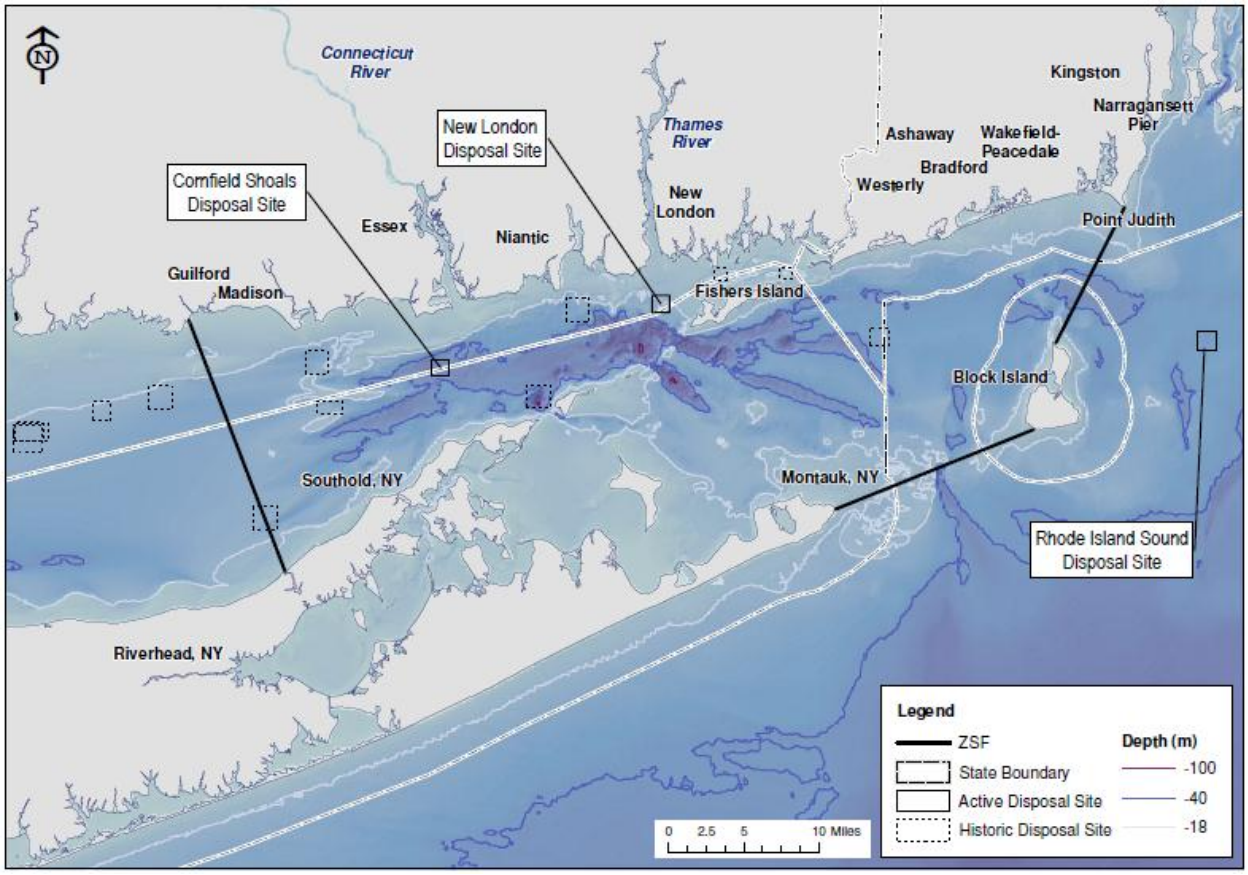

Figure 1: Zone of Siting Feasibility

3. Meeting Summary

Scoping is part of the NEPA process through which federal agencies discuss the purpose of and need for the proposed action; the projected area extent and range of potential impacts resulting from the proposed action; and the studies necessary to determine the extent of potential impacts resulting from these actions. Public scoping meetings 3 and 4 explained the site screening process and first screening results presented on GIS maps.

The lists of Attendees and Commenters/Speakers from the Public are provided in Attachment 2. Presentations given by Ms. Jean Brochi (USEPA) and Dr. Bernward Hay (The Louis Berger Group, Inc.) are provided in Attachment 3. Transcripts, required for both meetings, were prepared by Ms. Charmaine DeRosa from Alliance Reporting Service, Inc. (Riverhead meeting) and by Ms. Sarah Miner from Brandon Smith Reporting & Video (Groton meeting); their transcripts are enclosed as Attachments 4 and 5, respectively.

Following is a summary of the two meetings:

- **Attendees:** A total of 33 attendees signed in at the Riverhead meeting; a total of 42 attendees signed in at the Groton meeting. Attendees at both meetings included members from the Public,

non-profit organizations, private companies, state and federal agency representatives, and representatives of government officials. Specifically, agency representatives included the USEPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, New York State Department of State, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

- **Commenters:** After the presentations, 11 individuals commented at the Riverhead meeting and 5 individuals commented at the Groton meeting.

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Attachment 1

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Grimaldi, Alicia
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:51 PM
To: Grimaldi, Alicia
Subject: Eastern LIS Supplemental EIS - PUBLIC MEETINGS June 25 (NY) & June 26 (CT)

The Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting another set of public meetings in Riverhead, NY and Groton, CT to discuss EPA's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate the potential designation of one or more dredged material disposal sites in eastern Long Island Sound. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on the range of alternative sites that will be evaluated in the SEIS. The information for these public meetings is below.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 (registration begins at 2:00)
Suffolk County Community College, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Center
20 East Main Street
Riverhead, NY 11901
Directions: http://department.sunysuffolk.edu/CulinaryArts_E/3232.asp

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 (registration begins at 2:00)
University of Connecticut at Avery Point
Academic Building, Room 308
1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340
Directions: http://www.averypoint.uconn.edu/about/directions.html

For additional information, please visit
http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/lisdreg/elis.html.

Please consider forwarding this message to any parties who may be interested in attending.

Thank you!

Alicia Grimaldi
Ocean & Coastal Protection
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code: OEP06-01
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617)918-1806
Fax: (617)918-0806

Attachment 2

LISTS OF ATTENDEES AND COMMENTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Riverhead, NY June 25, 2013
- Groton, CT June 26, 2013

Note: Addresses and contact information was provided on the original Sign-in sheets but not listed here for privacy reasons. Spelling of names and organizations was verified, if needed, using the internet. Names are listed in the order shown on the Sign-in sheets.

Riverhead, NY, June 25, 2013

ATTENDEE SIGN-IN

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS?
Angela DeVito	Jamesport Civic Association	
Scott Russell	Southold Town	Yes
Charles de Quillfeldt	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	
Jim King	Southold Town Trustee	Yes
Kari Gathen	New York State Department of State	
Jennifer Street	New York State Department of State	
William Gash	Connecticut Maritime Coalition (CMC)	
Steve Hynes		
Diane Hynes		
Dan Leonard		Yes
Joseph Salvatore	Connecticut Department of Transportation	
Jim O'Donnell	University of Connecticut	
George Wisker	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Amy Atamian	The Louis Berger Group, Inc.	
James Leary	New York State Department of State	
Ron McGreevy		Yes
Doris McGreevy		Yes
Meg McAuley Kaicher	Capital Consulting Group	Yes
Hannah Cope	Office of Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand	
Cyndi Murray		
Maureen Dolan Murphy	Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Yes
Cathy Rogers	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District	
Al Krupski	Suffolk County	Yes
Anthony Graves	Town of Brookhaven	Yes
Marguerite Purnell		Yes
Nancy Brighton	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District	
Mark Terry	Southold Town	
Kim Tucker	Suffolk County	
Sarah Anker	Suffolk County	Yes
Annie McClelland	Citizens Campaign for the Environment	
Jean Brochi	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1	
Bernward Hay	The Louis Berger Group, Inc.	

Groton, CT, June 26, 2013

ATTENDEE SIGN-IN

NAME	ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS?
Alan Stevens	Connecticut Department of Transportation	
Rob Michalik	Office of Senator Chris Murphy	
Syma Ebbin	University of Connecticut	
Kathy Hall	Cardno TEC, Inc.	
G. McCarcuell (sp?)		
Frank Bohlen	University of Connecticut	Yes
Alicia Grimaldi	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1	
Jeff Herter	New York State Department of State	
Jean Brochi	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1	
George Wisker	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Yes
Abbie McAllister		
Kari Gathen	New York State Department of State	
Grant Westerson	Connecticut Marine Trades Association	
Tracy McKenzie	U.S. Navy	
Joseph Salvatore	Connecticut Department of Transportation	
Cathy Rogers	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District	
Mel Cote	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1	
Matt LeBeau	Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal	
Rudy Brown	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
Amy Atamian	The Louis Berger Group, Inc.	
Bernward Hay	The Louis Berger Group, Inc.	
Jim O'Donnell	University of Connecticut	
Sherri Vogt		
James Leary	New York State Department of State	
Jennifer Street	New York State Department of State	
Lou Allyn		
Tom Carona		
Corrine Folsom-Okeefe	Audubon Society	Yes
Judy Benson		
Bill Spicer	Spicer's Marina	Yes
Kim Junior		
Brian Thompson	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Nathan Frohling	The Nature Conservancy	Yes
Jim Hunt	Cardno TEC, Inc.	
Bob Wardwell	Cardno TEC, Inc.	
Elissa Wright	State Representative 41st Assembly District	
Lou Burch	Citizens Campaign for the Environment	
Diane Rusanowsky	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	
Nancy Brighton	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District	
Tim Visel		

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Attachment 3

PRESENTATIONS

- **Jean Brochi, Project Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit, EPA Region 1:** ***Project Update*** (Slides 1 to 17, and Slide 36)

- **Bernward Hay, The Louis Berger Group, Inc.:** ***Site Screening/GIS*** (Slides 18 to 35)

Note: Presentation slides were identical at each meeting.

Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (ELIS SEIS) Public Meetings (NY & CT)

U.S. EPA Region 1 and 2
June 25-26, 2013

ELIS SEIS Agenda

2:00 pm Registration

2:30 pm Ground Rules/Logistics
Facilitator, Bernward Hay, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBG)

2:35 pm Welcome/Project Update
Jean Brochi, Project Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit
EPA Region 1

2:55 pm Site Screening/GIS
Bernward Hay, LBG

3:30 pm Discussion and Next Steps
Bernward Hay, LBG

4:30 pm Adjourn

EPA-USACE Share Responsibility

- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA, aka Ocean Dumping Act)
  - Section 102: EPA Designates Sites
  - Section 103: USACE Selects Sites subject to EPA concurrence
- Dredged material disposal at these sites must meet criteria in Ocean Dumping Regulations (40 CFR Parts 220-229)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - Section 404: USACE issues permits subject to EPA concurrence
  - Section 404(c): EPA has veto authority

EPA's Role in Dredging

- Designate ocean dredged material disposal sites for long-term use (following EPA's voluntary NEPA policy to prepare an EIS)
- Promulgate regulations and criteria for disposal site selection and permitting discharges
- Review USACE dredging projects and permits
- Develop site monitoring/management plans (SMMP)
- Monitor disposal sites jointly with USACE

Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Sites

Designated by EPA in July 2005:

- Western Long Island Sound
- Central Long Island Sound

Selected by USACE in 1990s, scheduled to close December 2016:

- Cornfield Shoals
- New London

Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement

- April 2004 – EPA and Corps complete EIS recommending designation of CLIS and WLIS disposal sites, initiates final rulemaking
- June 2004 – NYS DOS objects to proposed federal action as inconsistent with CZM Program
- September 2004-May 2005 – EPA, Corps, NOAA, NY and CT negotiate conditions to site designation rule so NY can withdraw its objection

Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement

- June 2005 – EPA publishes final rulemaking to designate CLIS and WLIS with conditions which, if not met, will result in sites closing, including:
  - Completion of a regional dredged material management plan (DMMP) for Long Island Sound by 2013 (or 2014)
  - Formation of a Long Island Sound Regional Dredging Team to review alternative analyses for federal and large private dredging projects
  - Production of an annual report by EPA on progress toward completion of the DMMP, and disposition of dredged material from all projects each year

Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (ELIS SEIS)

- October 2012: Published a Notice of Intent
- November 14, 2012 and January 9, 2013 Public meetings
- January 8, 2013, May 20, 2013 and June 18, 2013 Cooperating Agency meetings
- Literature and Data gap analysis ongoing
- Physical Oceanographic Study (initiated March 2013) ongoing
- Screening using data available in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ongoing

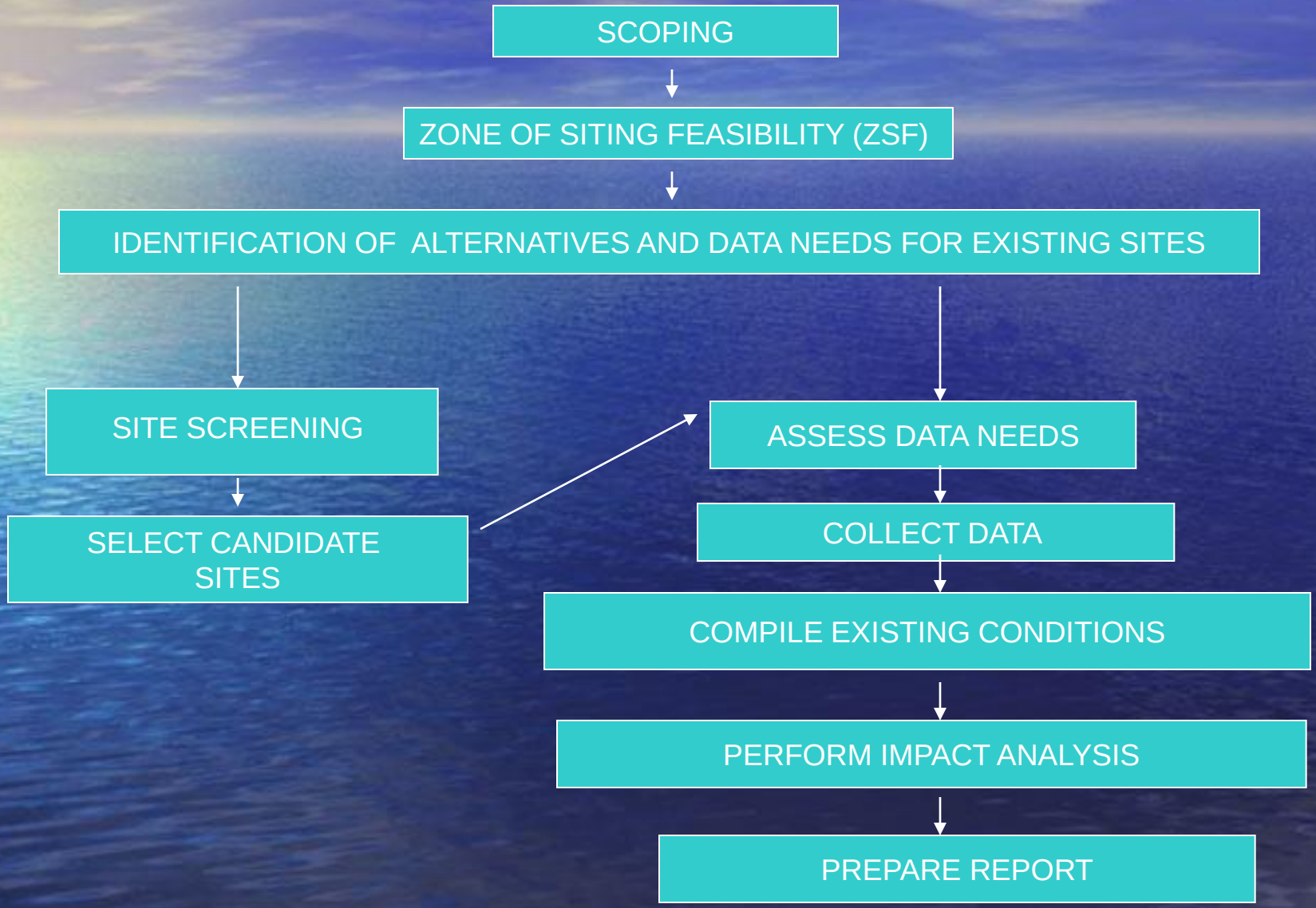
ELIS SEIS Partners

- COOPERATING AGENCIES:
  EPA R1 and R2, NYDOS, NYDEC, CTDEEP, CTDOT, RICRMC, USACE (New York and New England Districts), NOAA, and USCG.
- COORDINATING AGENCIES:
  USFWS and the NAVY
- Additional Coordination: Tribes, SHPO's

ELIS SEIS Schedule

- Draft SEIS by December 2014
- Final SEIS by December 2015
- Assuming SEIS recommends designation of one or more sites, publish final rulemaking by December 2016

ELIS SEIS Process



LIS DMMP Studies

Dredging Needs Report completed in October 2009:

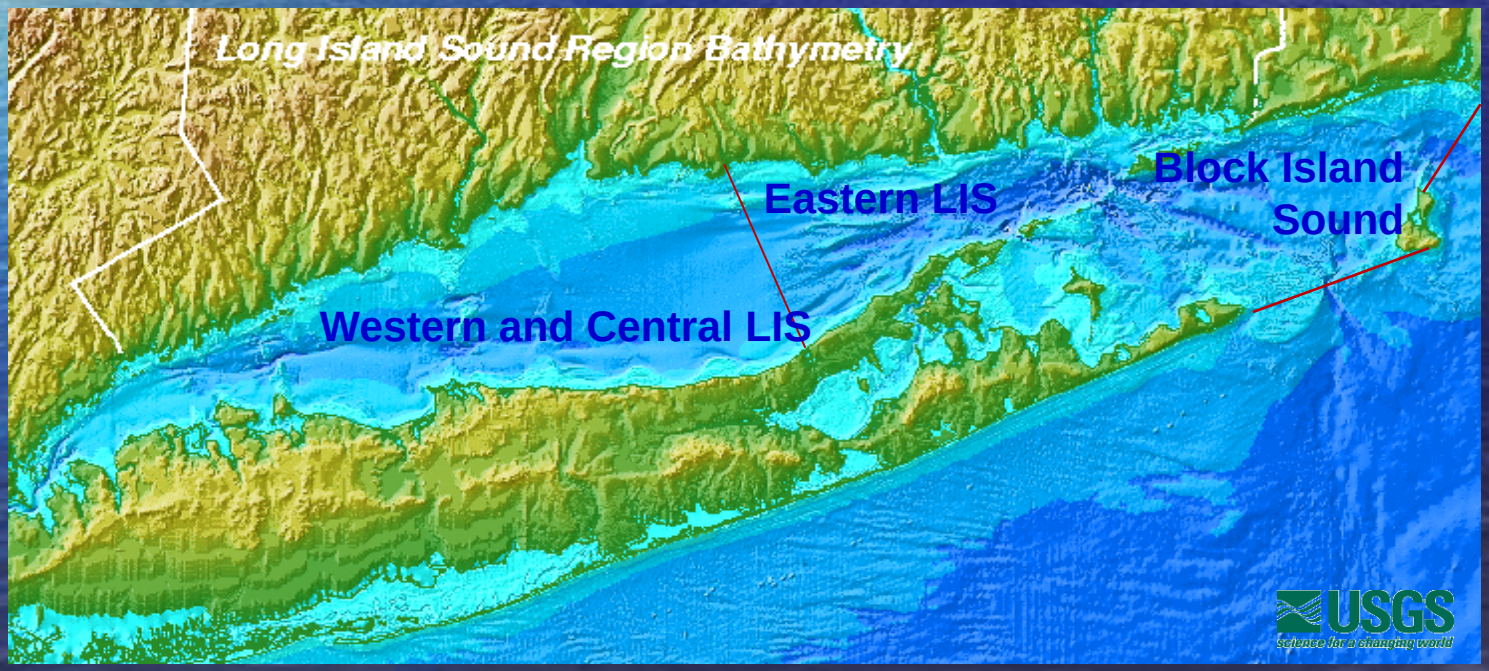
- Determined that approximately 13.5 million cubic yards will be dredged from ELIS harbors and channels over the next 26 years (planning horizon to 2028)

Upland, Beneficial Use, and Sediment Dewatering Reports completed in 2009-2010:

