

**Long Island Sound Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee**

**May 12, 2016**

**10:00AM – 12:00 PM**

**Vicki G. Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point**

**135 College Street, Old Saybrook, CT**

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Committee Attendance:**

**Robert Klee**, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,  
Chair

**Sylvain De Guise**, Connecticut Sea Grant

[Gas and electric distribution industry representative appointed by Governor Malloy]

**Nathan Frohling**, The Nature Conservancy

**David Carey**, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture

**Christine Nelson**, Town of Old Saybrook Town Planner

**James Redeker [ABSENT]**, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

**Jason Bowsza**, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Reviczky's Designee

**Garrett Eucalitto [represented by Eric Lundquist]**, Connecticut Office of Policy and  
Management, Secretary Barnes' Designee

**Melanie Bachman [ABSENT]**, Connecticut Siting Council

[Conservation organization representative appointed by State Senate President Pro Tempore  
Martin Looney]

**William Gardella**, General Manager and Dockmaster, Rex Marine Center, Norwalk

**Bruce Beebe**, Beebe Dock and Mooring Systems, Madison

[Commercial finfish industry representative appointed by Speaker of the House Brendan  
Sharkey]

**Alicia Mozian**, Town of Westport Conservation Director

**Sid Holbrook**, Westbrook, recreational fishing/hunting community representative appointed by  
House Minority Leader Themis Klarides

**Other attendees:**

**Carl Fortuna**, First Selectman, Old Saybrook

**Steve Mongillo**, Old Saybrook WPCA

**Nathaniel Trumbull**, UConn Avery Point

**Katie Lund**, Northeast Regional Ocean Planning Body

**Dori Boardman**, Wakefield, RI

**Rob LaFrance**, DEEP

**Mary-beth Hart**, DEEP

**Betsey Wingfield**, DEEP

**Brian Thompson**, DEEP

**David Blatt**, DEEP

## **Welcome and introduction**

*Robert Klee, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Protection (DEEP)*

Commissioner Klee welcomed the Advisory Committee members and others present. He discussed the Committee's preference for rotating coastal meeting locations, and announced that the New York State agencies had accepted his invitation to participate, naming Karen Chytalo of NY DEC and Rob Breen of NY DOS as representatives to the Blue Plan process, although neither was able to attend today. Klee further noted the issuance of the draft Northeast Regional Ocean Plan, and discussed future schedules for public hearings and final rollouts of both the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Plans.

First Selectman Carl Fortuna welcomed the Committee to Old Saybrook and expressed his support of the Blue Plan.

## **Decisions for Advisory Committee**

*Brian Thompson, Director, DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs*

Committee members agreed to proceed on the basis of consensus rather than formal votes and procedures.

Brian Thompson led a discussion on committee structure, drawing on Scenarios 2 and 3 of the Bi-State Working Group's Draft Framework Report, and presenting a draft organizational chart for subcommittees and work teams (Attachments 1 and 2). It was apparent that the work teams would need to interact with each other, be adaptable in structure, and offer different means of participation. There was further discussion of a Mission & Goals work team, and the many options for public engagement, including a public hearing early in the process. Committee members further discussed aspects of bi-state coordination, with some concern expressed over the extent and nature of New York's participation in the Blue Plan, given the ongoing disagreement between the states on dredged material disposal. Members highlighted the importance of reaching out to New York interests at several levels from legislators to town officials and stakeholders. Commissioner Klee pointed out that NYS agencies had

chosen to engage positively with the Blue Plan process, while discussions on dredging issues were going on elsewhere.

Committee members concluded that, rather than establishing a separate ad hoc Vision & Goals work team, all of the members would like to have input. DEEP staff agreed to provide an example list of goals and mission statements for Committee review (Attachment 3).

### **Inventory and Science Subcommittee**

*Sylvain De Guise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant*

Sylvain De Guise explained the purpose of the statutory Inventory and Science Subcommittee and provided a handout showing potential next steps, available datasets, and potential subject matter experts who might be consulted (Attachment 4). Committee members discussed criteria for ecological significance, as well as sources for additional data and other potential resource topics. The inventory of resource and uses will include those on the New York side of the boundary as well. Creating work teams for ecological characterization, data and mapping, and human use appeared to be a good starting point, although De Guise reminded that the work teams will need to network closely with each other. Based on the projected Blue Plan timeline, existing datasets as identified by the Bi-State Working Group's Data and Information Team should start being entered into the New York Information Gateway in September 2016.

### **Stakeholder Engagement Approach**

*Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy*

Nathan Frohling highlighted the importance of early and consistent public engagement for the Blue Plan process, a theme with which the Committee entirely agreed. He discussed the Stakeholder Options for Engagement and Interview Findings reports that had been previously distributed. Committee members suggested looking beyond "typical constituencies" and reaching out to other stakeholder groups, including DEEP Fisheries, Boating and Wildlife staff; Regional Planning Agencies/Councils of Governments; professional organizations?, and local Chambers of Commerce and tourism boards. Several Committee members expressed interest in a proposed Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee.

