



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

February 8, 2021

Co-chairs Cohen and Borer, Vice-Chairs Slap and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and other distinguished members of the Environment Committee

Re: HJ 53 Before the Environment Committee, a Resolution Proposing the Adoption of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan.

Honorable members,

The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is supportive of the Blue Plan as a mechanism for effective and efficient management of the waters of Long Island Sound (Sound). The Blue Plan provides important data and information for project developers that could minimize adverse impacts on ecological resources and human uses.

The Sound is a public trust to be managed for the public good. It is a resource of immeasurable value to our State. This is evident in the numerous indicators of the Sound's health that appear in the Council's Annual Report ([nitrogen discharged](#) to the Sound, [dissolved nitrogen](#) concentrations, increasing [sea level](#), increasing frequency of [species with warm water preference](#), extent of [hypoxia](#), acres of [harvestable shellfish](#), among others).

The Blue Plan is a product of the concern of the Legislature for the resource that is the Sound and of the hard work of the Blue Plan Advisory Committee, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the many contributors that assisted in its development. Its adoption will encourage consideration of the goals, siting priorities, and standards that are identified in it and thereby enhance the ecology of the Sound while affording increased recreation and commercial use.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. The Council is willing to answer any questions and respond to any requests for additional information that the Environment Committee may have.

Sincerely,

Executive Director