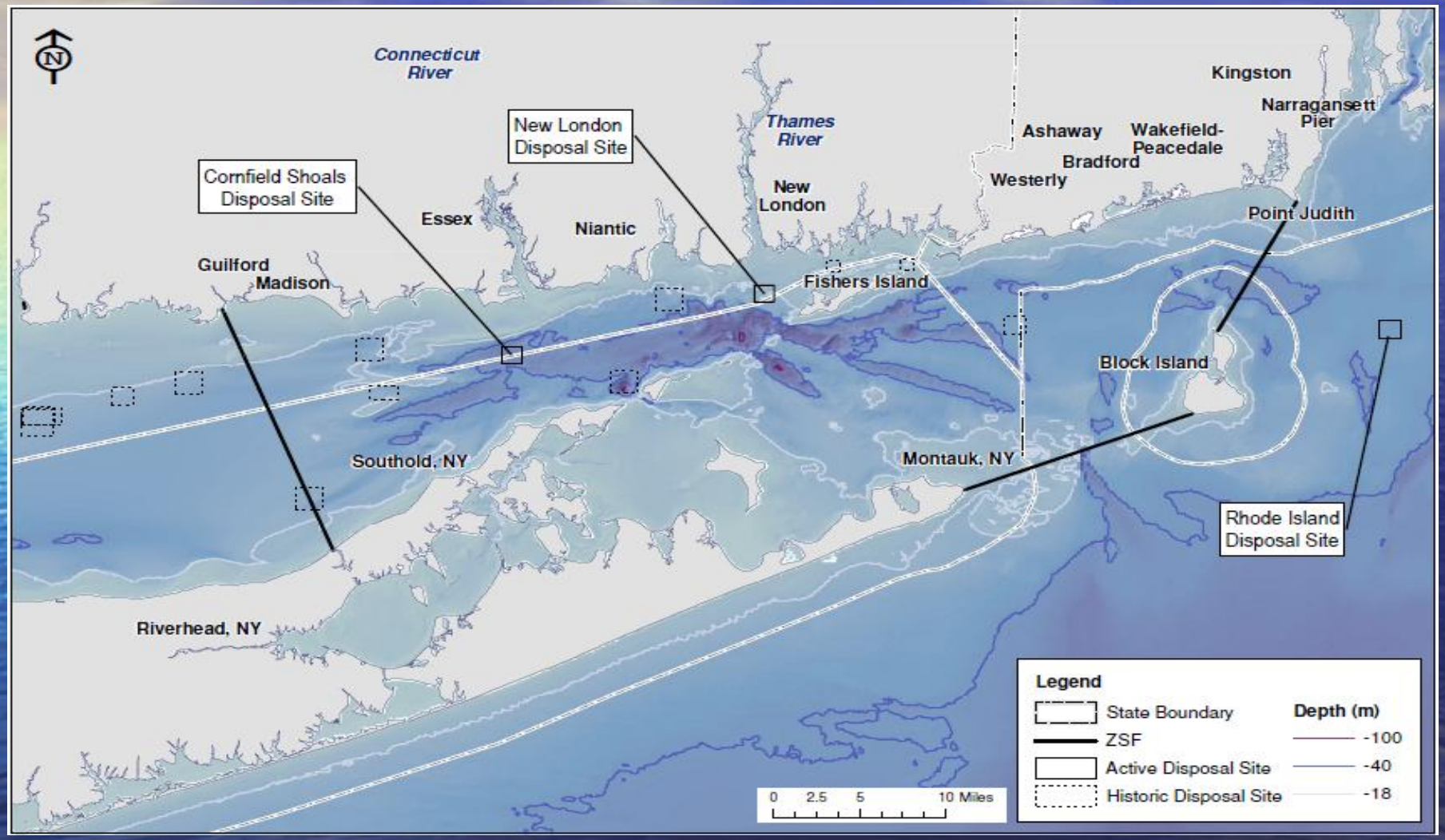
- Determined that there are very few alternatives to open-water disposal sites in CT, and most of those are beach nourishment

ELIS –SEIS
Zone of Siting Feasibility

- SEIS will address the eastern region of Long Island Sound, and Block Island Sound



ELIS SEIS – Active Dredged Material Disposal sites



Approach to Screening

- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA): Criteria for ocean dredged material site designation:
  - 5 general criteria (40 CFR 228.5)
  - 11 specific criteria (40 CFR 228.6)

- Screening levels
  - Initial Screening of areas potentially acceptable as an open water disposal site
  - Further evaluate areas using additional data (this may include additional field work, research, etc.)

Approach to Screening MPRSA -11 specific criteria (40 CFR 228.6)

1. Geographical position, depth of water, bottom topography and distance from coast
2. Location in relation to: breeding, spawning, nursery, feeding, passage areas of living resources
3. Location in relation to beaches, public use areas
4. Types and quantities of disposal, etc.
5. Feasibility of surveillance and monitoring
6. Dispersal, horizontal transport and vertical mixing characteristics of the area, including prevailing current direction and velocity, if any
7. Existence and effects of current and previous discharges and disposal in the area (including cumulative effects)
8. Interference with shipping, fishing, recreation, fish and shellfish culture, areas of special scientific importance and other legitimate uses of the ocean
9. Existing water quality and ecology of the site
10. Potentiality for the development or recruitment of nuisance species in the disposal site
11. Existence at or in close proximity to the site of any significant natural or cultural features of historical importance.

Approach to Screening MPRSA - 5 general criteria (40 CFR 228.5)

1. Conflicting Uses - in areas selected to minimize the interference with areas of existing fisheries or shellfisheries and regions of heavy commercial or recreational navigation.

2. Conditions - will be so chosen so that temporary perturbations in environmental conditions caused by disposal operations will be reduced before reaching any beach, shoreline, marine sanctuary, or known geographically limited fishery or shellfishery.

3. Site Use - at any time if approved sites do not meet the criteria for site selection set forth in Sections 228.5 through 228.6, the use of such sites will be terminated as soon as suitable alternate disposal sites can be designated.

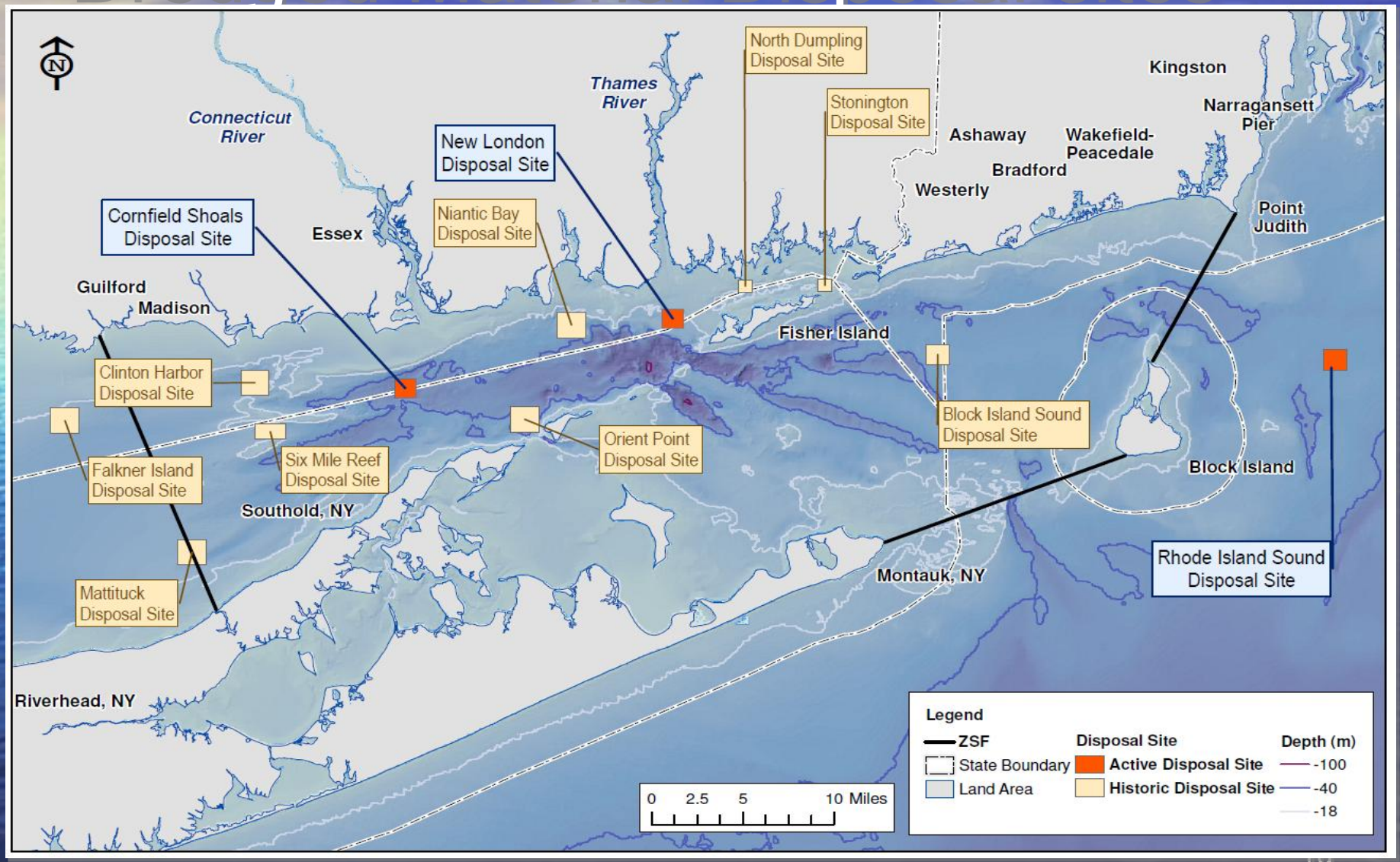
4. Site Size - the sizes of ocean disposal sites will be limited to implement effective monitoring and surveillance programs; the size, configuration, and location of any disposal site will be determined as a part of the disposal site designation study.

5. Historically Used - USEPA will, wherever feasible, designate disposal sites beyond the edge of the continental shelf and other such sites that have been historically used.

Site Screening - Examples

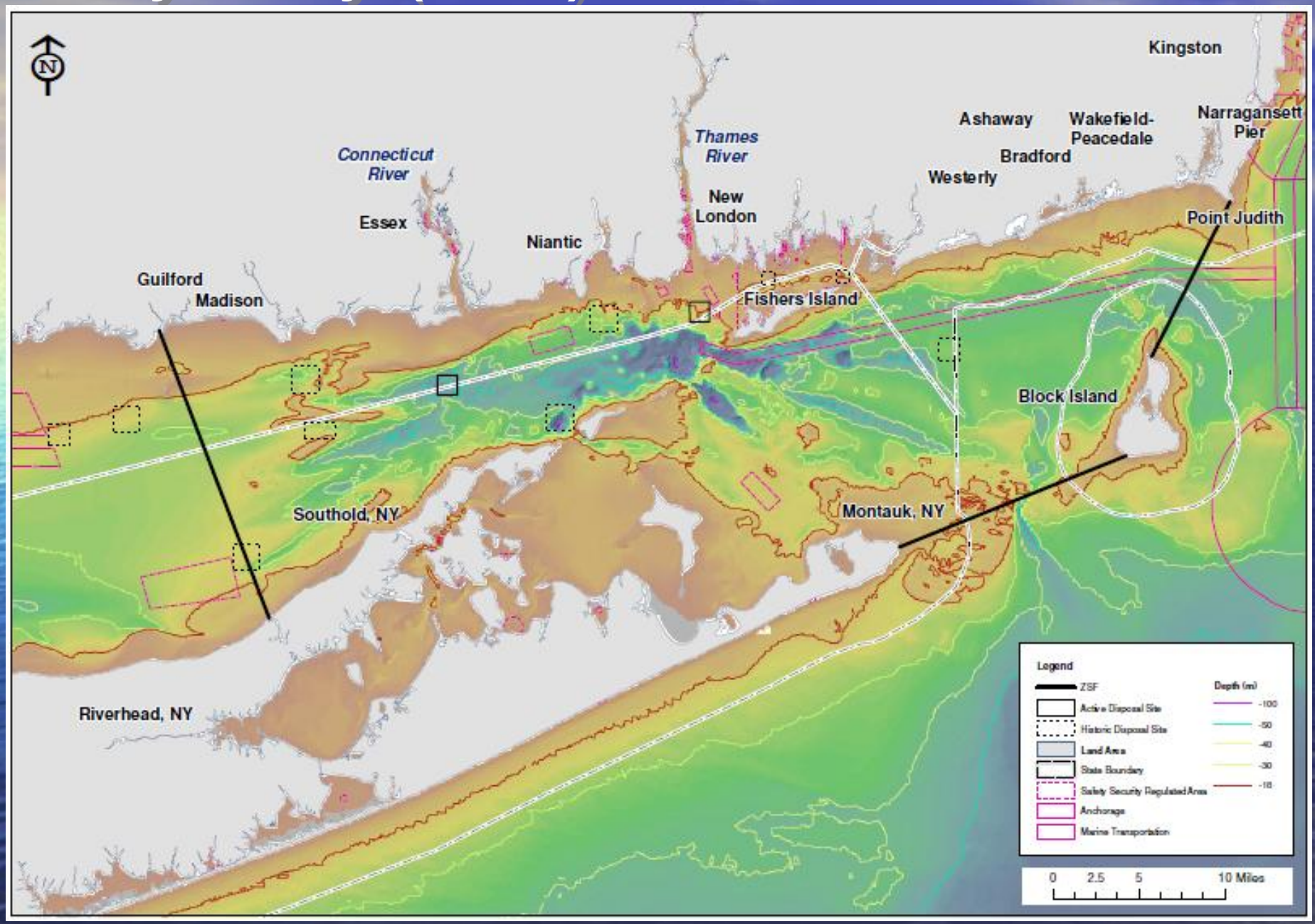
- Sedimentary Environment
  - Bathymetry
  - Currents and Waves; Bottom Stress
  - Sediment Texture (resuspension potential; habitat)
- Areas of Conflicting uses
  - Infrastructure (cables, pipelines)
  - Navigation (shipping lanes, anchoring areas)
  - Recreation (areas and navigation)
  - Conservation Areas (sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, National Seashores, parks, artificial reefs, etc.)
  - Cultural and Archaeological Resources
- Biological Resources
  - Shellfish Beds
  - Benthic Community
  - Fish Habitat, Fish Concentrations, and Fishing Areas
  - Breeding, Spawning, Nursery, Feeding, and Passage Areas

ELIS SEIS – Historic Dredged Material Disposal sites

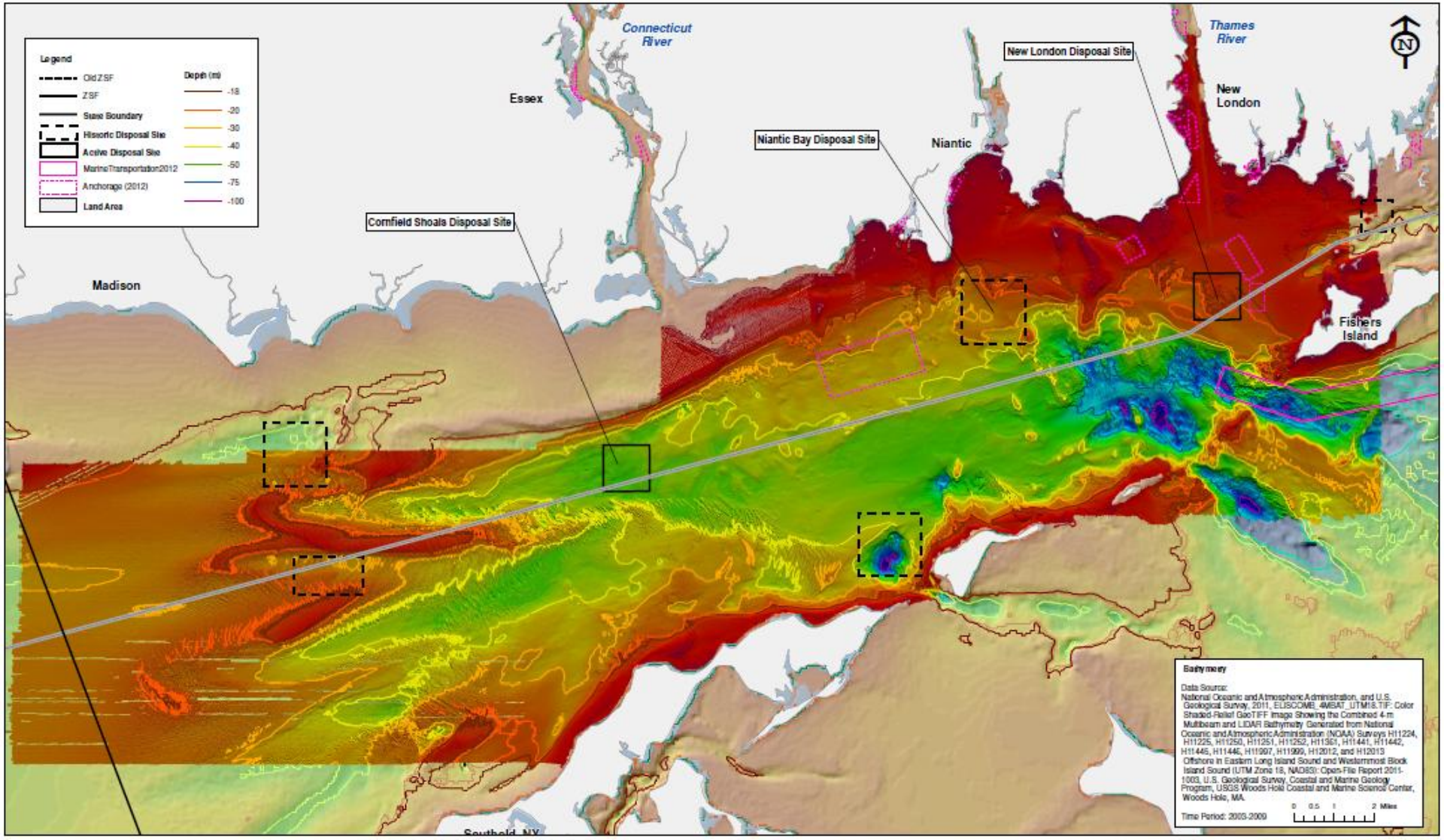


Sedimentary Environment

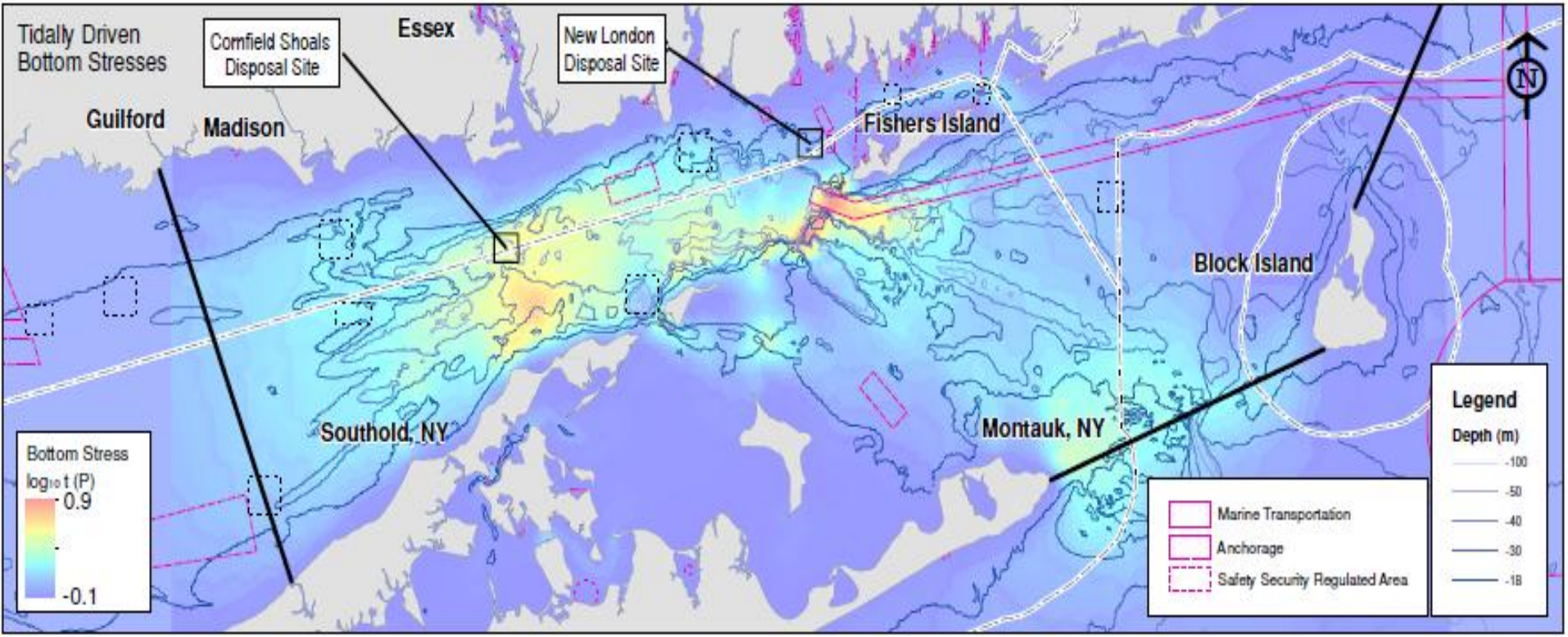
Bathymetry (ZSF)