### **Administrative Follow-Up**

Commissioner Klee reiterated that staff would provide a draft template of Vision & Goals statement for Committee review, and would be allocating Committee members to the Subcommittees and Work Teams that had been discussed during the meeting.

### **Public Comment Period**

Katie Lund of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council announced the schedule of public meetings in all the New England states for receiving input on the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan (June 8 in Old Lyme). There was a general discussion of how best to encourage public

interest in MSP and the Blue Plan, since the lack of a prominent threat or “driver” such as offshore wind proposals in MA and RI poses challenges in creating and sustaining public involvement.

The next two meetings of the Advisory Committee will be held on September 7, 2016 and December 7, 2016 at meeting places TBD.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.**

## Attachment 1

**Long Island Sound Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee  
May 12, 2016**

**Decisions for Advisory Committee**

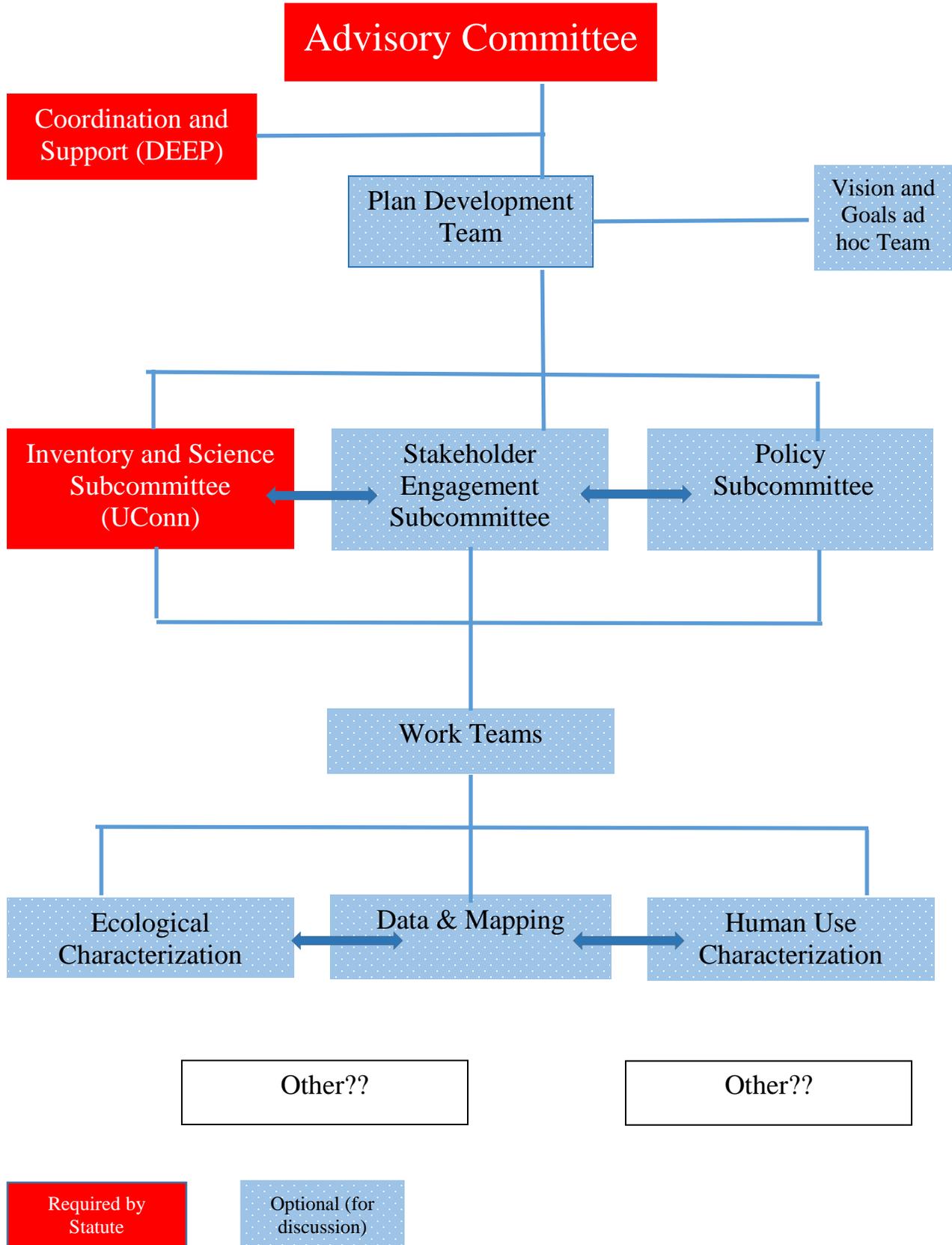
*Brian Thompson, Director, DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs*

