

## Blue Plan Reference Information

### The Blue Plan:

The "Blue Plan" legislation ([Public Act 15-66](#)) establishes a process by which Connecticut will develop a "Resource & Use Inventory" of Long Island Sound's existing human uses and natural resources, and establish an official marine spatial plan that will guide future use of the Sound's waters and submerged lands. The Blue Plan will **not** create new regulations. Rather, the Plan will be implemented as part of the existing State decision-making process in programs such as Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) permitting and Connecticut Siting Council actions. The process also includes New York State so the outcome can benefit all of the Sound to the extent possible.

The Blue Plan is intended to plan and account for both the existing human uses of the Sound *and* the habitats and natural features needed for marine life to thrive in the Sound. Doing so will help ensure that: (a) the existing human uses and the habitats of the Sound are protected and (b) any new and existing uses of the Sound will be mutually compatible with each other and the Sound's natural features. The timeline to complete a draft Blue Plan for the Connecticut Legislature is March 2019. Preparation and work is now underway toward producing the Inventory and Plan. For more information, please see the Blue Plan website: [www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan).

### Process:

In developing the Resource & Use Inventory and the Blue Plan, several committees and work teams have been set up. CT DEEP, the University of Connecticut (Connecticut Sea Grant), and The Nature Conservancy, among others, are helping to lead these efforts. The characterization of human uses in Long Island Sound is one of the major tasks that must be completed as part of the legislation. Some of the primary objectives of the process will include:

- Reviewing existing spatial use data sets and derived map products for accuracy, representativeness, and relevance, through engagement with relevant sector experts and stakeholders
- Identifying data gaps, and data sets that help fill these identified gaps
- Assembling a user-driven narrative of each human use sector's unique characteristics related to the Sound and areas in the Sound important to the sector.

Collectively, this information assembled in the Inventory will help form the basis for the drafting of the Blue Plan.

### Where you come into the process:

As the Blue Plan is based on information about the human uses and natural resources of Long Island Sound contained in the Inventory, a critical component is the input of stakeholders like you that know the Sound in respect to your specialty. We are currently reaching out to validate the information that we have gathered on where the diverse human uses of Long Island Sound take place, so that we can make sure that the planning process relies on accurate and relevant information. Your participation in this process is essential to construct a plan that best supports your needs as a user of Long Island Sound, and to assure that areas important to different sectors are recognized and preserved for those uses. Your input will shape the planning process itself as well as the final outcomes and implementation of the plan.