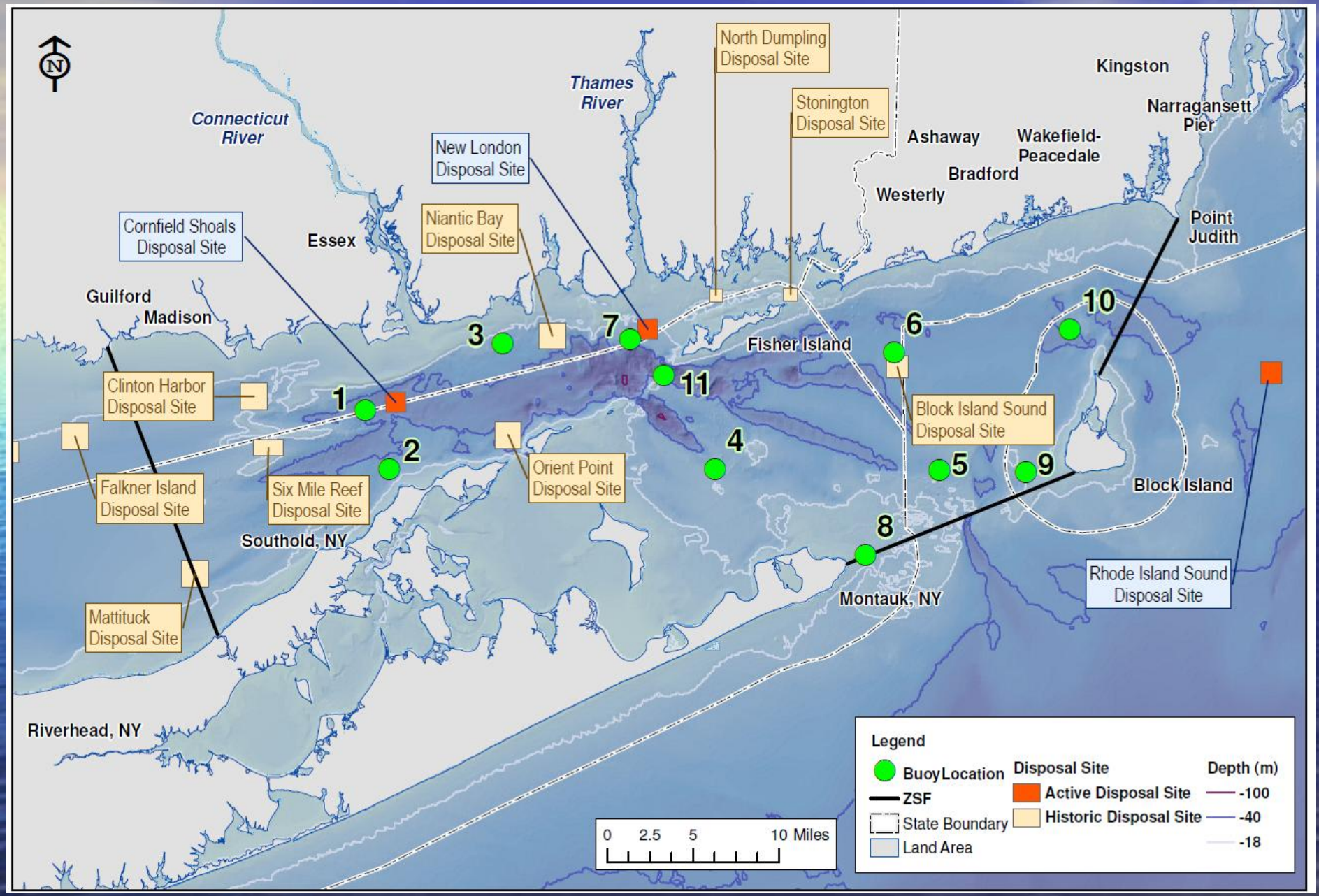
Bathymetry (Eastern LIS)



Tidally-Driven Bottom Stress

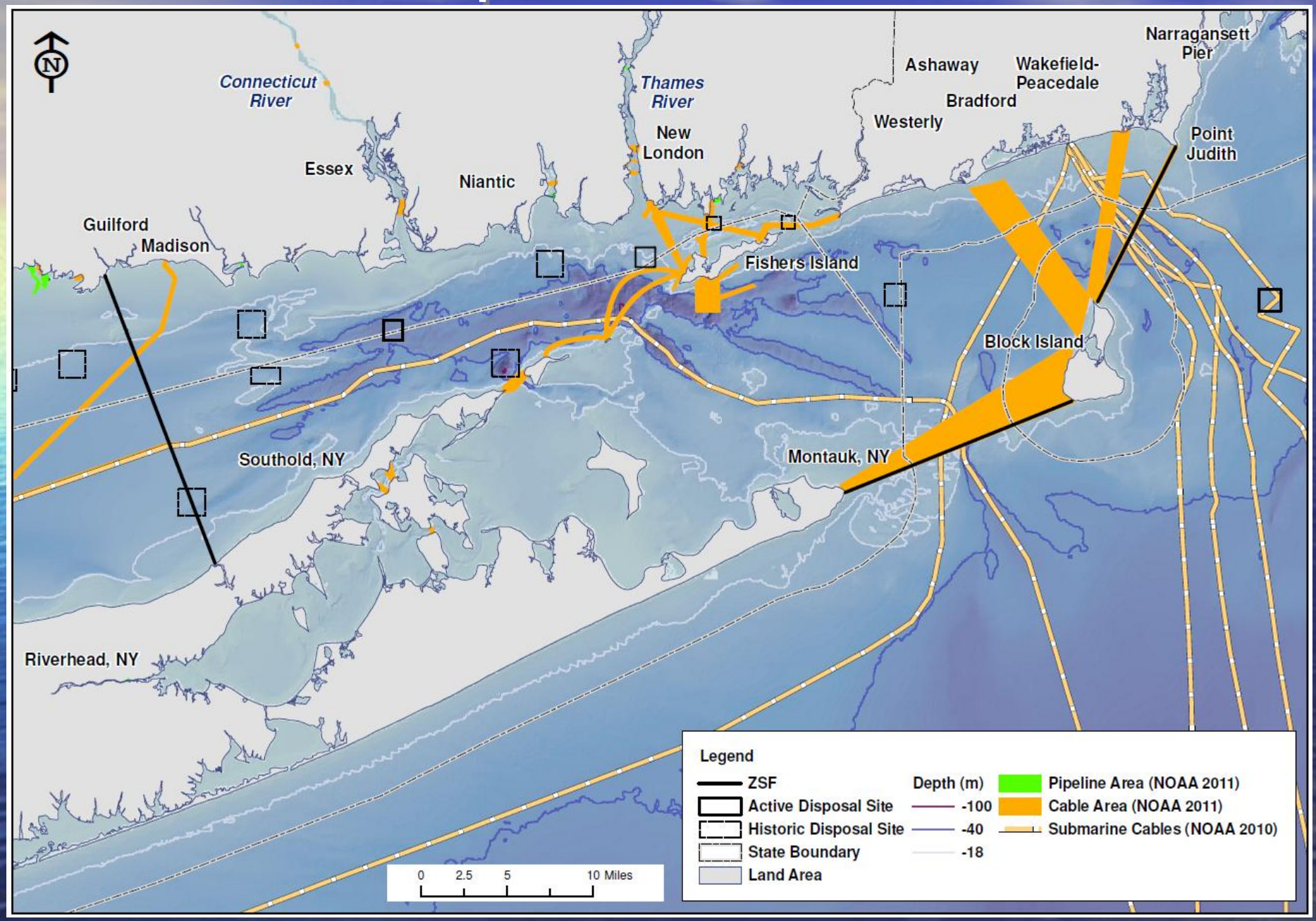


Physical Oceanography Study – Buoy Locations

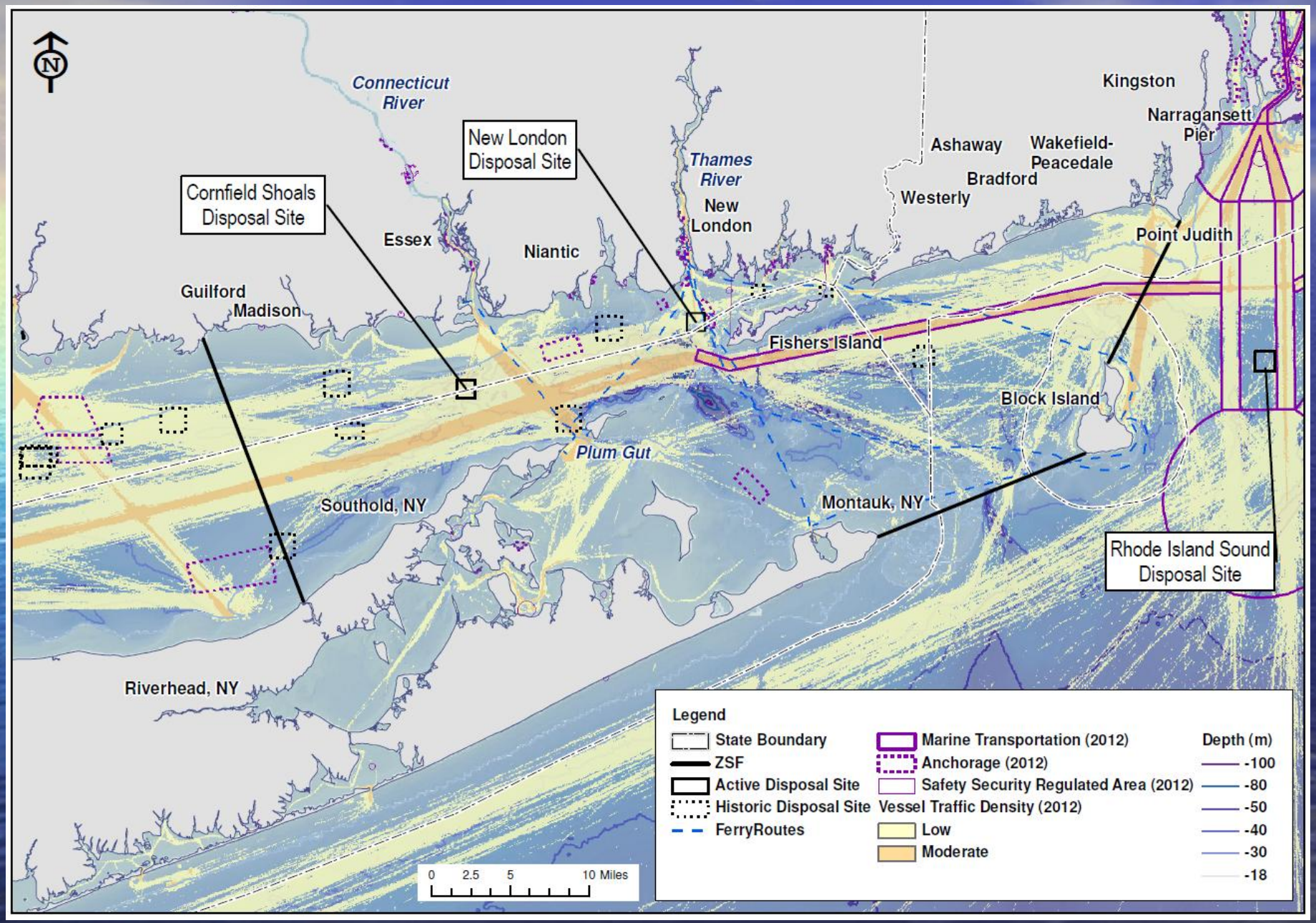


Areas of Conflicting Uses

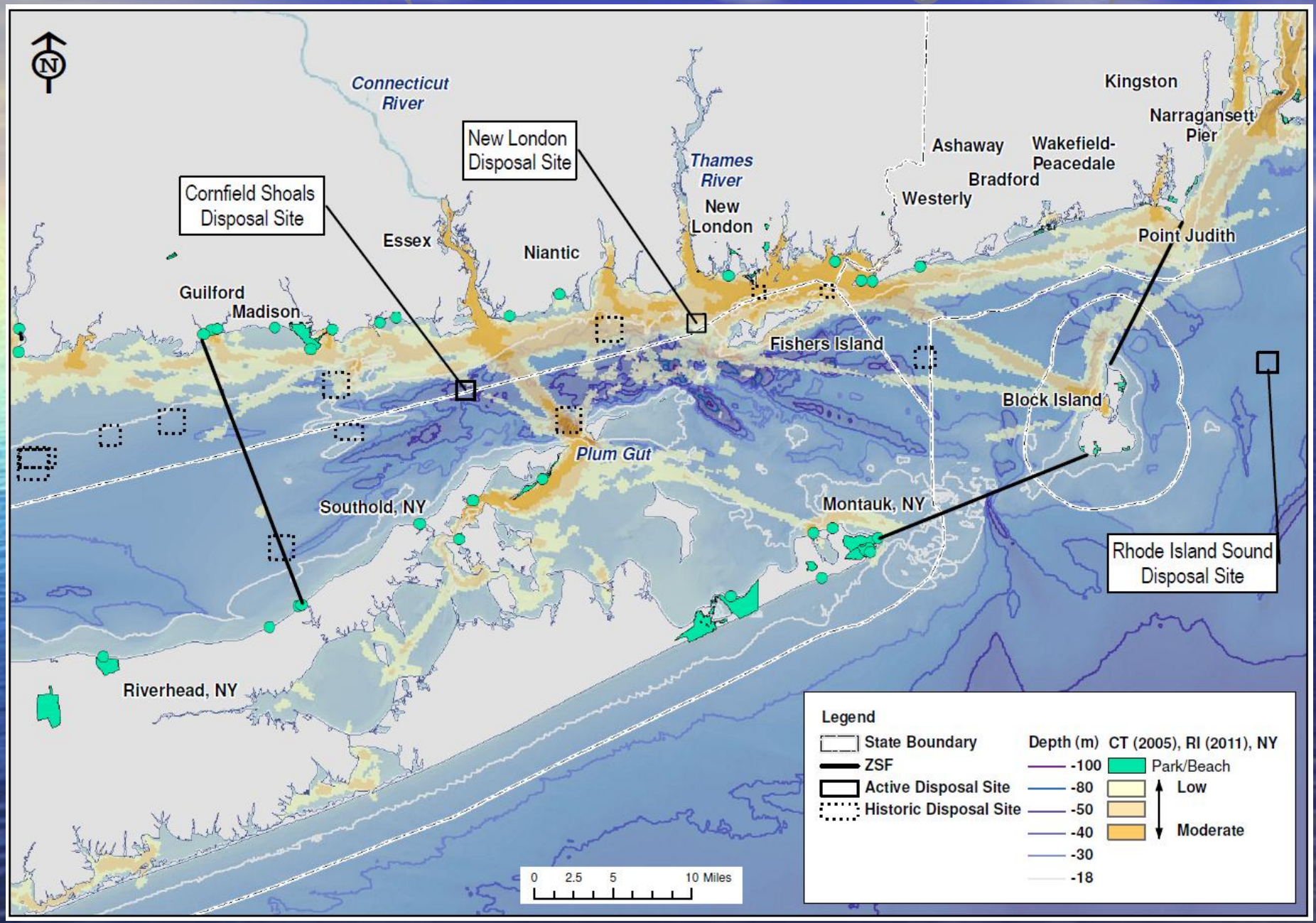
Cables and Pipelines



Vessel Traffic Density, Anchoring Areas

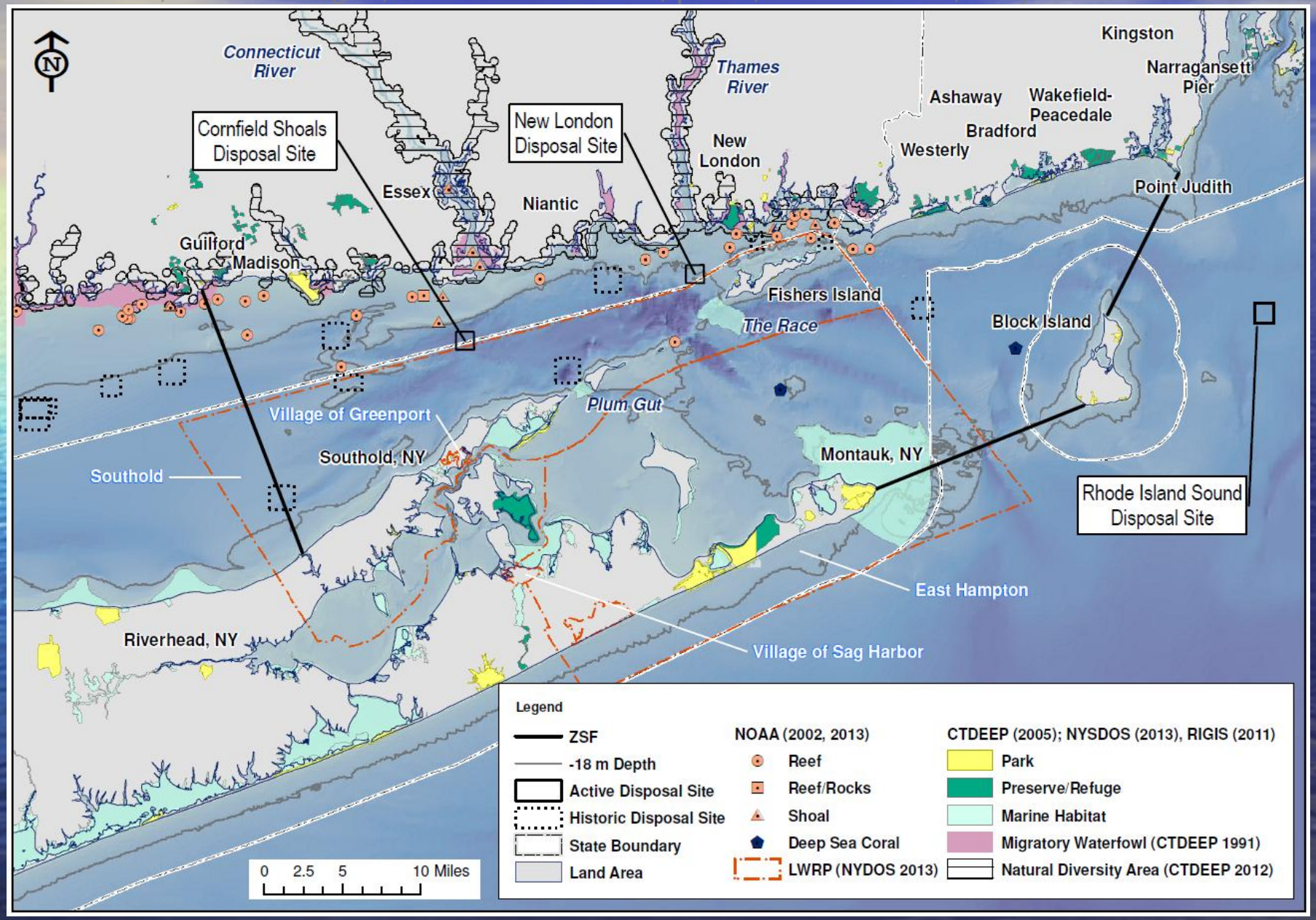


Recreation (Areas and Navigation)

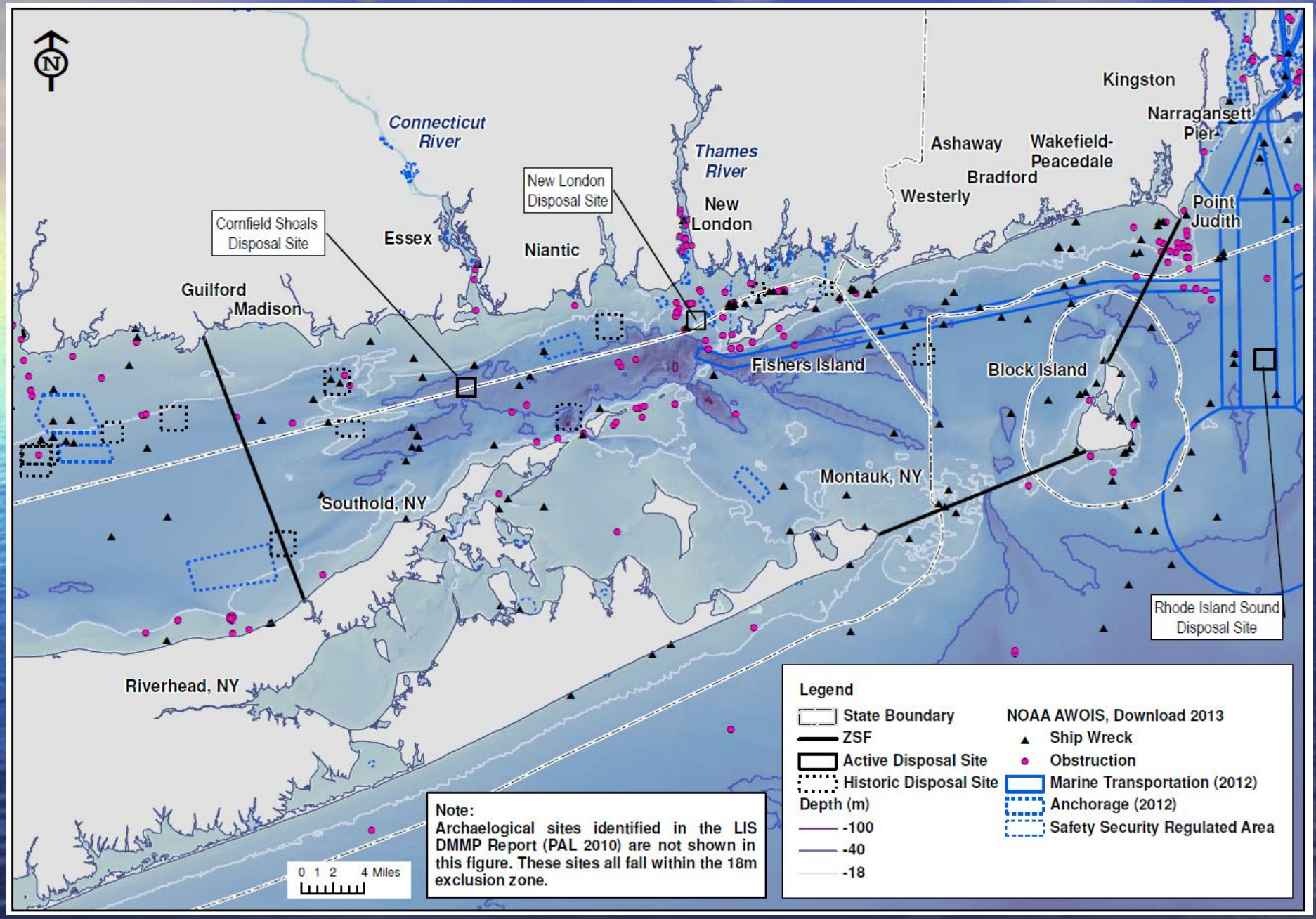


Conservation Areas

(sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, national seashores, parks, artificial reefs, etc.)