## Committee Functioning and Process

- Work Teams to carry out specific tasks and develop products in between quarterly Advisory Committee meetings.
  - Led by AC members, with DEEP staff, but include other interested stakeholders
  - Everyone should volunteer, or be volunteered
  
- Inventory & Science Subcommittee Work Teams
- Stakeholder Engagement Work Team
  
- Mission & Goals Work Team
  - Statutory charge in §1(b)(2): 18 items A through R
  - Mission statement? E.g., “Preserve What We Cherish in Long Island Sound”
  - Incorporate NE Ocean Plan, NYS, stakeholder input in goal-setting
- Additional Work Teams
  - Build upon Resource and Use Inventory, products of Inventory & Science Subcommittee
  - Issue-Based? E.g., priority use areas, use conflict identification
  - Mapping and Boundaries
  - Plan Drafting (Coastal Fellow 2017-19)
  
- Plan structure, scope, scale
  - Table A Scenarios 2-3 in Framework Report
  - Timeline works backward from March 1, 2019; thus Inventory should be substantially done by Spring 2018

# Blue Plan Advisory Committee Organization 1.2 (DRAFT)

5/20/16



## Attachment 3

**Blue Plan Vision and Goals Options****Example Vision and Goals**

- A resilient and healthy Long Island Sound supports existing and new sustainable economic, recreational, and cultural opportunities for present and future generations.
- A Long Island Sound where safe and responsible use and stewardship support healthy, resilient and sustainable natural and economic coastal resources that provide for the wellbeing and prosperity of present and future generations.

**Goals/Objectives from Blue Plan Statute**

- A. Establish the state's goals, siting priorities and standards for ensuring effective stewardship of the waters of Long Island Sound held in trust for the benefit of the public;
- B. promote science-based management practices that take into account the existing natural, social, cultural, historic and economic characteristics of planning areas within Long Island Sound;
- C. preserve and protect traditional riparian and water-dependent uses and activities;
- D. promote maximum public accessibility to Long Island Sound's waters for traditional public trust uses, such as recreational and commercial boating and fishing, except when necessary to protect coastal resources, preserve public health, safety and welfare, or when it is in the interest of national security;
- E. reflect the importance of the waters of Long Island Sound to the citizens of this state who derive livelihoods and recreational benefits from boating and fishing;
- F. analyze the implications of existing and potential uses and users of Long Island Sound with a focus on avoiding potential use conflicts;
- G. be consistent with the Long Island Sound Resources and Uses Inventory, prepared pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, with provision for the ongoing acquisition and application of up-to-date resource and use data, including seafloor mapping;
- H. reflect the value of biodiversity and ecosystem health in regard to the interdependence of ecosystems;
- I. identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats, including, but not limited to, scenic and visual resources;
- J. adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the marine environment, including adaptation to climate change and rise in sea level;
- K. foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of Long Island Sound;
- L. support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of this state;
- M. be coordinated, to the maximum extent feasible, with local, regional and federal planning entities and agencies, including, but not limited to, the Long Island

- Sound Study and National Ocean Policy's Northeast Regional Planning Body and the Connecticut-New York Bi-State Marine Spatial Planning Working Group;
- N. be coordinated, developed and implemented, to the maximum extent feasible, with the state of New York;
  - O. be developed through a transparent and inclusive process that seeks widespread participation of the public and stakeholders and encourages public participation in decision making;
  - P. identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses and facilities regulated under existing state permit programs, including, but not limited to, measures to guide siting of uses in a manner compatible with said Long Island Sound Blue Plan;
  - Q. be consistent with the state plan of conservation and development and the goals and policies described in section 22a-92 of the general statutes; and
  - R. reflect the importance of planning for Long Island Sound as an estuary that crosses state boundaries, including the identification of potential measures that encourage such planning.

### **Example Goals from Other Plans:**

#### NE Ocean Plan

- Healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems;
- More effective decision-making,
- Achieving compatibility among uses

#### MA Ocean Plan

- Balance and protect the natural, social, cultural, historic and economic interests of the marine ecosystem through integrated management.
- Recognize and protect biodiversity, ecosystem health, and the interdependence of ecosystems.
- Support wise use of marine resources, including renewable energy, sustainable uses, and infrastructure.
- Incorporate new knowledge as the basis for management that adapts over time to address changing social, technological, and environmental conditions.

#### RI Ocean SAMP

- Foster a properly function ecosystem that is both ecologically sound and economically beneficial.
- Promote and enhance existing uses.
- Encourage marine-based economic development that meets the aspirations of local communities and is consistent with the state's overall economic development needs and goals, including offshore renewable energy infrastructure.
- Build a framework for coordinated decision-making between state and federal management agencies.

Attachment 4  
**Long Island Sound Inventory and Science subcommittee**

From the Blue Plan legislation: “The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee, established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and within available resources, shall: (1) Coordinate the completion of a Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory by a **Long Island Sound Inventory and Science subcommittee** to be convened by The University of Connecticut. Such resource and use inventory shall be comprised of the best available information and data regarding the natural resources within Long Island Sound and the uses of Long Island Sound, including, but not limited to...”

(A) *Plants*

(B) *Animals*

(C) *Habitats*

(D) *Ecologically significant areas in nearshore and offshore waters and substrates of such waters*

(E) *Uses of such waters and substrates, including, but not limited to:*

1. *Recreational and commercial boating*
2. *recreational and commercial fishing*
3. *waterfowl hunting*
4. *shellfish beds*
5. *aquaculture facilities*
6. *shipping corridors*
7. *energy facilities*
8. *electric power line, gas pipeline and telecommunications crossings*

(F) Any updates and additions to the comprehensive environmental assessment and plan

**Overarching question:** Do we have relevant, accurate and adequate data to map and plan for Long Island Sound resources and uses?

**Proposed steps towards a Long Island Sound resources and uses inventory**

1. Inventory of datasets (done - data and information report)
2. Identify relevant experts and stakeholders
3. Experts and stakeholders input on useful format to display data
4. Preliminary map products from the sum of the datasets
5. Experts and stakeholders review of preliminary map products
  - a. assess data for completeness, accuracy and relevance
  - b. identify data gaps and missing datasets
  - c. provide new data where appropriate
6. Refine map products
7. Preliminary narrative
8. Engage experts and stakeholders to review refined map products and preliminary narrative
9. Refine map products and preliminary narrative
10. Engage public to ground truth map products and narrative
11. Refine map products and narrative

**Datasets** (identified from the “Data and information report”)

(A) *Plants* (eelgrass – LISS)

(B) *Animals*

1. Birds (11 datasets)
2. Fish (6 datasets)
3. Marine mammals (2 datasets)
4. Plankton (12 datasets)

5. Shellfish (1 datasets)

(C) *Habitats*

1. Habitat (101 datasets)
2. Chemical (8 datasets)
3. Geological (59 datasets)
4. Oceanographic (39 datasets)
5. Water quality (3 datasets)

(D) *Ecologically significant areas in nearshore and offshore waters and substrates of such waters (LISEA)*

1. Need to discuss the intended meaning of “ecological significance”

(E) *Uses of such waters and substrates, including, but not limited to:*

1. *Recreational and commercial boating* (24 datasets navigation, NE RPB recreational)
2. *recreational and commercial fishing* (20 datasets commercial)
3. *waterfowl hunting* (DEEP licensing data, Ducks Unlimited)
4. *shellfish beds* – Connecticut shellfisheries mapping atlas
5. *aquaculture facilities* - Connecticut shellfisheries mapping atlas
6. *shipping corridors* (24 datasets navigation)
7. *energy facilities* (9 datasets)
8. *electric power line, gas pipeline and telecommunications crossings* (DEEP)

**Potential experts and key stakeholders:**

(A) *Plants* (Vaudrey)

(B) *Animals*

1. Birds (Chris Elphick, Tom Robben)
2. Fish (Peter Auster)
3. Marine mammals (Tracy Romano)
4. Plankton (Hans Dam)
5. Shellfish (Tessa Getchis, David Carey)

(C) *Habitats* (LIS mapping initiative)

1. Habitat
2. Chemical
3. Geological
4. Oceanographic
5. Water quality

OR

1. Benthic
2. Water column
3. Water surface
4. Air column

(D) *Ecologically significant areas in nearshore and offshore waters and substrates of such waters* (Nathan Frohling, Peter Auster)

(E) *Uses of such waters and substrates, including, but not limited to:*

1. *Recreational and commercial boating* (NE RPB – Nick Napoli)
2. *recreational and commercial fishing* (NE RPB – Nick Napoli)
3. *waterfowl hunting* (???)
4. *shellfish beds* (Tessa Getchis, David Carey)
5. *aquaculture facilities* (Tessa Getchis, David Carey)
6. *shipping corridors* (USCG)
7. *energy facilities* (DEEP)
8. *electric power line, gas pipeline and telecommunications crossings* (DEEP)

**Outstanding questions:**

1. Whether and how to combine CT and NY individuals/entities - **Yes**
2. Identify the appropriate level for work teams within the Subcommittee under the basic topics: as general as environmental resources and human uses, or as detailed as taxa/activity based – **Start with 2: Natural resources and Uses**