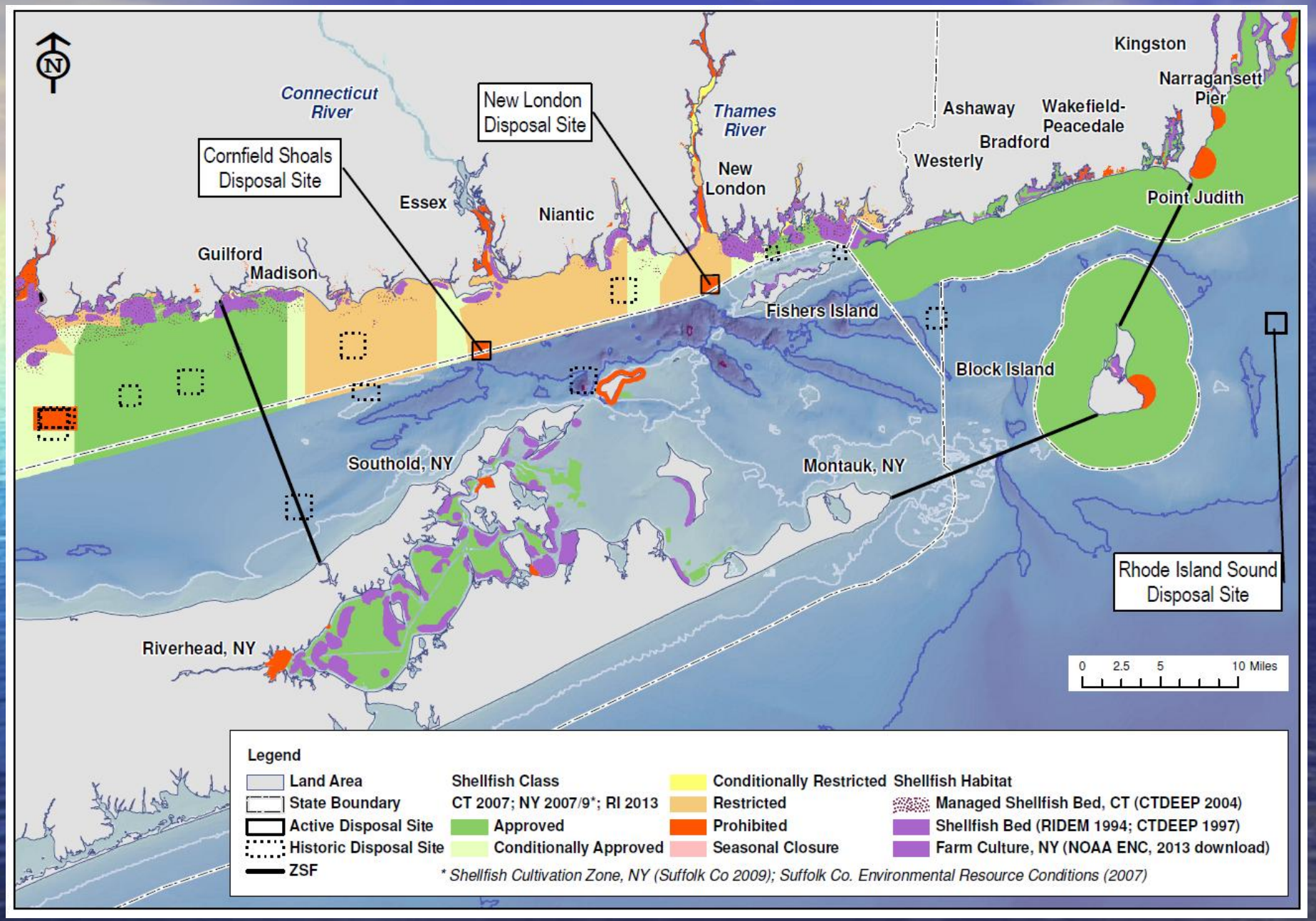


Archaeological and Cultural Resources

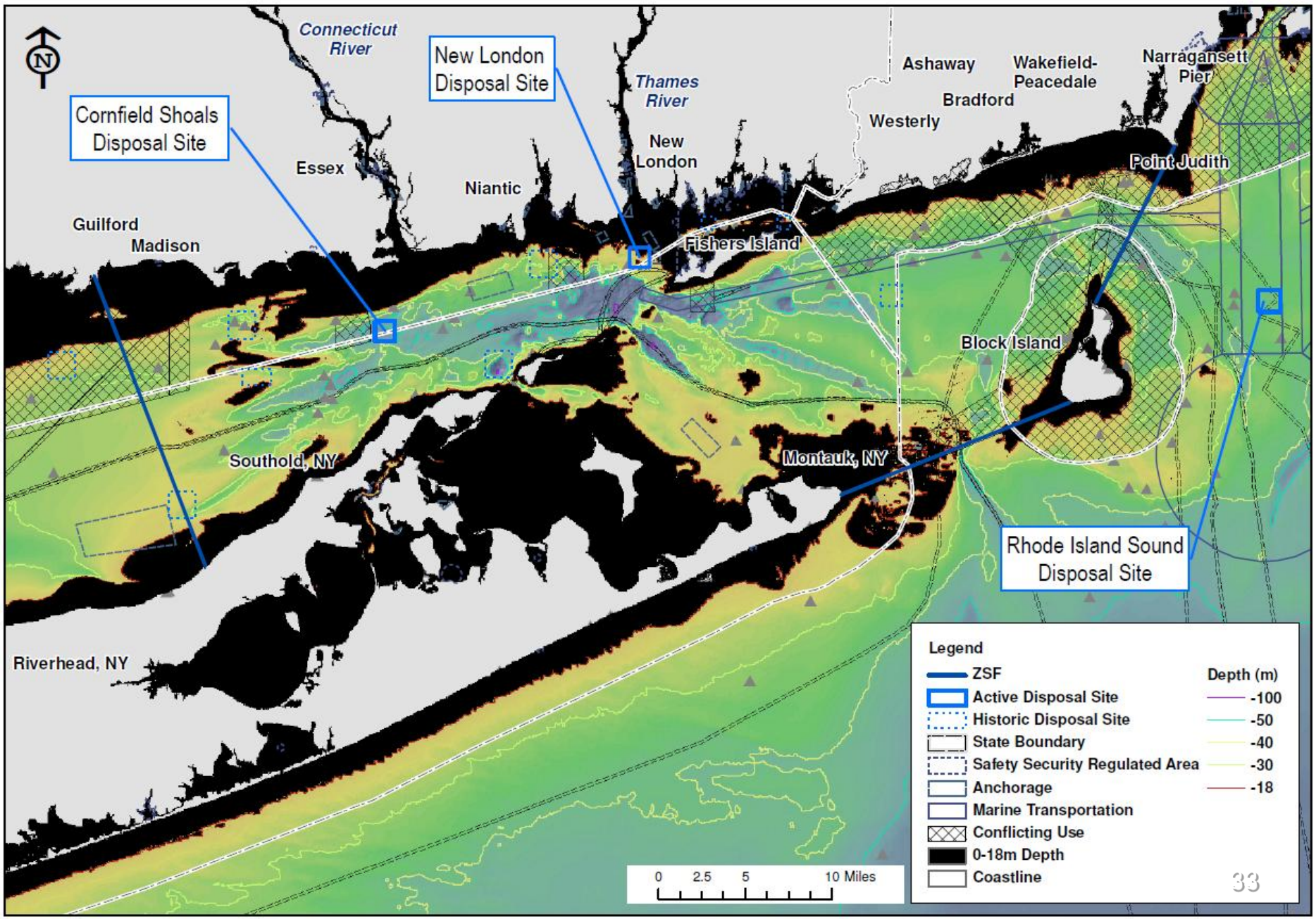


Biological Resources

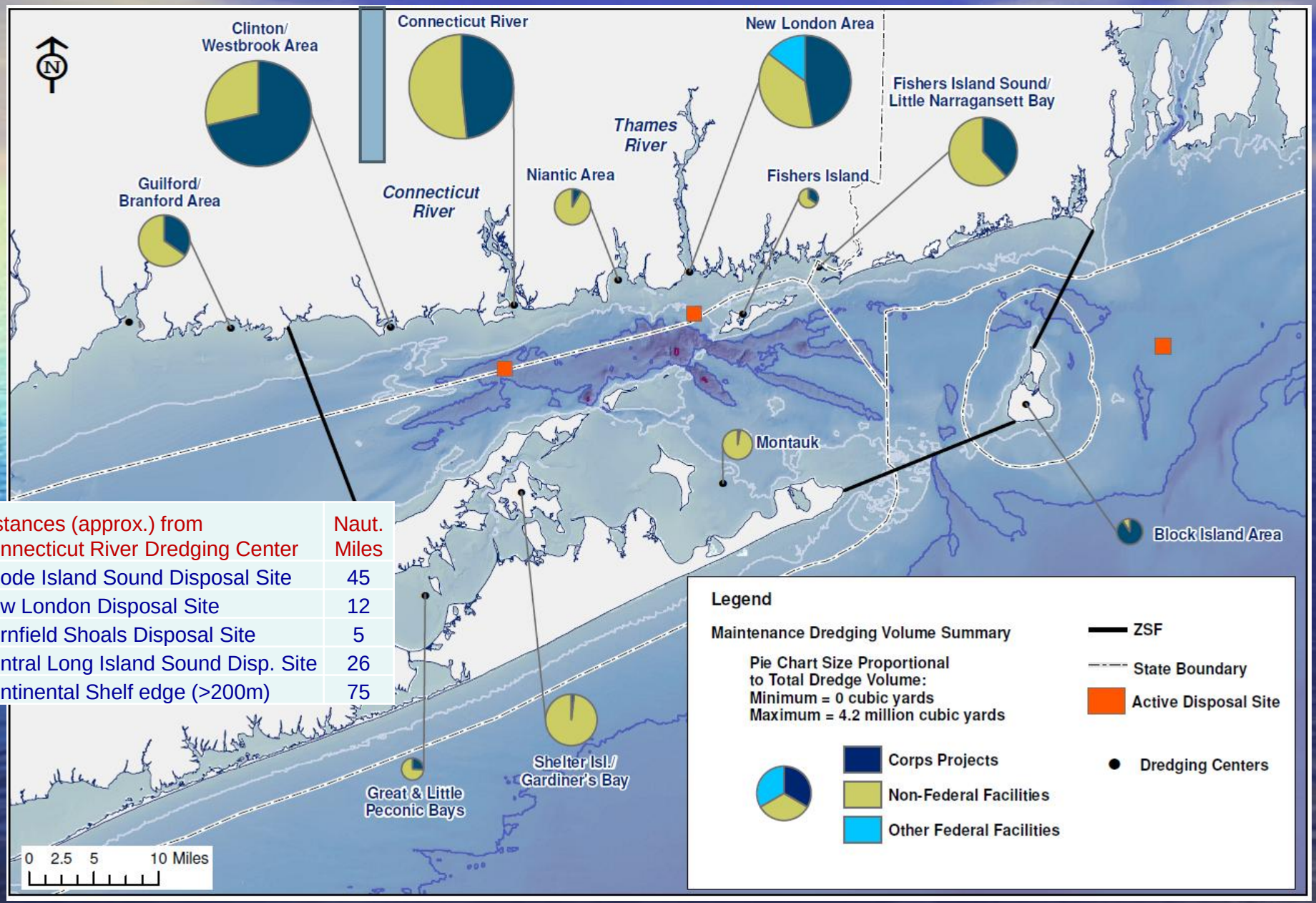
Approved / Prohibited Shellfishing Areas



Overlay


Connecticut River
New London Disposal Site
Thames River
Ashaway
Wakefield-Peacedale
Narragansett Pier
Bradford
Westerly
Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site
New London
Point Judith
Essex
Niantic
Guilford
Madison
Fishers Island
Block Island
Southold, NY
Montauk, NY
Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site
Riverhead, NY
Legend
ZSF
Active Disposal Site
Historic Disposal Site
State Boundary
Safety Security Regulated Area
Anchorage
Marine Transportation
Conflicting Use
0-18m Depth
Coastline
Depth (m)
-100
-50
-40
-30
-18
0 2.5 5 10 Miles

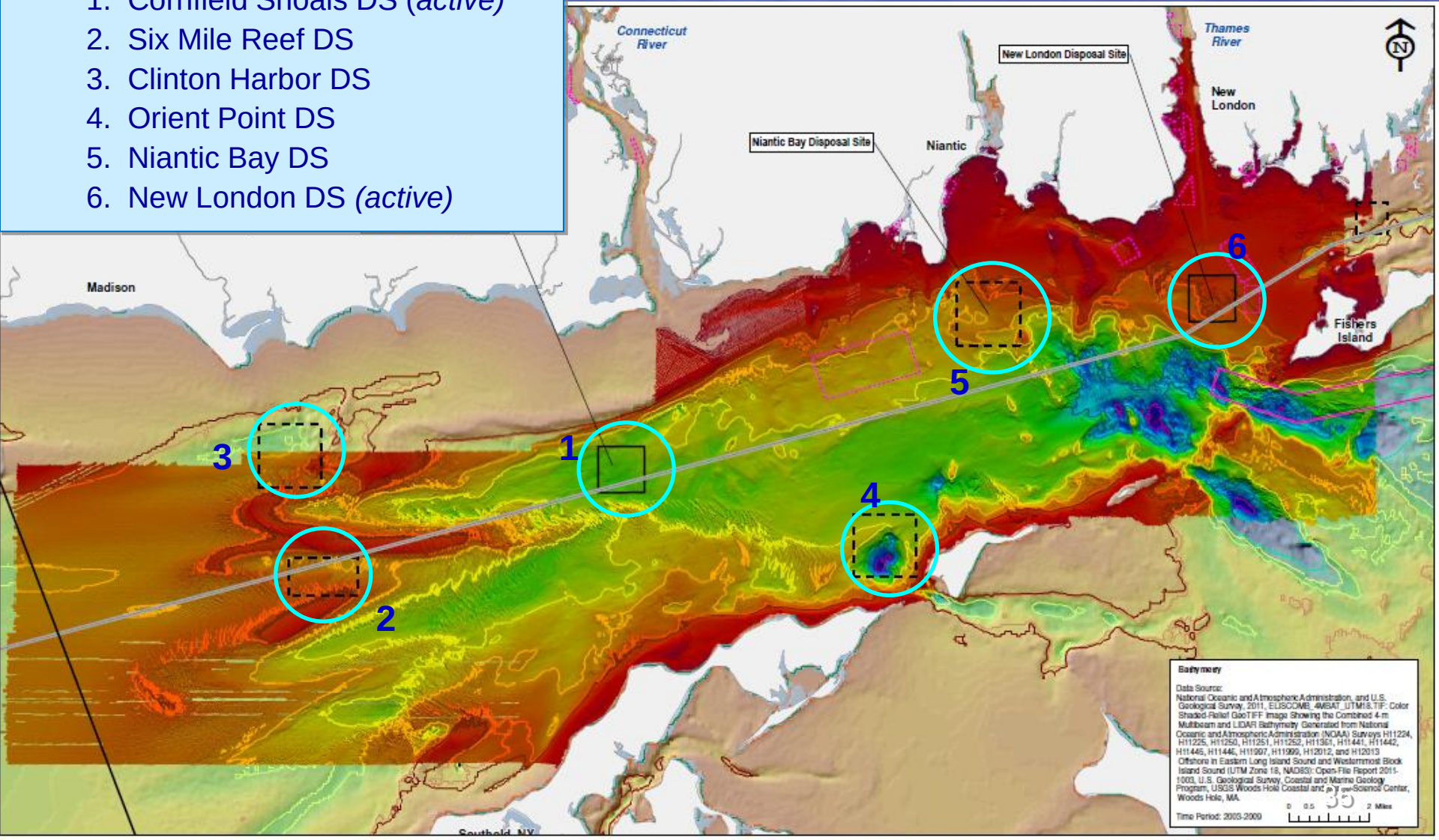
Dredging Centers and Disposal Distance



Distances (approx.) from Connecticut River Dredging Center	Naut. Miles
Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site	45
New London Disposal Site	12
Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site	5
Central Long Island Sound Disp. Site	26
Continental Shelf edge (>200m)	75

Areas identified in Eastern Long Island Sound

1. Cornfield Shoals DS (*active)*
2. Six Mile Reef DS
3. Clinton Harbor DS
4. Orient Point DS
5. Niantic Bay DS
6. New London DS *(active)*



Next Steps

- Assess sites in more detail
  - Integrate additional available information
  - Identify and fill remaining data gaps including safety, economics.
  - Review existing and newly collected data for priority sites
- Collect additional data on sediment and biological resources
- Review data from Physical Oceanography Study for Cooperating Agency Meeting in fall
- Public Meetings in winter

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Attachment 4

TRANSCRIPTS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK JUNE 25, 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL DESIGNATION OF ONE OR MORE DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES IN EASTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND

June 25, 2013
2:30 p.m.
Culinary Center
Suffolk Community College
Main Street
Riverhead, New York

SPEAKERS:
THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
BERNWARD J. HAY PH.D
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

JEAN BROCHI, PROJECT MANAGER EPA REGION 1

[TIME NOTED: 2:30 P.M.]

MR. HAY: Good afternoon. I think that we can start at this point. First of all, welcome to this public meeting. Thanks for sharing your time with us on this beautiful day. At least we have air conditioning here, so it will keep everybody cool. A couple of housekeeping items that I want to mention right up front. Everyone should be registered at this point. There's a registration form outside. If you haven't registered yet, please register at some point during this meeting outside. There are also some handouts outside, which include copies of the Power Point presentation that is going to be given later on. Please feel free to get yourself a copy as well.

Secondly, restrooms outside of the room are to the right about ten yards down the corridor on the right side. Third, please turn off your cell phones, if you could, or put them on vibrate. My name is Bernward Hay. I'm with the Louis Berger Group. I'm an Environmental Scientist, and we are under contract to the University of Connecticut, that is under contract to the Connecticut Department of Transportation. We

are assisting the Connecticut DOT and the US EPA with preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the possible designation, potential designation, of one or more Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites, to serve the Eastern Long Island Sound region and Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island.

The EPA is the Federal lead agency for the project. The meetings that were held in November and in January were to solicit comments on the Notice of Intent, and the comment period for those meetings ended on January 31, 2013. At each meeting seven individuals commented. In addition eighteen written letters and emails were received within the comment period.

Today's meeting is an informational meeting and there is no specific comment period. Information presented today will be made available on the EPA website. Specifically, today's meeting is designed to provide you with an update of the project as a follow-up to the public meeting in November and January.

We will review initial screening, the initial screening process, that has been conducted so far and we'll briefly discuss upcoming data collection

efforts. Feedback regarding our efforts would be welcome.

In addition to this public meeting in New York here, a second meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point in Groton, Connecticut. Ms. Jean Brochi from EPA and I will present the updated information about the project for the next hour, after this introduction, until about 3:30 p.m. After the presentations have been completed the floor will be open for comments until about 4:30 p.m. If you wish to speak at that time, please provide your name and affiliation and we ask you to keep your comments brief to allow others to speak as well.

The public meeting is recorded by a stenographer and is also recorded by audio devices. The transcript of the meeting will be entered into the public record and will be made available to the public on the EPA website as well. We will now move to the presentations. Ms. Jean Brochi is a Project Manager for the Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit of the EPA Region 1 in Boston. She will provide the welcome and project update, and I will talk about site

screening and GIS Data. With that, Jeannie, would you open the meeting.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you Bernward. Thank you all for coming. As Bernward said, this is an EPA project. It's for the potential designation of dredged material disposal sites. We ask that you wait until the end of both presentations to comment. You should have received an agenda out front. I'm going to do the project update which would include some background information from the previous public meetings. Bernward will go through the site screening, and then we'll have next steps and comments.

So, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers have a shared responsibility in managing dredged material. The EPA is responsible for -- We're authorized to designate dredged material disposal sites. Under the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act, MPRSA, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act, under Section 102, the EPA has the authority to designate sites, and under section 103, the Army Corps of Engineers has the authority to select sites, which are subject to EPA concurrence.

Dredged material at these sites must meet

criteria, ocean dumping criteria, 40 CFR Parts 220 through 229, for which I have slides that will discuss what those criteria are. Also regulated under the Clean Water Act, Section 404, which gives the Army Corps of Engineers the authority to issue permits, and that's subject to EPA concurrence, as well as Section 404(c), where the EPA has the authority for vetoing permits.

Again, EPA's role is to designate ocean dredged material disposal sites for long-term use. In doing so, EPA follows a voluntary NEPA Policy, which is what this meeting falls under. So, we'll have a series of public meetings as well as cooperating agency meetings. EPA is responsible to promulgate the regulations and criteria for disposal site selection and review Army Corps of Engineer dredging permits and projects, as well as develop site monitoring and management plans. Those site monitoring and management plans are specific to designated sites. In addition, EPA monitors the disposal sites jointly with the Army Corps of Engineers.

A little background on the Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement. If you were at the November or January public meetings, that

presentation was specifically on the background of the EIS. This particular project now is a Supplemental EIS, focusing on the eastern part of the Sound. So, EPA designated the Western and Central Long Island Sound Disposal Sites in July 2005.

The Army Corps of Engineers has an authority to select sites for short-term use, which is a minimum of two five-year periods. The Army Corps of Engineers selected the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site and the New London Disposal Site in the 1990's. Both of those sites are scheduled to close for use in 2016. In December, specifically, of 2016.

In April 2004 EPA and the Corps completed the EIS recommending the designation of CLIS and WLIS. We initiated rule making, and then in June New York State DOS objected to the proposed federal action as inconsistent with the proposed Coastal Zone Management Program, and then in September through May of 2005, the EPA, the Corps, NOAA, New York DOS, and Connecticut DEP negotiated conditions for a site designation rule. What that concluded was the completion of a regional Dredged Material Management Plan, which would be completed by the Army

Corps of Engineers. That's a region-wide Dredged Material Management Plan, which is different than a Site Monitoring and Management Plan. That is a Corps-lead project, and that was scheduled to be completed by 2013 or 2014.

We also formed a Long Island Sound Regional Dredging Team to look at alternatives, all under the DMMP umbrella and to review large private dredging projects.

Finally, the EPA reports annually on dredged material disposal from private and non-private projects in Long Island Sound for the dredging year. That period is July to July. Now, I'm going to talk about the Supplemental EIS which, again, is focusing on Eastern Long Island Sound. The presentation today and the previous public meetings specifically are only discussing open water options.

However, throughout this process and as part of our continued data collection effort, we will look at alternatives, and we will also consider a no-action alternative, which will combine the impact if no action was taken, which means no disposal site designation.

For the Supplemental EIS, we initially had

a public meeting where we issued a Notice of Intent in October 2012. We had a public meeting on November 14th, and again on January 9th to solicit comments on that Notice of Intent. We also have Cooperating Agency members, several are in the room, and we held Cooperating Agency meetings on January 8th, May 20th and June 18th.

Part of our process is to continue to compile a literature and data gap analysis, and Bernward will present some of the data using the Geographic Information Systems. This is an on-going project. We will continue to update the data as it becomes available electronically.

In addition, there is a physical oceanographic study conducted by the University of Connecticut. That was initiated in March 2013, is on-going and will continue through December, at which point, part way through the process there will be some data available. And that project is putting buoys into Long Island Sound to collect more information on currents and velocities and a lot of, kind of, the physical oceanographic information that we need to have as part of this process, and Bernward will get into more detail with that when he presents a slide.

So, right now I'll introduce the cooperating agency partners. We have two types, they're cooperating agencies, and they've agreed to be a cooperating agency, and then we have coordinating agencies. It's EPA Regions 1 and 2, New York DOS, New York DEC, Connecticut DEEP, Connecticut DOT who is also funding the project, Rhode Island CRMC and the Army Corps of Engineers of the New York District and the New England District, as well as NOAA and the United States Coast Guard.

Coordinating agencies, which means that we send all of the information to them but we don't have to commit to come to the meetings but they are part of the process, which includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Navy. Finally, additional coordination is going to continue throughout the process with Tribes and State Historic Preservation Officers. Right now, we solicited the Tribes and SHPOs to be part of our cooperating agency partnership, and they have not agreed to do that. So, we're going to continue to coordinate with them separately.

Next, and this was presented at the last public meeting, our schedule, our estimated schedule right now is to have a draft Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement by December 2014, followed by a final SEIS by December 2015. That assumes that in the Environmental Impact Statement, we recommend that one or more sites be designated. If that is the case all final rule making and the final Environmental Impact Statement would be completed by December 2016.

The next slide lists the process. So, initially when we had our original Scoping Meetings we discussed what the process would cover, so that's the scoping. We've already determined what the Zone of Siting Feasibility was going to be. We determined to incorporate some of Block Island Sound so that we could use the studies and the reports and data collected as part of the DMMP for this effort.

The next step is to identify data needs for existing sites and identify potential other sites and alternatives. Then we get into the site screening, assess data needs, we collect additional data, we narrow down the sites and then we perform an environmental impact analysis. The final result will be a draft Environmental Impact Statement, which will have several

different reports as part of that package.

Right now we are in the screening and identifying data needs and data collection phase. Some of the Dredged Material Management Plan studies that the Army Corps of Engineers have completed, that we would use for this effort, was the Dredging Needs Report, which was completed in October 2009. That determined that 13.5 million cubic yards will be dredged or there is a need to dredge from Eastern Long Island Sound, harbors and channels, over the next twenty-six years, which will go out to 2028.

The other report that we've used to date is the Upland Beneficial Use and Sediment De-watering Reports, which were completed in 2010. There were two separate reports, the first one was in 2009, and this determined that there were very few alternatives to open water disposal in Connecticut and most of those were beaches and very few upland areas. So, we're going to evaluate that as well, using the information that they've provided. The DMMP studies and reports are available on the Army Corps of Engineer's New England District website.

Again, the Zone of Siting Feasibility was selected to incorporate the DMMP studies and it

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goes from Guilford to Mattituck Point, and on the east, it's Block Island to Point Judith, and this includes Block Island Sound. The next slide shows you the active sites. By active we mean are being used but the Cornfield Shoals and New London Disposal Sites are not designated by EPA. They have been selected by the Army Corps of Engineers. That is a distinction, when you look to the east and you see the Rhode Island Region Dredged Material Disposal Site, that has been designated by EPA. So, that has been designated. We went through a similar process as what we're doing here. An Environmental Impact Statement was completed for that.

So, one of the approaches that we use for screening is to consider specific criteria as they are listed in the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act, which we call MPRSA. There are five general criteria and eleven specific criteria, and the screening levels and how we would approach the screening is that we would do an initial screening of areas that are potentially acceptable to serve as a dredged material disposal site. Then we would further evaluate those areas using additional data which could include

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additional field work or may include the GIS layers. It's a combination of as much data as we can get, and then that evaluation screens out different potential sites.

So, I'll quickly -- and this is a very busy slide, but these are the eleven specific criteria. EPA must designate a site so that it meets these criteria. The first is geographic position, depth of water, bathymetry, it must be geographically located with a certain distance from the coast. The second item is that it must be located in relation to habitat and fishery so that it does not interfere with habitat or fisheries. The third item is the same. It must not interfere with beaches, public use areas. So, the location is very important. The fourth item is types and quantities of disposal. We need to consider the feasibility of monitoring and surveillance of the disposal site. We have to consider mixing characteristics and dispersing dredged material including velocities and wind directions. We have to consider number seven, the cumulative effects of a disposal site as well as previous disposal sites and historic discharges. For number eight, we have to make sure it doesn't have any

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conflicting uses, which could be interference with navigation and interference with recreation or fish and shellfish culture, or special purpose areas, or any other areas in the ocean designated to serve another purpose. We have to make sure that there are no conflicting uses. For number nine, we have to look at the ecology and the existing water quality, and then the potential for nuisance species to develop. So, this would be water quality and ecology, and to make sure that there's no interference from new species being brought into the disposal site. The last item, number eleven, is to look at the close proximity of the site to any natural and cultural or historic features. That's when we'll ask the Tribes to give us a consultation. Sometimes there are culturally significant areas that are not documented in the literature, so, we'll ask them for specific review of everything.

The next slide talks about the five general criteria. Again, conflicting uses is number one. We have to minimize interference with other uses. Number two is we need to look at the conditions so that the environmental conditions are not reduced before reaching any shorelines or shellfishery.

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The third is the site use. We need to look at the sites, and if at any time during this process we determine that a site that we previously approved does not meet any of these conditions, that site can be terminated, when an alternate site is designated. Then historically used sites. The EPA, wherever feasible, will try to use a historic site, or historically used site, or if feasible go to the Continental Shelf.

So, part of the discussion today is going to focus on some historic sites, and you will notice in the slides that every site has exactly the same square box. That box does not reflect the dredged material or the use of that site. It was just a way to visually interpret it for you. Each historic site has a different type of disposal, has a different volume of disposal and the Army Corps of Engineers is going to continue to compile that data for us.

I'm going to hand it off to Bernward now, who is going to discuss some of the slides and some of the GIS data that we have collected. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Thanks Jean. So, as Jean mentioned, I'll be going over some of the data

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that we've been collecting over the last several months and since last year, actually.

Please note that this is work in progress. Again, the idea is to narrow down the areas that ultimately would have an area for potential designation of a site. So, on the next slide you see a number of examples of the types of data that we have been collecting. These data have been entered into the GIS if that's possible. There will also be data that can not be entered directly into the GIS. What we are going to show today are the data that have been entered into the GIS for screening purposes. There are three groups of data that I would like to present. The first cluster of data would be used for site screening. This is a Sedimentary Environment. The second cluster is Areas of Conflicting Uses, and the third is Biological Resources. In those individual clusters is bathymetry, for sedimentary environment, bathymetry, currents and waves which affect the bottom stress, and we'll get back to that term a little bit later. There is sediment texture, which is grain size, which affects the resuspension potential, as well as the habitat of the environment.

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Can you all see the screen on the left, to the left of me? I have a one pointer that I'm going to use on that screen here. I hope you all can see that.

The second cluster is Areas of Conflicting Uses and we have infrastructure, such as cables and pipelines, navigation such as shipping lanes, and anchoring areas. Then there's recreation in the waters. We have recreation areas that have been identified. There's also recreational navigation. Then there are conservation areas and that's a broad term that covers a wide variety of features such as sanctuaries, refuges, National Seashores, parks, artificial reefs, etc. The last one here is cultural and archeological resources.

The third cluster is Biological Resources such as shellfish beds, benthic community, fish habitat, fish concentration, fishing areas and lastly, breeding and spawning, nursery, and feeding habitat in the project area.

This is a reminder for what Jean just mentioned. This slide shows the active disposal sites as well as the historic disposal sites in the Zone of Siting Feasibility outlined with a black line, going from about Guilford to about

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Mattituck, Montauk, Block Island and up to Point Judith.

This entire area here is in our Zone of Siting Feasibility. Again, these locations show historic sites, which include the Clinton Harbor Disposal Site, Six Mile Reef Disposal Site, Orient Point Disposal Site. Then we have the Niantic Bay Disposal Site in this location. There are two disposal sites in Fishers Island Sound, and we have the Block Island Sound Disposal Site over here. The two red ones, again, are the two active sites, the New London Disposal Site, as well as the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site in this location.

So, I'd like to show a few slides for each of those clusters that I've mentioned before. The first one is the sedimentary environment. Shown here is the bathymetry of the Zone of Siting Feasibility; again on all slides it is outlined by these black lines on the side. We also show on all of these slides the State boundaries, crossing the Long Island Sound here, and crossing Block Island Sound over here.

In addition all of these slides will have the historic and active disposal sites marked with either a solid box or a dashed box, like in

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this case; here is the historic Clinton Harbor Disposal Site with a dashed box and there's the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site.

So, basically what you see here is a brief definition of our project area. You see a fairly uniform water depth in Block Island Sound. You see a variety of water depths in Eastern Long Island Sound, marked by more purplish colors. This area here is the Race, where faster tidal currents result in some erosion in this area, resulting in deepening in essence, creating the bathymetry that you see in this location here.

The line here, this line here is an eighteen meter contour line, and everything between this line and land is shallower than eighteen meters. We'll come back to that water depth a little bit later.

This is a close-up of the Eastern Long Island Sound. The data that I showed you before are based on NOAA data that were collected and have been modified by a firm called DAMOSVision, who provided that image that you saw. Shown here are very high resolution data that NOAA and the US Geological Survey have been collecting. They are called multibeam data. These provide a tremendous wealth of information with regards to details

on the morphology of the substrate, and the features that you can see in different locations. You can't quite see it here but if you go further into the details of this data, you see things like sand waves and things like shipwrecks in fine detail. This is going to be a useful tool for us in the site screening process.

At this point the data have been processed, as you can see here, for the Eastern Long Island Sound. Also data are available for the Block Island Sound; those data are still being processed by the USGS, and NOAA and those should be available at some point as well for us to use in the screening process.

This slide shows tidally-driven bottom stress. Basically, sediment responds to forces acting on the ocean floor. If you have high forces, logically you get resuspension of sediment that is being transported for a certain distance. So, a tidally-driven bottom stress is basically the force acting on the sediment, and it is a function of current speed as well as the roughness of the sediment on the ocean floor. What you see here is based on model results. There's not a lot of data available. There is some data available, but in essence additional data are needed.

What you can see in different colors here are areas, like the Race, with more yellowish colors, indicating greater bottom stress, and that's a function of the faster current that exists in this location here. You can also see some areas in the central part of the Eastern Long Island Sound that also have slightly elevated bottom stress values, relative to, let's say, Block Island Sound or this part of Eastern Long Island Sound.

So, in order to address the missing information that we need to have in order to conduct the site screening and then also the investigation for this project, we have initiated a physical oceanography study. You can see here super-imposed on the slide with the historic and active sites, you can see instrument buoy locations. Those have been deployed at this point by the University of Connecticut, and it's a study that will go on throughout the year. The instruments are in the water and there's going to be a second phase of this study later on in the fall to capture the meteorological conditions that exist in the winter time.

A total of eleven buoys, each of these instrument buoys have a variety of instruments

and each of those instruments provide a variety of parameters that would ultimately be used to conduct the modeling to give us bottom stress information that is based on actual data.

So, the next cluster of screening criteria I'd like to talk about is Areas of Conflicting Uses. I'll show you where we are up to this point. The first slide shows cables and pipelines that exist in the Zone of Siting Feasibility. Marked yellow are pipelines. I'm sorry. are cables like this cable here and these cables here, or cable corridors, within which there are cables located as well.

The broader areas like this one here and this one here, again, these are corridors that contain cables. There are only very few pipelines in the project area. In fact, you can see one in this little corner. If you can't see that there; same over here. So, in other words, there aren't really any pipelines that we need to be concerned about in this project, in the project area.

The next slide shows commercial vessel traffic. This is based on US Coast Guard data that has a Nationwide automated, Automatic Identification system database. In essence,

the features in orange, in darker orange, indicate areas of higher vessel traffic and again, the lighter it becomes, the less traffic there is. What you see here is a lot of traffic going east to west and some traffic going into the harbors, in mostly Connecticut but also in New York, at Orient Point mostly. Superimposed on that are also the ferry lines, like the Orient Point Ferry, as well as ferries that go over to Block Island and so on.

One more comment here, you can also see anchoring areas, like this anchoring area here, which is west of the Niantic Bay Disposal Site. There's an anchoring area down here in Block Island Sound, and finally there's a navigation corridor that this little sliver over here, that has been identified by NOAA and on their charts.

The next slide shows recreation and also shows recreational navigation. You can see that compared to the previous slide, most of the navigation or recreational navigation is close to the shore, and in the embayments, which makes sense -- people go out fishing and so on. The data are based on a 2012 Northeast Recreational Boater Survey, that was conducted by SeaPlan and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council in partnership with State coastal

management programs and State marine trades associations in the Northeast.

Also, in this slide you can see public beaches with these red circles. Those were beaches that were identified in the Dredged Material Management Plan that was prepared a number of years ago. These are public beaches. Not all of them are private beaches.

This slide shows conservation areas. As I mentioned before, it captures a number of different areas. It includes sanctuaries, seashores, parks and artificial reefs, etc. This is where we are at this point. There's additional data that's available that we still are trying to obtain that will be added to this slide, but what we have here at this point is this, is we have NOAA data on reefs, shoals, as well as deep sea coral sites that have been identified by NOAA. Those are the ones in orange circles or squares, reefs or rocks. Then you can see these two sites here which have been identified by NOAA as deep sea coral sites.

We also have information from a database in New York for cultural and significant natural features. We have boundaries of the

Waterfront Revitalization Program in New York. It's a very busy slide, I apologize. You can see it, perhaps, on your handouts. Again, these outlines here represent the boundaries for the local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

We have information of migratory waterfowl data. We have natural diversity areas identified in Connecticut, as well as preserves and refuges. Just one quick note. Most of these conservation areas are really close to shore, so it would be less than eighteen meters which is a number I will get back to in a second.

The next slide shows what we have available so far for archaeological and cultural resources. Those are data based on NOAA's database. It includes in black triangles, it includes shipwrecks. It includes, as red circles, includes other obstructions most likely rocks or similar kind of features. So, for example, if you look at the Clinton Harbor Disposal Site here, a historic site, it has two shipwrecks in there, and there are two obstructions in red circles and those will be features if we were to go into this area, we would want to take a closer look at it.

The next cluster of criteria pertains to biological resources. The first slide here consists of a number of different biological resources. Shown in purple are shellfish beds. You can see the shellfish beds here along the coast of Connecticut. You can also see shellfish beds in Peconic Bay in New York.

Some information that we've been gathering for this part of the shoreline here, has not been added yet. This includes, by the way, not just shellfish beds that occur naturally but also includes aquaculture beds which exist. Quite a few exist, from what I can understand, in Peconic Bay.

In addition it includes zoning and regulations. Specifically for Connecticut you see a green zone here. That's a zone that's approved zone for shellfishing. You see a yellowish zone here. That's a conditionally approved shellfish -- restricted shellfishing zone and then you see this zone here that's a conditionally restricted shellfishing area. So, there are a number of different zones in the project area with regard to shellfishing. Again, we have some additional information here for the northern part of Connecticut that we are integrating into this database that's

not on that map yet. Shellfishing around Plum Island, for example, has not been approved. Shellfishing is also not approved in these two areas which are the active disposal sites.

Okay. With that, just to give you an idea of how we ultimately screen the project area for potential sites. We basically overlay that information and find out which areas remain that could be suitable sites. What you see here as black, these zones that are black basically have water depths that are shallower than eighteen meters. Eighteen meters has been used in Western Long Island Sound and Central Long Island Sound. EIS as a screening depth. It was basically chosen as -- there's a minimum navigation depth that needs to be kept in mind for vessels, commercial vessels mostly. In addition, shallow sites are more susceptible potentially than deeper sites, depending on the exposure to waves and wind, and more susceptible to resuspension of sediment.

So, for the EIS in the Central and Western Long Island Sound, a depth of eighteen meter was chosen as a zone to screen out. So, if you superimpose that zone onto the Zone of Siting

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Feasibility, again, the black area is what you end up with as the zone that is screened out.

Incidentally, and I mentioned that before many of the coastal resources, conservation areas and shellfish beds, for that matter, happen to be within that zone. What you also see on this particular example of an overlay, you see the shellfish zones, like this zone here, is the approved shellfishing area for Connecticut, so you would not want to consider that as a potential siting area. You see also cables overlaying here as well. Again, that's just one example of how we can later on synthesize the data.

An additional factor to keep in mind in the siting process are economic considerations. What you see here are the dredging centers in Connecticut and in New York, as well as Rhode Island. These data were obtained from the DMMP Report on Dredging Needs from 2009 and reflect the dredging needs for the next twenty years, starting in 2009. The largest circles reflect greater needs. So, this is a large circle. Smaller circles reflect smaller needs. In other words, the smaller circles are proportional to the needs by the individual dredging centers. So, we can

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take a closer look at what are Federal and Non-Federal projects by taking a look at the different colors. What is important for this purpose is, again, the size of the circles determines the amount of the material that would ultimately need to be dredged, or is anticipated to be dredged over the next twenty years.

So, again I mentioned that this matters as well. We have an example here of what kind of distances you have from the individual dredging centers. Specifically, in this case we used the Connecticut River dredging center, which is right about here, and measured the distances to existing disposal options. Those would be the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site, located here. The distance would be forty-five miles. The second example would be -- Again, this would be this distance here. The second location is the New London Disposal Site, and the distance to the site would be twelve miles. Cornfield Shoals Site, that would be five miles. The Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site, which is not shown, it would be about here, is about twenty-six miles and if, as Jeannie mentioned, if you go out to beyond the edge of the Continental Shelf, beyond the two hundred meter contour line,

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basically going south, way down to the carpet here basically, the distance would be about seventy-five miles.

So, that's important. It also is important from an environmental point of view because the longer the travel distance is, the greater the chance that you have an accident and that you have what they call in the business short dumps, which means the barge can accidentally release material, get stuck in waves and storms, and so on. Again, that's a consideration to keep in mind as well in the screening process.

Based on the information that we have collected here so far, and also keeping in mind that there's a preference by EPA to use active and historic disposal sites as preferred sites, areas that are potential sites that have been shown here -- Actually areas that have been identified for further investigation have been shown here with those circles, and EPA will prioritize the data collection at those sites.

With that, I'd like to have Jean say a few more words about the next steps and where we go from here.

MS. BROCHI: I just make another note on

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historic sites. As the Army Corps of Engineers compiles more information, and we find out more about those historic events, some of those historic sites will fall off the list. Right now we're including anything that could potentially have been a historic site.

So, for the next steps EPA will continue to collect data. We're going to look at our information we have, fill in any remaining data gaps. We will start the assessment on safety and economic issues, continue habitat, which we need a lot of information on. We're going to continue to collect new data for the priority sites, which include sediment, biological resources, and in addition to that we're going to start looking at the preliminary data for the physical oceanographic study. We're going to continue to have meetings. We're going to have another cooperating agency meeting in the fall, and probably another public meeting, a set of public meetings, in the winter.

So, the objective today was to provide this information to you, especially the GIS data. We continue to have a need for New York data. It seems that it hasn't been electronically

available so Jen Street and the folks at New York DOS have been very helpful providing us with information on that.

We wanted to get your feedback on the process and any comments that you have that you'd like to share, again. There isn't an official comment period but if you have any comments on what was presented so far or the process we'd appreciate it. I also encourage you, the cooperating agency members are in this room and you have State Representatives as well as Federal. So, if at any time during this process you have comments or questions, you can also go to your State and Federal Reps. Thank you.

MR. HAY: So, let's open the floor. Again, as I mentioned before, if you could identify yourself by name and any affiliation that you may have so that we can enter that in the record, that would be good. Any questions? Would you mind coming up?

MS. ANKER: Sarah Anker, Suffolk County Legislator, Sixth District. My question, I guess, to you is this, the spoils are coming from Connecticut and Long Island or just Connecticut?

MR. HAY: They are coming from

Connecticut and potentially from the area.

MS. ANKER: Okay. Are they toxic material? Have they been analyzed for both radioactive waste and, you know, toxic substance chemicals?

MR. HAY: Jeannie?

MR. BROCHI: So, as part of the regulatory process dredge permits and dredged material that's proposed to be dredged and disposed goes through testing criteria and a screening criteria as well as sampling plan, bioaccumulation, chemistry. So, all of it has to meet certain conditions before it can even be disposed in the ocean, which would not be toxic. It would not contain radioactive material. If we test it and it meets that criteria it belongs in another program and it becomes a different part of the review process.

MS. ANKER: So, if it doesn't meet the standard for non-toxic material, you said there was a different program. What's that program and is it the EPA that remediates it or is it the State DEC?

MS. BROCHI: It would be the EPA and the Corps of Engineers and if there's material found to

be hazardous material, hazardous waste, it would be one of the considerations. If it was radioactive material, it would go to a Superfund/CERCLA upland type of a review. It would not go into the ocean.

MS. ANKER: If anyone has questions while I'm up here. Could that dredged material be recycled if it's not toxic and since so much sand is being taken off Long Island, to make cement and to make other types of materials, can that sand or dredged material be recycled?

MS. BROCHI: I'm going to let Mark speak to that, but yes, what we consider recycling of sand is beneficial use. There are several different types of treatments that they use on the sand to make it readily available for commercial use. This is Mark Habel from the Army Corps of Engineers.

MR. HABEL: Mark Habel from the New England District Corps of Engineers. The New England District handles dredging in Rhode Island and Connecticut. The New York District handles dredging in New York and parts of New Jersey. When we look at dredging projects, we first have to look and see if there's a beneficial use for that dredged material. If it's sand,

certainly, and there are adjacent or nearby beaches that the owners or the Town or State that runs those beaches want that material on the beach, certainly we look to put it there first.

We don't always bear the full additional cost of placing that material on the beach. But usually, if there's a need, money from both the Federal, State and local governments make sure that that sand gets used on the beach. If it's not sand, and it's still not toxic, before we can place it in ocean we have to look at practicable alternatives. Can we build marshes with it? Are there other needs upland for landscaping material, we can process the material. We'll look to do those things. If none of those opportunities exist, then we look at putting it in the ocean.

MS. ANKER: How is this different than the dredge dumping issue that we had, probably, about seven years ago? Maureen, wasn't it about seven years ago when we did the dredge dumping?

MS. DOLAN-MURPHY: 2005 the agreement was signed between New York and Connecticut, and the intent of that agreement was to stop the dumping of dredged material in the Long Island Sound. This whole process is very frustrating.

MS. ANKER: So, how is this different than what was happening in 2005? Is the dredged material not toxic, because I thought it was pretty toxic in 2005.

MR. HABEL: No, it wasn't. Back in 2005 and even long before, the testing regimen that the EPA oversees and the Corps goes through was followed. It has been many decades since anything that failed chemical and biological testing was allowed to go in the water.

MS. BROCHI: I guess I'll add to that. The 2005 agreement that you're talking about is what I referred to earlier, where the EPA proposed to select a designation of a disposal site and the agreement was that we would reduce or eliminate disposal in Long Island Sound. That is part of the effort, which is the Dredged Material Management Plan that all of the agencies are involved in and continue to. That is on-going.

MS. ANKER: So, again, there will be no, if not very little environmental effect with this dredged material being dumped, being disposed of in the areas that you designated?

MS. BROCHI: That's a great point and I did not capture that earlier. So, this process

from an EPA standpoint is to designate a disposal-- or look at the potential to designate a site. It does not authorize dredged material disposal. That happens separately through permitting. So, the sites that are currently active that have not been designated would not receive dredged material, but the sites that continue to be used Cornfield and New London, will continue until they close in 2016.

MS. ANKER: Those waters, are they part of Long Island or are they Connecticut?

MS. BROCHI: They are in Connecticut waters of Long Island Sound. They are on the Connecticut side. There are on both -- corner.

MS. ANKER: Can you change that and just have it on the Connecticut side? Honestly, it will not make a difference because Long Island Sound is Long Island Sound. We share whatever goes in there. I have personal concern as well as some of the people here today that the dredged spoils may not be safe for the Long Island Sound and we have a, now bear with me, I believe it's a 4 billion dollar tourist, not tourist, but economic impact to Long Island. Excuse me?

MS. DOLAN-MURPHY: It's 8.5 billion.

MS. ANKER: I knew it was billions, but I was a little off. We have to protect that because it's a huge part of Long Island. I'm going to let you answer that but please I encourage more people to come talk.

MS. BROCHI: And so the question is, will this process affect that?

MS. ANKER: Yes.

MS. BROCHI: One of the things that we consider in the impact statement is the economics which in this case would include New York and Connecticut. It's the economics of marinas and folks that need to dredge, and the need for safety of navigation channels as well as economics of the towns and any effects of that. That's why it's an Environmental Impact Statement. We will consider the impact of all of these aspects. Any other questions?

MR. HAY: Yes, there's one question here. Could you identify yourself and maybe come to the front too so everybody can hear.

MS. BROCHI: If you don't mind.

MR. HAY: If you don't mind.

MS. DOLAN-MURPHY: Maureen Dolan-Murphy

at Citizens Campaign for the Environment. I do find this process frustrating because in 2005 that agreement was signed, and the intent of that agreement was to stop open water disposal, yet here we are again today looking at open disposal as our answer. The Army Corps of Engineers was supposed to come up with a Dredged Materials Management Plan. That plan still has not been released.

So, we're supposed to be looking at beneficial re-use of dredged material, yet we're moving forward with this process before the Army Corps is finished with their process. So, where is the Army Corps process? When is that document coming out and how is that going to be incorporated in the EIS? When are we going to start getting real about beneficial reuse and stop looking at dumping as the answer?

MR. BROCHI: I'll take the first part of that and then I'll pass it on to Mark. So, thank you. One of the aspects of the Environmental Impact Statement is to look at cumulative effects, and so part of this effort is going to be to investigate the active sites. In addition to what's normally monitored by the

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Corps of Engineers through the DAMOS Program, we're going to look at the cumulative effects, if there are any, at the sites.

In addition to that, because of this agreement and the goal to reduce or eliminate open water disposal, the agencies have come together and made a lot of progress looking at alternatives and looking at upland disposal and we're going to figure out a way for the States to come together and find alternatives to open water disposal and that's an on-going process. We are a lot further ahead then we were in 2005 looking at that as part of this agreement.

I'll let Mark talk about the DMMP specifically but these studies being conducted for the DMMP, are going to be used in the SEIS and help inform that process.

MR. HABEL: Thank you, Jean. The Dredged Material Management Plan is on-going. We have completed all of our alternative site identification. We have completed all of our dredging needs analysis. In other words, where's the dredged material coming from? What it's likely quality is, over what time line? Does it need to be dredged and is something found to do

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with it?

We are in the process of developing the screening process that will match that stream of dredged material with the available disposal alternatives, whether they are in water or not in water. We are doing that through the Long Island Sound DMMP Working Group, of which Citizens Campaign is a participant. We've been through the first phases of what the various groups involved in the working group think of, the different resources that might be impacted. The next step as I said is to take all of that information, including cost information, and put it against trying to match harbor sources to disposal opportunities. The bias will be towards beneficial use. However, beneficial use is not free. People have to be willing to pay for it. So, cost will be a practicality issue as well as things that go into costs, like haul distances, types of equipment that are available, whether or not different treatment technologies have advanced at this point to be practicable from a cost standpoint. There's a lot of work on-going in New York and New Jersey Harbor, looking at those and we'll draw on those

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experiences as well.

We expect that a draft of the DMMP will be available sometime the first quarter of calendar year 2015, or perhaps as early as late in the last quarter of calendar year 2014. That's our time line and Citizens Campaign is a participant in the working group. You'll see it go through each step of the process.

MS. BROCHI: I have two more things, quickly, just to add to that. So, again, I want to reiterate that the Environmental Impact Statement is a study. This is going to be a study for a few years. We're looking at the impact of designated disposal sites. So, yes, everything that is mentioned here, we're going to investigate.

So, it does not authorize disposal. It does not mean that disposal will occur. It means that we're going to investigate everything including alternatives. Another point is any material that is going out to disposal sites right now, is non-toxic. It's considered -- it's scrutinized under our criteria, under our testing, and it has to meet both the Corps of Engineers, and the EPA and the State approval process.

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One benefit of this effort, that I want to just point out to everybody is that the data that we're collecting, whether it's GIS data or whether it's fisheries data, is going to be available to all of the States to use, and it's information that we don't have. This physical oceanographic study is going to provide us with so much information for the Sound overall, which means that the Estuary Program, Long Island Sound Estuary Program could use that information. This information will be available for programs and other states to use.

MR. HAY: Question from the back?

MR. KRUPSKI: Al Krupski, Suffolk County Legislator. The question is, we talked about all the data and everything and you're going to have more meetings in the fall, but how do you get the data out to people? First of all, how do you collect it because if you're collecting it for a very narrow range, that's what you're going to analyze. That's what you're going to put in the report. That's all you're going to distribute and people are going to believe that's all there is. So, how do you -- you know, specifically one thing, Suffolk County has a

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leasing program for aquaculture, and that's not mentioned in there. If you can contact Suffolk County Planning I think they'd be happy to give you more information about that.

How do you get the information out so that when we have a meeting in the fall people can review it beforehand? It's good to get this out at the meeting, but it's hard for people to actually review it and then comment on it.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you. So, part of the process is to solicit information and any data that anybody has or if you know that there's information that we haven't addressed, this is one way to do it, in a public venue. Once we have the data, and right now we're still working through the GIS layers because if the data exists but it's not compiled into a web-based format, or into a GIS format, we wouldn't have access to it. So, we're conducting multiple types of data retrieval right now, literature search, GIS information search, any field work that's out there that hasn't been processed, but is data that the agencies know exists, and something like the Connecticut DEEP fisheries information. They're in the field right now collecting data.

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That data is not available but we know they're in the field so as soon as they provide that information we'll include it.

As far as providing this information we're going to go through the cooperating agencies, hoping to have a late mid-summer, I would say end of July, several cooperating agency meetings and they can help us get the word out. We also have a really big email distribution list. So, if you're not on it, please let me know and we'll add you to it. We will be sending information on that. Any of the presentations that we make will be published on the EPA website as well.

So, we will give you notice before the next public meeting and ask for input before the fall. So, if the meeting is going to be in November, we'll start asking people for comments, probably, in the beginning of October, I would say. Those dates are subject to change, but we will definitely do that. Thank you very much. Did we address everybody's comments before we take anymore.

MR. GRAVES: Anthony Graves from the Town of Brookhaven. A couple of comments. We are into biological resources, I didn't see Colonial

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Waterbirds listed. So, there's a very important Colonial Waterbird colony on Little Gull Island. You probably have it in your database but they are a Federally listed endangered species breeding there.

Then I would request a review of the watersheds that are contributing to the areas to be dredged to see how sediment influx into the watershed can be minimized over a larger program so that dredging in future years, the need for dredging is minimized.

Then I wondered if in the beneficial use studies you would look at coastal resiliency, increased sea level rise and resiliency to storms, so that might affect your cost calculations in terms of beneficial reuse, if it is looked at for those kinds of projects.

The last thing I have was the request to make the 2004 communications where the New York State Department of State objected, and there were negotiations and an agreement for the past dredging to be incorporated into the EIS so that people reading the EIS can be familiar with those negotiations that occurred previously.

MR. HAY: Thank you for your comments.

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The first comment that you made about the Colonial Waterbirds, we'll take a look at that as well, and incorporate that as well.

MR. GRAVES: I'm sorry, I meant to say also, marine mammal concentrations. There are increasing seal concentrations on Plum Island in particular, but also around Great Gull and Little Gull.

MR. HAY: We'll take a note of that as well. We will definitely look into marine mammals as well in the EIS process. I'll leave it to Jean for the other comments.

MS. BROCHI: As far as the threatened and endangered species, that's another aspect of this effort that we'll go into greater detail. So, there will be a lot more slides provided on threatened, endangered species. We go through the process called a biological opinion. So, these are really preliminary slides right now, the best available data so it does not include birds or mammals, but we will consider that.

As far as climate change and sea rise, we will be looking at some of that through the aspects of the physical oceanography study. When we model, we'll take that data and we'll be modeling some scenarios.

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We'll include that information. We certainly could respond to the objection, or to have some of that agreement information available through this process. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Yes, sir?

MR. McGREEVY: I'm John McGreevy, Mattituck. Although you describe that, we went through all of this in 2005, a public meeting in 2005. I sent documentation in 2005 and now we're reviewing it again. I've been on the beach in Mattituck for sixty plus years. Empirically speaking, anything that goes in the water in Connecticut winds up on Long Island beaches. It looks like you have very little data from the New York area. There are no weather buoys on the Long Island Sound on the eastern side. They're all over in Connecticut.

When they did the Section 111 study for Mattituck Inlet, they had to use buoys off New Haven. So, the other side of the Sound, and everything is changed. So, I think they have to collect more data from the Long Island side of the Sound. It's an estuary. It's not the ocean. The best place to dump this is off the Continental Shelf, if at all. Thank you.

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MR. HAY: Thank you. We have the physical oceanographic study that's going on basically provide the data that goes into a model, and the model will cover the entire project area including the Long Island Sound coastal areas. So, the station locations, again, are designed to provide input to that model for the whole area. We're going to make a note of that and make sure you also get all the information for the Long Island side of the Sound incorporated into this process as well.

MS. McGREEVY: I wanted to ask one question.

MR. HAY: Would you mind stating your name, please?

MS. McGREEVY: Doris McGreevy, Mattituck.

MR. HAY: Thank you.

MS. McGREEVY: Long Island Sound, if you're talking Long Island Sound, do we have a guarantee that the materials, even though you say are non-toxic, if they were non-toxic, do we have a guarantee that they are non-carcinogenic? Because Long Islanders have higher than normal amounts of cancers in the population in that area. I am most concerned with the words, non-toxic. Is it non-toxic to fish? What about

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food? What about human population that bathes in it and enjoys the waterways and things like that? As was noted, it is a tourist destination. There are a lot of people there. Can you explain a little more about the carcinogenic effects, if at all, when you say non-toxic?

MR. HAY: There's a pretty rigorous testing program that that material has to undergo and I'd like to have Jean or Doug Pabst from EPA Region 2 talk about that. Doug?

MR. PABST: Right now we're focused on the site designation or the environmental review process of the site receiving the material. Actually maybe this is something that we'll do during the next series of meetings is incorporate more of the testing process. We do a human risk, non-cancer and cancer risk assessment on the material based on consumption, based on ecology and organisms that may be eating material from the dredged material, worms, things like that, and as it goes up the food chain. That's all documented in each particular decision that's made by the Corps of Engineers to let that material go out to the site.

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It's a two-step process. This is the first step of the process as we look at the site to see whether it meets the various criteria and guidelines to receive the material. Then there's a whole other public review process everytime somebody wants to use that site. Those kinds of questions are asked as part of that process. A public notice is issued, and our record and our decision on that material is available for each particular project we've done.

We can send you a copy of our risk assessment that we do as an example, if you're interested you can give your name and address and we can send that. It walks through all of the assumptions that are made to come up with that answer that you're asking for as to how did we make that decision.

If you want to look at that you can read through and kind of see how we come to the conclusion it will not cause any of the things that you're concerned about. That might be the best way to handle that. It's very rigorous. I think that was a word that was used. There are a lot of assumptions that are in there in order to make sure that we're keeping ourselves

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on the right side of it, where we don't have certainty in some of the decision process. It's probably something that we maybe need to do a little bit more of as we get closer into this process so people understand what kinds of decisions are being made when we make the decisions. Thank you for your comments.

MR. HAY: Any additional questions? Yes?

MS. McAULEY-KAICHER: Meg McAuley-Kaicher, Greenwich, Connecticut. Just a comment. Just to say that I hope that we will have less need for moving the dredged material offsite and dumping it and that I appreciate the fact that the Army Corps of Engineers has been very comprehensive in its process and is really is looking at different ways to remediate the silt material and hopefully we will continue to figure out better ways, with the new technologies, to use that material to replenish our coastal assets rather than dumping it offshore.

MR. HAY: Thank you for your comment.

MR. LEONARD: My name is Dan Leonard, and I'm just a citizen. I have a couple of questions. One, these dump sites would be used by the Corps of

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Engineers or by the dredgers also? Number two, who does the testing of this material? Does the EPA do the testing or private lab? Because I remember back on 9/11, sitting in front of a television and people saying, our US Government saying, that when those buildings came down, that air was fine. It was okay to breathe. We found out later it wasn't.

Is there going to be rigorous testing of that material that is coming out of the water so that twenty years from now we find out that it really is toxic?

MR. HAY: I'm going to have Jeanie answer the first question. The testing, as I mentioned, again, is rigorous. There are regulations that specify on how it needs to be tested. Labs that do perform the testing have to be certified by State and Federal agencies. Jean, do you want to comment?

MS. BROCHI: Sure. As far as who disposes at disposal sites, it would be Federal, Non-Federal, and as far as who does the testing it's private labs. As part of the process an applicant will propose dredged material disposal through the Army Corps of Engineers' Dredge and

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Fill Permit and EPA would review that, and the Army Corps of Engineers would review that in addition to the States, wherever the disposal and the dredging would occur.

As far as the 9/11. I can't speak to that but it's a strict screening process that we go through and material has to be deemed suitable before it can be disposed at a disposal site. One other thing, and I mentioned it earlier, when EPA designates a Dredged Material Disposal Site, we also create what's called a Site Monitoring and Management Plan that's in effect for ten years. That adds another layer of protection and scrutiny to the disposal activity that occurs at that site. Does anyone want to add anything to that?

MR. HABEL: No.

MS. BROCHI: I hope that answered your question.

MR. HAY: Thank you. Yes?

MS. PURNELL: I'm not so good on the public speaking, folks. My name is Marguerite Purnell. Let's see, for twenty years I was with the Fisher's Island Conservancy. I worked on the dredged material and disposal issue as a fifty

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plus year seasonal resident of Fishers Island and I have seen what has transpired over the years. We have tried to cooperate. I'd like to echo Maureen's comment earlier. There is a certain degree of frustration involved in this entire process because for me -- I'm even more frustrated than Maureen because this goes back to 1977 for us, when there was litigation NRDC v. Callaway, a case that was initiated in part by Fishers Island entities, because of the proximity to the New London Dump Site, and the proximity also of the Race and the material that is spread throughout the area, because there is some additional transport out of the site. Even the Army Corps testing, which is done through their DAMOS Program, has indeed indicated that that material does spread outside the site, or they have found it outside the site. Sometimes they can't explain how it got there but it is there.

So, for me, in 1977, the Army Corps was directed to find another site and to stop using the New London Disposal Site. We are almost thirty-five years later we are still in this process and it is still actively used. It was

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supposed to have closed in 2011. There was an Act of Congress -- was necessitated to have it be open for another five years while we undergo this process which should have been completed years ago. So, I echo the frustration. I understand that the agencies are trying to do their job. I would also counter, though, the assertion that contaminated material does not actually end up in the Long Island Sound. Toxicity is something that I think the agencies are probably talking about. Acute toxicity, the materials are looked at in two different ways. Beach flees, amphipods, you know the stuff when you turn over the seaweed and those little things that jump around, those are the critters that are usually used for the toxicity testing, for the acute testing. I believe it's a ninety-six hour test and then there's a ten day bioaccumulation test, which is also done, again, on clams and worms and variants that are low on the food chain. There is indeed bioaccumulation, which does occur through other fish species. It's harder to get a handle on some of the impacts on mammal and bird species because they're usually transiting through the area.

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Also, there are some issues with the DAMOS Study and I understand they're trying to do their monitoring but, you know, they take core samples that they then composite and they blend all of the material together and any kind of hot spots are sort of averaged out and there are some inconsistencies.

So, whether or not contaminated material has made it into Long Island Sound, from my prospective, absolutely. Even the Corps will actually agree to that as there have been cases where they've actually gone in to deposit additional Cap material, which they consider to be clean material to cover areas of what they refer to now as UDM, Unsuitable Dredged Material. Thank you George.

So, I welcome the process. I hope to be able to participate in the future in a meaningful manner, and I'm glad that you will be receiving comments, even though this isn't a formal comment period. I do thank you for presenting information in the interim, and I do echo another gentleman's statement it would be helpful to have this information before we actually have the meeting. You would get a better bang for the

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buck in terms of the comments that we can provide to you. I encourage you to keep the public dialog on-going. I also encourage the 2005 agreement which was looking to reduce or eliminate the open-water disposal in the Sound, because I think that's all of us, we all share that goal. Dredged material could be used as a resource in other ways and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. I've been working at this for an awful long time, since 1977 folks, you know, that's really shameful. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Thank you for your comment.

MS. BROCHI: I was just going to say, for the folks that received a presentation today and if you want to provide comments, it's not just at this meeting, and when you can provide comments. If you have input or you see something on the slide that's missing, feel free to contact anyone of the representatives, specifically me. Doug Pabst in Region 2 would be happy to hear your comments especially now that you have the presentation in front of you. As I stated earlier, we'll send the information out ahead of time so that you can come to the meeting, having already had an opportunity to look at

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this.

MR. HAY: Any additional comments? Yes, sir?

MR. KING: My name is Jim King, Commercial Lobster Fisherman from Mattituck, New York, and also a Southold Town Trustee. It's pretty well documented, there is a high incidence of shell disease in crabs and lobsters around all these dump sites. It's been going on for years.

I think the bottom line here is open water disposal is the cheapest and easiest way to get rid of dredge spoils. That's really running the program. I know core samples can be combined. You can take a hot sample and combine it in another section so it gets the numbers down and doesn't seem as toxic. I think some of these projects could be segmented so the the amount of yardage, so it doesn't trigger a more serious study. There's a lot of game playing and people are very creative when it comes to saving money. That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Thank you. As a scientist, I understand what you're saying. I'm a Marine

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Geologist and one of the important elements in an assessment like that is to make sure that what you analyze is indeed representative of what the site is all about.

So, we'll make sure that we look at the information in a manner that actually reflects the conditions on the site.

MR. PABST: I want to follow up on that. Again, I think a lot of the questions that come up in the process on the testing, how we make our decisions, and how we come up with a number of samples, we'll try to work that in to future presentations so people can really understand. I think there's a lot of myth about how it's done and it's important that we really try to make that point to make sure that people understand how the government looks at these, both the State and Federal Government, before decisions are made.

This particular process is more about the conditions around the site and if such would be able to receive dredged material. Like I said, there are two complete processes. I don't want to let that the other process get lost because we don't get a chance to engage the public in these

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kind of venues and probably should do a better job with that.

As far as the shell disease comment, we've been dealing with shell disease since the 70's trying to figure it out. We can also probably incorporate a little about shell disease into this study, what we learned to date about shell disease and some of the things are going on, not just in Long Island Sound, but there's also a prevalence in the Bight and in some other areas where seeing it as well. I appreciate your comments.

MR. HAY: Thank you. Any additional comments? Yes?

MS. ANKER: I think you're absolutely right. We need more information regarding the effects of the dredged material. I think what would be really good, and again, I know some people in the EPA, we need to know that we're doing the right thing, especially beneficial for Long Island. You know, we need to dredge our harbors, and that's what we need to do. I think there needs to be information about why we are doing this, and what's the benefit for Long Island. Also, what is involved in this and especially dealing with toxic dredge. We were up

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to our ears hearing about the toxic issues with our Long Island Sound in, you know, 2005 and it's disturbing, you know, but we need to get more information, personally, that I feel will give us comfort that what you're doing is the right thing to do. That's what I would like to know. Again, more information, more educational information. How do you clean up toxic dredge? You're saying you do that. What standards does it meet? I know years ago the standard was a full adult. It wasn't a child. So, where is your standard as far as toxic material? We've dealt with a lot of issues here on Long Island pertaining to cancer and disease and we need to feel more comfortable with what you're doing considering we went through it once, and going through it again.

The study here says Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the sites and select a designation. How can we give the input about how we feel about the designation when we don't really understand what are you going to put in those spots? So, you know, what are you going to place in there. So, as far as -- you know, I think for me I need to make sure of what you're doing, or

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you're placing it in the ocean or in the Sound will not have a negative impact for us, especially on our health.

MR. HAY: I appreciate that. It makes sense. Jean do you want to comment?

MS. BROCHI: It sounds like we need a series of public meetings focusing on one aspect. Or webinars. Folks, if you're interested and you're not on the email list, again, sign up for it, but maybe focusing on a different aspect each time whether it's -- what is the permit process for dredged material, what is the testing review process for dredged material and what is the EIS process in a little more detail. We would welcome your input on what topics you'd like to know more about.

MR. PABST: Would people be open to Webinars? Is that something that would be helpful to people, to have some Webinars in advance? I mean, I find them to be pretty useful. You can log on from a home computer and so you can just hear our presentation and at least it will be a good intro into a public dialog on the testing and evaluation, questions you're asking about what kind of weights you're

looking at, age groups, what kind of fish consumption you are looking at, things like that. It's a lot of information. I just want to make sure we get it out in the best way possible.

MS. ANKER: I know that Alan Alda is over at Stony Brook University. He teaches a course on how to communicate scientific information to the public. Keep that in mind when you're communicating with the public. We need to understand what the impact would be on us in our area, and in our environment.

This is great information that you have here today but I think for me, I just want to make sure that my district is safe and Long Island Sound is safe. Like I said, I know, you know, we like that you guys are doing your thing at EPA and I don't know what we'd do without an EPA, but we need to make sure that what you're doing has a positive impact on Long Island and not a negative impact.

MR. HAY: Thank you.

MR. RUSSELL: My name is Scott Russell, and I'm the Supervisor for Southold Town. One of the things, if you talk about going to get the public involved in this process you need

to invite the public to the process. Our first formal notification that this meeting was even taking place was from the New York Department of State yesterday, via email. As a Supervisor for Southold Town, which is certainly an involved agent in this process and who has participated in past hearings, has submitted written comment for your consideration, questions that have yet to be answered, then you need to make sure that we're at the table for this discussion. In the future I would ask that you reach out to all of our agencies, including all elected officials and all representatives from these municipalities be invited to these meetings with far more advance notice than the day before. We actually found out third hand unfortunately from Legislator Krupski but our first formal notification was, like I said, yesterday afternoon from the New York Department of State.

MS. ANKER: We didn't get notified either.

We got notified from a constituent, actually in Legislator Krupski's area.

MS. BROCHI: We have a Congressional Liaison in our office who was coordinating with

folks a week ago.

MR. PABST: We'll take a look at that. That's not acceptable. We definitely need to make sure of that. I'm not quite sure what happened.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you.

MS. ANKER: We have a very active environmental advocacy network, that's how I found out about it. But I knew about it two weeks ago. Again, there is very inconsistent communication. Connecticut has done a really great job in trying to keep us notified but we need to coordinate particularly with this kind of project with New York a lot better.

MR. PABST: Honestly, these venues are great to have a dialog but I think there would be struggle to get to the most people possible and again, looking at webinars and other types of things might be an easier way to reach out to people, and that's something left to take back as a group and talk about these kinds of things. We appreciate that so we can figure out a way.

MS. BROCHI: What we may do is just send out a list, you know, and have you provide

input to that list and if someone we are missing, that would be helpful to us. I would appreciate that.

MR. HAY: Any additional comments? Hearing none. We'll be here until 4:30. If you want to stay longer, feel free. Otherwise we're all set for the moment.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you, again, for taking the time out of your day.

MR. HAY: Thank you for coming and we greatly appreciate the input.

[PUBLIC MEETING WAS CONCLUDED]

[TIME NOTED: 4:30 P.M.]

CERTIFICATION

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)
SS:
STATE OF NEW YORK)

I, CHARMAINE DeROSA, Certified Court Reporter, in the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT, the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes taken in the matter of the PUBLIC MEETING, on this 25TH day of June, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 25th day of June, 2013.

_____
CHARMAINE DeROSA, CSR

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

SS:

STATE OF NEW YORK)

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Charmaine DeRosa

CHARMAINE DeROSA, CSR

Attachment 5

TRANSCRIPTS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS, GROTON, CONNECTICUT JUNE 26, 2013

June 26, 2012 - Avery Point, UCONN, GROTON, CT

Eastern Long Island Sound

Supplemental Environmental

Impact Statement (SEIS SEIS)

Public Meeting

June 26, 2013

By: Sarah J. Miner, LSR #238
BRANDON SMITH REPORTING SERVICE
249 Pearl Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Six Landmark Square, 4th Floor
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MR. HAY: Good afternoon. I think we are ready to start. So welcome to this public meeting. This is the second meeting. We had one yesterday also in Riverhead, New York. Before we start a couple of housekeeping items. The restroom is outside of this room. The men's room is on the left side. And the ladies room I think one floor below.

MS. BROCHI: Straight across from registration.

MR. HAY: Straight across from registration. I hope everybody had a chance to sign in. If you didn't do so, please do so before you leave this afternoon. Also there are handouts that are available of the presentation that is being given today. Please pick up a copy, as well. And finally, please turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate. My name is Bernward Hay. I am an environmental scientist with the Louis Berger Group. We are under contract with the University of Connecticut, which is under contract with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. We have been assisting Connecticut DEEP and EPA with the preparation of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, also abbreviated as SEIS, to evaluate the potential designation of one or more disposal sites for the Eastern Long Island region of Connecticut, New York, and

Page 3

Rhode Island. The EPA is the federal lead agency for this project. The previous meetings, public meetings in November and January, were held to solicit comments on the Notice of Intent. And the comment period ended January 31st, 2013. At each of those meetings we had several individuals comment, and we also received 18 written letters and e-mails with comments.

This meeting here today is an informational meeting, and there is no specific comment period. The information presented today will be made available on the EPA web site. Specifically today's meeting is designed to provide you with an update of the project as a follow-up to the public meetings that we had earlier this year and the end of last year.

We will review the initial screening process that has been conducted. And we will briefly discuss upcoming data collection efforts. If you have any feedback it would be welcome at this point. Ms. Jean Brochi and I will present the updated information about this project for about the next hour until about 3:30. Then after the presentations are completed the floor will be open for comments until 4:30 p.m.

If you wish to speak, please provide your name and your affiliation, and also we ask you to keep

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your comments brief to allow for others to speak, as well. This meeting is recorded by the stenographer, and also will be recorded on an audio device. The transcript of the meeting will be entered into the public record and will be made available to the public on the EPA web site at a later point.

So with this we now move to the presentation. Ms. Jean Brochi is a project manager with the Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit of EPA Region 1, and will now officially open the meeting and will provide a project update.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you, Bernward. Thank you all for coming. As Bernward had mentioned, my presentation is going to be a project update on the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental EIS. Bernward will show you slides and discuss some of the data that we collected through GIS, Geographic Information Systems. And then we will show you some slides and then we will talk about the next steps, and take any comments anyone might have.

So EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have a shared responsibility under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act. Under Section 102, EPA has the authority to designate dredged material disposal sites. And

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under Section 103 the Army Corps of Engineers has the authority to select sites, subject to EPA concurrence. When the Corps selects a site it is more of a temporary selection and it is for two, five-year periods not to exceed a maximum time frame of 10 years. In addition, dredged material disposal at the sites must meet criteria as outlined in the Ocean Dumping Regulations, Parts 220 and 229.

Under the Clean Water Act both EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers has the authority to review permits and approve dredged material disposal permits.

The Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 actually issues the permit for dredged material and is subject to EPA concurrence. Under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, EPA has a veto authority for those dredged material permits.

EPA, as I had mentioned, has the authority to designate ocean dredging material disposal sites for long term use. And we do so using a voluntary NEPA Act. And the NEPA Act allows us to go out to the public and inform the public several times throughout the process as we prepare an EIS, which is an environmental impact statement.

EPA also has the authority to promulgate regulations and criteria from disposal site selection

Page 6

and permitting discharges, as well as review the Army Corps of Engineer dredging projects and permits. And for each site that is designated, EPA will create a site management and monitoring plan. And we will monitor those dredged material disposal sites jointly with the Army Corps of Engineers.

So this is a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement focusing only on the eastern side of the Long Island Sound. But back in 2005 EPA started the effort for Long Island Sound dredged material sites and designated the Western Long Island Sound site and the Central Long Island Sound site.

The two sites that are currently being used in Eastern Long Island Sound have been selected by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1990s. And those sites are the Cornfield Shoals site and New London disposal site. And those sites are scheduled to close in December 2016.

A little background on the original EIS that was completed in 2005. In April 2004 EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers recommended designation of the central and west disposal sites and we initiated final rule making. In June 2004 New York DOS objected to that decision, stating it was inconsistent with the Coastal Zone Management Program. And then from September

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2004 through May 2005 all the agencies, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, New York, and Connecticut negotiating the rule making and came up with conditions to the rule making, which included the completion of a regional Dredged Material Management Plan to be completed in 2014. The lead agency for that is the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, we formed a regional dredging team group to review alternatives for projects, alternatives to open water disposal from federal and private projects. And, in addition, EPA now reports annually on dredged material going to the disposal sites in Long Island Sound.

Now, back to the Eastern SEIS or Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. So originally in October, 2012, EPA issued a Notice of Intent that we would pursue the potential for a designation of an open water dredged material disposal site.

And on November 14th we held our first public meeting. And January 9th was our second public meeting. And those public meetings were officially to solicit comments and input on the Notice of Intent. On January 8th, May 20th, and June 18th, we had cooperating agency meetings. And I will discuss who the cooperating agencies are in a minute.

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We are currently and will continue to collect literature and data on Long Island Sound specifically disposal sites.

We initiated in March of 2013 a Physical Oceanographic Study headed by UConn. We continue to screen sites using, as I said before, Geographic Information Systems. And Bernward is going to discuss that, and show you some of those slides. And that is going to continue throughout the process.

Some of our partners include Connecticut DOT, who is a funding organization. As well as EPA's Region 1 and 2; New York DOS; New York DEC; Connecticut DEEP; Rhode Island CRMC; Army Corps of Engineers New York District and New England District; NOAA; and the United States Coast Guard.

Coordinating agencies include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Navy. And then additional coordination will continue with historic preservation officers from all towns and tribes. The distinction between cooperating and coordinating is that the EPA officially requested agencies to join and commit and come to the table for discussions as a cooperating agency. And the two agencies that are coordinating are still going to be at the table, but they are not going to be at the meetings. They are going to be

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informed and contribute that way.

So the EIS schedule right now -- as it stands we expect to have a Draft Supplemental EIS by December 2014. A final by December 2015. And assuming the Environmental Impact Statement recommends the designation of one or more disposal sites we will publish a rule making by December 2016.

This slide may not be as easy to see but this is the EIS process. We initially start with scoping. We create a Zone of Siting Feasibility. We identify alternatives and data needs. We screen sites. We select sites. Assess the data needs. Collect more data. Perform an impact analysis. And produce a report which becomes the Environmental Impact Statement.

Right now we are still in the identifying and screening and assessing data needs and collecting data needs part of this process.

In addition to the environmental, the SEIS process, there is the Dredged Material Management Plan, which I had mentioned earlier. The Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for that. As a result of that effort several studies have been conducted and the reports are being used for this effort. Two of those reports that EPA will be using, includes the

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dredging needs report which was completed in October of 2009. That report stated that 13.5 million cubic yards would need to be dredged from the Eastern Long Island Sound harbors and channels over the next 26 years. And that 26-year time frame is a planning horizon that the Army Corps of Engineers uses in their calculations. And that planning horizon ends in 2028.

The second report the EPA will be using is the Upland, Beneficial Use, and Sediment Dewatering Report. And that was completed in 2009. And the second version of that report was completed in 2010. That determined that there were few alternatives to open water disposal in Connecticut. And most of those were beach nourishment types of projects.

So here, as I mentioned, is the Zone of Siting Feasibility for this effort. It includes Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound. And you can see the line is from Guilford to Montauk. And then Block Island to Point Judith.

This slide shows the active sites. As I said the Cornfield Shoals and the New London Disposal Sites are currently active. They are not designated. That is what this effort is looking at the impacts of doing.

So the active sites, Cornfield and New

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London you can see. Then on this slide we also included the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site. That site is a designated site. The EPA designated that in 2005.

So on the next few slides I am going to discuss the approach to screening. This is the approach to screening for disposal sites. And, again, we do so under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, which is called MPRSA. We use five general criteria, and 11 specific criteria. We initially screen areas that have potential acceptability to be selected as a disposal site. And then we further refine those areas and evaluate them using additional information.

Now, these next two slides are going to be busy. So I am going to go through them and just highlight some of the 11 specific criteria. So the first criterion is really the position of the site to include bathymetric information, geographical, depth of water, location from the coast.

The second item or the second criterion is to look at habitat and the location of the site in relation to breeding or spawning or living resources.

The third criterion is the location of a disposal site in relation to public beaches or areas of public use.

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The fourth is the type of methods of disposal and quantities of disposal.

The fifth is the feasibility of surveillance and monitoring. So as I had said, if we designate a disposal site we will create a site monitoring and management plan and we have to consider the feasibility of being able to manage and monitor that disposal site.

The sixth criterion relates to currents and velocity and dispersion and current direction and the effects of those items on the sediment. And, as I mentioned, Jim O'Donnell is conducting a physical oceanographic study, and we should have some data later this summer. And Bernward will show you some slides related to that.

The seventh criterion is cumulative effects. So we look at long term cumulative effects of disposal discharges.

Number eight is conflicting uses. Is there any interference with navigation or other uses in the ocean?

The ninth criterion is water quality and ecological health.

The tenth criterion is potential for nuisance species to come in.

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And then the eleventh is the proximity of the site to historic or cultural resources.

The five general criteria include conflicting uses. We want to minimize interference with other uses.

Conditions at the site. So we want to survey and make sure environmental conditions are reduced, especially in proximity to beaches, shorelines.

The third is the site use. If at any time during this process an already approved site does not meet any of the criteria, we can terminate that site as long as a suitable option can be designated.

The site size includes us limiting the size of the disposal site so that we can effectively monitor and surveillance of the site.

And then the final criteria is historically used sites. So wherever feasible EPA will try to designate a disposal site either beyond the continental shelf or at areas where sites have been previously used.

And with that Bernward is going to show you some of the GIS information and take you through some of the stats. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Thanks Jeannie.

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So as Jeannie mentioned, this is a work in progress. We are in the middle of screening. There is still a lot more work that needs to be done. We are still actively collecting data. And we are open to receiving any information you have available that is relevant to this process and have already received quite a bit of information from New York and Connecticut and Rhode Island. Thank you for that.

So with that said, I would like to give you a sense of the types of data that we are collecting and also the process that we are undergoing in order to put the data together to ultimately narrow down the field within which potential sites would be designated.

Shown on this slide here is a cluster of different types of screened material, three groups. One is sedimentary environment. Second, areas of conflicting uses. And the third is biological resources. I will have slides that pertain to several of those items underneath those groupings.

Specifically under sedimentary environment we have bathymetry as a criterion. We have currents and waves and bottom stress. And also sediment texture, which is an important criterion which informs sediment resuspension as well as potential habitat issues.

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Under areas of conflicting uses we have infrastructure, such as cables and pipelines, that could interfere.

Navigational issues for commercial shipping such as shipping areas, anchoring areas.

Recreation, there are recreational areas such as beaches, parks, et cetera, as well as recreational navigation.

Then conservation areas, sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, national seashores, parks, artificial reefs, et cetera.

Then the culture and archaeological resources, shipwrecks, et cetera.

The third group is biological resources such as shellfish beds, benthic communities, fish habitats, fish concentrations, and fishing areas. And also a group called breeding, spawning, nursery, feeding, and passage areas.

So, again, a few maps will follow that show some information. First, as Jeannie mentioned, preference is given to active and historic disposal sites. And shown on this figure are the active sites in red. The Cornfield Shoals disposal site. The New London disposal site over here. And historic disposal sites, which include the Clinton Harbor Disposal Site, Six Mile Reef

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Orient Point Disposal Site, two disposal sites in Fisher Island Sound over here. We also have the Niantic Bay Disposal Site. And finally the Block Island Sound Disposal Site. Just a quick note. The boxes around the historic disposal sites generally mean that within those areas that have been identified on the map as disposal sites, it is not necessarily the entire boundary of a disposal site.

A VOICE: Can you repeat what you just said?

MR. HAY: Yes, the boxes around the historic disposal sites, for example, this box here basically means that within that area there has been disposal.

MS. BROCHI: So in terms of representing historic sites on a GIS slide we have identified each historic site in a square box. The reality is the box is not a boundary of a disposal site. In fact, we are still compiling the information. The Army Corps of Engineers is helping us. What we might find is that some of these historic sites will fall off because they don't represent historic disposal. And some of them we might find had one event. So it may be a certain amount of cubic yards that was disposed in 1930 or 1940, but it doesn't represent an entire disposal site or disposal site boundaries. For the purposes of representing it graphically we included all of the

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historic sites to be a square and the exact same square was used.

MR. HAY: So the next graphics show maps that pertain to sedimentary environment. This graphic shows the bathymetry of the area. The data source is NOAA. The NOAA data had been modified by DAMOSVision, which is a consulting firm that modified the NOAA data.

Shown here is the Zone of Siting Feasibility. Outlined by this black boundary here on this side and this side. We have the Block Island Sound area included in that Zone of Siting Feasibility, as well as the Eastern Long Island Sound. In terms of morphological features, there are fairly uniform water depths in Block Island Sound relative to Eastern Long Island Sound where you have more variability, such as the Race, which is deepter here due to currents entering Long Island Sound. And then you have another morphological feature which is Six Mile Reef where you have shallow water depths on the western side of the Eastern Long Island Sound. We have more information available through a survey that was done by NOAA in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey. These are called multibeam bathymetry surveys. They are, in essence, very high resolution data that will be available for this investigation. They allow for detailed analysis of sedimentary features that you might find on the sea floor such as sand waves and scour features. You

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may also be able to see shipwrecks, and those kinds of features as well.

The differences in color in essence mean water depths. Again, this is a bathymetry map. So red means shallow waters. Blue means deep waters. And then the greens and the oranges are water depths in between. Again, this is shallow water. This is the deepest part of the area. Then this is even deeper. This is the Race over here going into Block Island Sound. There is another deep spot over here, which is between Plum Island and Orient Point, another tidal scour feature. As I mentioned on that previous slide, this area over here is Six Mile Reef which is again shallower. Shown on here also are the disposal sites. You can see the active disposal site: New London over here, Cornfield Shoals over here, as well as historic disposal sites outlined by a dashed line.

This image shows tidally-driven bottom stress. Bottom stress is important as it affects resuspension of sediment from a particular site. Bottom stress is, in essence, a function of current velocity, as well as the roughness of the sediment surface. What you can see on this slide are different colors. The lighter blue means lower bottom stress. The yellow and orange means increased bottom stress. As you might expect, the highest

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and those are highest in the Race over here where tidal currents enter Long Island Sound. There is also an area of elevated current speeds and bottom stress northeast of Montauk. This image is based on preliminary model results. There is some data that enter these model results, but again these are preliminary. So given the importance of sedimentary resuspension potential and bottom stress for this investigation, a study has been initiated.

The study is being performed by the University of Connecticut, and instruments are in the water as we speak collecting valuable information. Specifically they are instrument moorings located at sites that are shown here. There is a total of 11 stations shown here with these green spots, covering the entire Zone of Siting Feasibility, both Eastern Long Island Sound, as well as in Block Island Sound. These 11 stations consist of seven instrument mooring stations where instruments are permanently moored for a period of time collecting continuous data, as well as four additional stations where ship surveys will be performed. And instruments will be lowered in the water to collect additional data. These data will be entered into a model, and the bottom stress will be modeled to provide resuspension of sediment in the area.

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The next group of maps pertain to areas of conflicting uses. This map shows the location of cables and pipelines in the Zone of Siting Feasibility. What you see in yellow are existing cables, such as this one here, a whole cluster of cables over here, as well as cable corridors like this cable area here. This is actually not a very wide cable; it is a corridor within which a cable or cables are located. There are additional corridors up there. Some corridors over here. And additional corridors here.

Pipelines are marked in green. As you can see, there are not a lot of pipelines. There is one small pipeline which is outside of the Zone of Siting Feasibility. In other words, there is no pipeline of concern in the Zone of Siting Feasibility for this project.

This image shows the vessel traffic density as well as anchoring areas. This pertains to commercial vessels. The data were collected from the U.S. Coast Guard; they are based on the Nationwide Automatic Identification System Database, also abbreviated as AIS. What you see in the darker orange or darker brown or beige are areas of higher vessel densities, such as this line over here continuing in this area here, and then as it becomes lighter, there is lower vessel density. Mostly the traffic goes

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more or less. There is also some traffic going in and out of ports, as you would expect. Marked here also is what is shown on the north shore is a navigation corridor. Then anchoring areas are shown by this line here in purple. This purple dashed line is an anchoring area. There is an anchoring area west of Niantic Bay, anchoring area north of Montauk, and anchoring areas near Fishers Island.

A VOICE: Is that one year of vessel traffic data or multiple years, which years was it done?

MS. ATAMIAN: It is one year of data. The data was published in 2012, but was a 2009 data set.

MR. HAY: That was Amy Atamian who has had been working with us on the GIS.

The next image shows recreation areas, as well as navigation. Again, in the darker brown you see areas of coastal navigation, smaller boats that, as you might expect, would be close to the shore, for fishing and other recreational purposes. And what you see in green are beaches. Public beaches that is. And these data come from the Dredged Material Management Plan report. Again, showing these beaches are public beaches.

The next slide shows conservation areas and, as I mentioned before, this is a catch-all term for a

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number of different data sources. It includes NOAA data on reefs, shoals, as well as deep coral reef areas. And those features are identified with orange symbols, such as these ones over here. Coral reefs identified with these darker blue symbols. There are only two coral sites currently in the NOAA database. It doesn't mean there aren't additional sites.

In addition, this slide shows culturally significant natural features from the New York database. It also shows boundaries of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for New York. These are boundaries here. This is one example. It shows the migration water fowl data from the Connecticut DEEP, national diversity areas, preserves and refuges.

Again, as I mentioned before, this is work in progress. There is additional data available that we will incorporate here. For example, there is data available for the northern shore of Long Island, which we will incorporate as well. One thing to notice here is that many of those conservation areas are close to shore. So basically within this zone here, and I will come back to that point in a minute, very close to the shoreline.

The next image shows the archaeological and cultural resources. What you can see as black triangles are shipwrecks. For example, this one here, what you see

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as red circles, are other obstructions: rocks or other types of obstructions. So one example here is the Clinton Harbor Disposal Site. Within that historic disposal site you see two shipwrecks and two obstructions. Two black triangles and two red circles. The database for this data set is also NOAA.

The next slide will summarize biological resources that we have so far in GIS format. Specifically shown on this image are shellfish beds. These are the shellfish beds along the Connecticut shoreline. Shellfish beds along the Rhode Island shoreline. Also shellfish beds in Peconic Bay and other parts of Long Island. Some additional information that we are still collecting on the northern shore of Long Island that will also be incorporated. In addition, we show on this image shellfish zoning. So for Connecticut the areas where shellfishing is approved is shown in green. There are also areas where shellfishing is traditionally approved shown in beige colors here. Those are these areas here. And some are traditionally restricted. And others are restricted. There are different kinds of zones that apply to the shoreline of Connecticut. The approved shellfishing areas for Rhode Island are shown in green over here. And this is the Peconic Bay shellfish zoning area. And we are collecting additional

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information for the northern shore of New York, as well, that will be incorporated here. Notice also that the shellfish beds that we have on this map include areas of aquaculture as well. There are two areas, several areas actually where shellfishing has been prohibited. Those are identified in orange over here. And there is also prohibited shellfishing around Plum Island, aside from other areas in Rhode Island and New York.

So just to give you a sense of how the data is ultimately going to be screened, this map shows an overlay of different resources. What you can see in black is what we have been using as a screening layer using a water depth of 18 meters. This Water depth is a function of -- This water depth had been used in the Central and Western Long Island Sound as a screening depth. Specifically it is designed to screen out areas where it might -- where there may be conflicts with navigation because vessels require a certain water depth. There may also may be issues with resuspension of sediment, depending on the size of waves and storm conditions.

So using that same water depth that was used for the Central and Western Long Island Sound EIS gives you this dark layer over here. Everything

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that is in color here shows water depth greater than 18 meters. So superimposed here is also the zone of approved shellfishing over here. Superimposed further are anchorage areas and navigation channels, as well as cable alignments and cable corridors.

This is just an example of how we screen or narrow down the areas that are potentially available for siting of facilities.

So one additional aspect to keep in mind is the economics of dredging. Shown on this graphic here are the dredging needs for the Long Island Sound area based on the dredging needs reports. This projects over a period of several decades. And you can see affected by the size of the circle the volume of sediment that is anticipated to be dredged for the individual dredging centers.

So, for example, the Connecticut River dredging center is located over here, This over here is a much smaller volume that is anticipated, for example, for Montauk. So you can see most of the sediment would be, is anticipated to be dredged from Connecticut. Lower volumes of sediment are anticipated from New York. What we also show on this slide are the distances. This is one example of the distance of two potential disposal sites. We use as an example the dredging center of

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the Connecticut River located over here. So the distance from the Connecticut River dredging center to the Rhode Island Sound disposal site, which is located over here, will be 45 nautical miles. The distance to the New London disposal site located over here from the Connecticut River dredging center is 12 miles. The distance to the Cornfield Shoals site is five miles. The distance to the Central Long Island Sound disposal site located approximately here is 26 nautical miles. And if you go to beyond the edge of the Continental Shelf, in other words, beyond the water depth of about 200 meters, you would be looking at 75 nautical miles.

So, again, this distance has economic implications, but also safety and environmental risks. You have larger waves that you have to travel through with your barges. It increases the risk of an accident and losing your loads because of those kinds of concerns.

So based on the screening so far several areas have been identified in the Eastern Long Island Sound. And the EPA will prioritize data collection at active and historic disposal sites. Those have been identified here with a circle. This again is the slide showing the bathymetry of the area that we looked at before.

With this I would like to pass it back to Jeannie who will talk about the next steps. Thank

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you.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you. So a few points. Again, this is an environmental impact statement and what we have shown you today is the open water assessment. But as part of this effort EPA will also look at alternatives to open water, which even includes no alternatives. So the impacts associated with no disposal site being designated.

So in summary we will continue to assess the sites in more detail. We will continue to review the data that exists online. We will collect additional data. And we will fill in the remaining data gaps as necessary. And, as Bernward mentioned, two areas that we really haven't looked at yet includes the economics and the safety. The slide that Bernward just showed you with the dredging centers, is actually from the DMMP that the Army Corps of Engineers had completed in one of their reports. And they also completed a really great study on economics. So we are going to use some of that information and build on that.

We will collect additional data on sediment, biological resources, and habitat. We are going to start compiling some information on the physical oceanographic study that Jim is in charge of.

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We should be getting some data on that this summer. We will continue to have meetings. We will have some cooperating agency meetings throughout the summer and into the fall. Then we will have another set of public meetings in the winter. We will try to send out the information ahead of time so you have an opportunity to review it before you come to an informational meeting. And one of the main objectives today is to just present the information to you and give you an update of where we are in the process since January, but also to solicit your feedback. And if you have any comments we would be happy to hear them today and consider them. And if you are not -- if you haven't registered and you are not on our e-mail list, please sign up so we can contact you and inform you about future meetings.

And, finally, our cooperating agency representatives are in the room. Feel free to contact EPA directly or if you have any questions or comments or need clarification they are available to assist you, as well. So with that I will open up the floor for comments or questions.

MR. HAY: So, again, if you have a comment please identify yourself by name and affiliation so we can record that as well. So any questions, comments,

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feedback?

MS. FOLSOM-O'KEEFE: My name is Corrine Folsom-O'Keefe. I am program coordinator for Audubon Connecticut. One thing that has been done with dredged spoils in other states is pile it up in one area so it creates an islands. And those islands are actually used by bird species that are declining such as Piping Plover, Least Tern, American Oystercatcher, and other tern species. That might be a poential thing that could be done with uncontaminated dredged spoils. It is something I would like to see considered as the EPA and other organizations continue to go forward in deciding what would be the best solution to dredging these materials and figuring out what to do with them. Also one suggestion that could be done with them, Faulkner Island, the north spit, lost two-thirds of its area. The north spit is this sandy area above sea level most of the time. It lost two-thirds of its area during Hurricane Sandy. That area is one of the largest areas on the island for Roseate Terns nesting. And so there has been a dramatic reduction in habitat size for the Roseate Terns, which are a state listed species. That would be a suggestion for a place if you had uncontaminated, dredged materials; those materials could be put in that area increasing the habitat for that bird species.

The last thing I would like to see considered is just if dredged materials that are not

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contaminated are put in certain areas -- they might need to be beach accretion, either public beaches or beaches used by wildlife. Those are things I would like to see taken into account.

MR. HAY: Thank you for your comment.

MS. BROCHI: Thank you. One thing that we didn't mention is state threatened, federally endangered species, mammals, birds, is part of this environmental impact statement effort. And that will be something we investigate further on. And we will look at all of those species.

And Mark Habel from the Corps of Engineers is going to respond to the dredging.

MR. HABEL: Thank you Jeannie. I am not on the program but it might be a good time to give an update where we are with the Dredged Material Management Plan. It is an effort we were first funded to begin undertaking in 2008. We are substantially moving along with it in cooperation with the three states that border Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound. We also have a technical working group of federal and state agencies, and representatives from various nongovernmental organizations who volunteered to sit on that and help provide input to the Dredged Material Management Plan as it went forward. We are

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looking at a lot of things. Certainly it is always the Corps of Engineers' preference, as well as many of our sponsors and the other agencies, that dredged material be looked at as a resource first and something to be disposed of second. Our regs even require us to first investigate beneficial uses. With things like sand it is pretty easy. As sea level rises, erosion continues. It is rare today that we have a sand generating project that does not have takers for the dredged material, even when that sand, or hauling that sand to that site requires a cost share.

We have built projects recently in Massachusetts, and we are proposing another one in New Hampshire that Mass, New Hampshire and Maine are going to all get in on to get pieces of the sand. They are going to have to pay $2, $4 a yard to get it.

With the Newburyport project that we constructed in 2010 Massachusetts paid $20 a yard to have sand that would have been placed offshore be pumped onto the beaches. They were losing houses and at least in the zone we put the sand on they haven't loss any since. So certainly we like to use sand for shore protection purposes. Non-contaminated, non-sand: there are many applications for, as well. We can build marshes. This is primarily something that we

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look to the states to identify areas where they want to see that done. We work out how we can do it.

The commenter mentioned island creation. The Corps on the West Coast has done large amount of fills using dredged material, primarily for port development in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, and elsewhere.

We have also used dredged material to shore up levies in the Sacramento River Basin. They have for a long time used dredged material to build and raise levies in Louisiana and elsewhere on the Gulf Coast.

We have done large scale islands in the Chesapeake Bay area, Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton Roads. There is a large one under construction in mid Chesapeake Bay, Poplar Island, which is a joint project between the Corps and the Maryland Department of Environment and the Baltimore Port Authority. That is maybe within 10 years of its useful life. It will be filled. It is being developed as wildlife habitat.

And we recently have another one going through Congressional authorization, that is called the Mid-Bay Island Restoration, Chesapeake Bay.

The DMMP is looking at all of this. We are mapping where the beaches are in relation to the

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harbors that generate beach-compatible sand. And we are looking at a number of sites that have over the years have been raised as potential candidates for island development, primarily for creation of wildlife habitat. The New Haven Breakwaters is the largest of those. And, as you mentioned, Faulkner Island is another one of those areas where we are looking at potentially creating an island. Those projects carry substantial cost. They require great involvement in making them happen by the state that they are in. Maryland took the lead on Poplar Island. They are taking the lead on Mid-Bay. That cost is not going to be totally a federal cost. I think Poplar Island was a 65/35 cost share on a facility that is probably in the end cost more than $100 million. So certainly the Corps is going to look at those and the DMMP, and lay out what the cost might be. But ultimately we would need a sponsor, the State of Connecticut, or some other nonfederal public entity to step forward and say, yes, Corps, we want to do this and we are willing to pay our share.

So those will be in the DMMP but whether or not they actually go into feasibility design and construction is going to depend on sponsorship. I hope that answers your question.

MS. FOLSOM-O'KEEFE: It does. Thank you.

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MR. BURCH: My name is Lou Burch. I am here for the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. One of the slides you showed a while ago pertained to shellfishing areas and there were some graphics demonstrating where some of the shellfishing activities will be restricted. I noticed some of those correlated with previous dump sites. Are those areas restricted due to contamination concerns? Why are some restricted and others are not, et cetera?

MR. HAY: I will pass this question on to George Wisker, with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

MR. WISKER: I am not a biologist but having dealt with this issue in the past, I think those areas that are restricted are due to some runoff issues, the bacterial issues. Where a certain degree of runoff can actually cause a closure for a while. They are not open all the time. Some of the other beds are open offshore. The only ones that are actually prohibited now are the actual disposal sites themselves. The area surrounding them, it is not a function of the disposal but more or less due to runoff, industrial, legacy types of issues in that area.

MR. BURCH: Specifically those disposal sites that are prohibited, I assume that is a long

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term restriction. I am just trying to get a better sense, again, whether that is due to contamination concerns associated with those disposal sites and why certain disposal sites are completely restricted and others are not.

MR. WISKER: The active disposal sites are the ones that are restricted or prohibited now. The past sites were tested by the Department of Agriculture. Whether or not they put conditions on is related to what the tests would show.

MR. BOHLEN: It seems to me on the active sites there is an issue with public health and contaminants. There is also the operational issue. They have a cap out there. They don't want you going out there and messing around with their cap. There are operational issues.

MR. HAY: For the record, this was Frank Bohlen with the University of Connecticut.

MR. WISKER: The other issue, I know when they did the Seawolf Project one of the things that the Navy actually had to do was there were so many lobster pots and other fishing gear out there they had to notify the permit holders. We had to give them the licensees so they could notify them to get the equipment out of there or it was going to be pulled up

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or buried. They were actually doing other types of fishing out in those areas as opposed to specifically shellfish.

MR. HAY: Comments, questions, feedback?

MR. FROHLING: Nathan Frohling, the Nature Conservancy. Technical question, you talked about the USGS and NOAA data and Eastern Sound. I am wondering is that the recent survey done in the last year or two, what is the date?

MR. HAY: This data is a combination of surveys that have been done over approximately the last decade. They have been compiled, I think the date of this compilation is 2012. The data were collected over a number of years. Incidentally, there is also data available for Block Island Sound, which will be incorporated into this process. And those data have not been completely processed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Again, we will extend that area to the east as well.

Did that answer your question?

MR. FROHLING: Yes.

MR. SPICER: Bill Spicer, Stakeholders Committee from the Eastern Long Island Sound, State of Connecticut, Regional Council. Also Spicers Marinas. I think I participated in about every one of these meetings.

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I noticed your good diagram as to how many miles it was from the Connecticut River. And two thoughts came to mind as feedback. If we are working in Fisher's Island Sound for dredging we use shallow draft equipment. So that passing through either the Race or Wicopesset at the Watch Hill passage is really not feasible in winter for shallow draft, small equipment. We also have several sites at the moment. We need at least that many sites. So less sites is not an option. And counting sites that are in Block Island Sound, which is not part of the MPRSA Ambro Legislation, and are not in Long Island Sound, they are not really accessible, especially from Fishers Island Sound. So we need some in-shore sites. We have two at the moment. We need at least two. If New York needs one in Block Island Sound to serve Montauk or Peconic Bay, they need to ask. Thank you.

MR. HAY: Thank you for your comment. You want to respond, Jeannie?

MS. BROCHI: I want to make a point. I am not sure if I made this point earlier, but the Zone of Siting Feasibility extended to Block Island because that is the area that the Army Corps of Engineers is including in their Dredged Material Management Plan. So we wanted to overlap that area to be able to use

the studies that the Army Corps of Engineers is currently undergoing and use that data.

Now, as far as the sites in Block Island Sound, like the Block Island Sound site, those are historically used sites. Some of those sites, as I mentioned before, received dredged material in the '30s or '40s before the regulatory agencies, the EPA existed. So we want to find out as much as we can about those areas.

MR. SPICER: Simply said, Jean is right. And your material going forward appears to be well presented, but those that are in Long Island Sound, which I am not, I am in Fishers Island Sound, which also is not in Long Island Sound, we need to be thought of so we don't get lost. And we do need to very carefully remember that Ambro only applies to Long Island Sound. If it helps planning going forward for other areas, God bless you. We need to plan. We don't need any more 2005 surprises. So we need to be planned for. And we have been more than patient.

MR. HAY: Thank you, Bill. Any additional comments?

Well, we will be here until 4:30. If you have any additional comments please let us know, any additional feedback, or if you know of any additional

data that would be helpful in this process we will be more than happy to consider those, as well.

Thank you very much for coming.

(Whereupon the Public Hearing adjourned at 4:30 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I am a Notary Public, in and for the State of Connecticut, duly commissioned and qualified to administer oaths.

I further certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken by me stenographically and reduced to typewriting under my direction, and the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings.

Witness my hand and seal as Notary Public the 22nd day of July, 2013.

_____

Notary Public
My Commission Expires:
November 30, 2017

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Sarah J Miner

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

November 30, 2017

END OF REPORT.