

Things to keep in mind when reading this document:

- The draft Blue Plan policy chapter briefly describes the purpose of each policy section. This document is meant to represent a working draft of potential policies and policy language and will further evolve in response to comments and suggestions.
- Please read the ENTIRE policy document thoroughly, and not solely those sections that may be of particular interest to you. The policies throughout this draft document build on one another, and it is very important to understand one section before moving onto the next.
- Terms not yet specifically defined in this draft document are assumed to have their normal and customary meaning, or as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes. A set of relevant definitions is under development, including individual Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) and Significant Human Use Areas (SHUAs).
- Links within the draft document might not work in older versions of web browsers, so please copy and paste the links into a browser if you are having trouble.

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Draft Policies for the Long Island Sound Blue Plan

Drafted by the Blue Plan Advisory Committee

October 2018

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Sustainable Ecosystems - Compatible Uses

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INTRODUCTION

This section introduces the policy chapter, including language on how to read and understand the various sections. This chapter includes a list of programs that must consider Blue Plan policies when reviewing applications. Potential language may include:

1. This chapter overviews the policy types that are applicable to projects proposed within Connecticut waters and waterward of the 10-foot contour in Long Island Sound: Sound-wide Policies (Part I), and Policies that are specific to Significant Ecological Resources and Significant Human Uses (Part II). There is also a description of the various “lenses” through which each policy should be considered (Part III).
2. In general, proposed uses and activities subject to the Long Island Sound Blue Plan are not prohibited outright. Rather, project proponents are encouraged to develop their applications to avoid, minimize, and mitigate conflicts and impacts on Long Island Sound natural resources and traditional human uses.
3. The policies developed for the Long Island Sound Blue Plan are established to identify areas and standards that avoid conflicts and impacts, and encourage sustainable and compatible development.
4. The policies of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan will be enforceable pursuant to Section 25-157t(h) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and shall be considered as a factor in the review of applications under the following regulatory programs (more information on these programs can be found in Chapter 2: Blue Plan Management Framework):
 - [16-50K](#) Certificate of environmental compatibility and public need
 - [22-11h](#), Permits for aquaculture operations
 - [22-11j](#), Licensing of aquaculture producers
 - [22-11j](#), Planting and cultivating seaweed. Prohibition on interference with right of fishing or shellfishing
 - [22a-6k](#), Emergency authorization for regulated activity. Temporary authorization for regulated activity
 - [22a-359](#), Regulation of dredging, erection of structures, and placement of fill in tidal, coastal, or navigable waters. Sunken or grounded vessels.
 - [22a-361](#), Permit for dredging, structures, placement of fill, obstruction or encroachment, or mooring area or facility. General permits. Removal of sand, gravel or other material.
 - [22a-363b](#), COP
 - [22a-363d](#), Emergency Authorization
 - [22a-430](#), Permit for New Discharge
 - [25-157b](#), Crossings of Long Island Sound. Evaluation of application’s consistency with comprehensive environmental assessment plan.
 - [26-194](#), Leasing of shellfish grounds. Fee. Utility lines and public use structures. Shellfish removal or relocation costs. Annual host payments for Long Island Sound crossings. Designation of shellfish areas to regional agricultural science and technology education centers.
 - [26-257a](#), Local shellfish commissions

- [Section 401 Federal Water Pollution Control Act](#)
5. The Blue Plan provides greater clarity and resources for the existing regulatory processes listed above that already apply to certain in-water activities in Long Island Sound. The Inventory and policies are intended to provide insight into use and development opportunities and constraints, from a spatial perspective.
 6. The policies may also be utilized for guidance in pre-application discussions between the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection and applicants.
 7. If an applicant proposes a new use within Connecticut waters and waterward of the 10-foot contour in Long Island Sound (CGS §25-157t(b)(2)) that may impact the resources, uses, and areas identified below, the applicant shall consider all the appropriate policies and protection standards of this chapter, and shall comply with applicable enforceable policies and standards.¹
 - a. Connecticut has a NOAA-approved Geographic Location Description (GLD) that covers New York waters of Long Island Sound and allows Connecticut to review certain federal agency activities and permits listed within the GLD for consistency with state enforceable coastal management policies.² New York State has corresponding authority to review certain federal agency activities and permits in CT waters.³
 - b. While Connecticut can review federal actions in New York waters, Connecticut cannot require that an applicant applying for federal authorization in the New York coastal zone obtain Connecticut permits, licenses, leasing, or pay fees that may be required by Connecticut law for Connecticut waters.

¹ Enforceable policies shall be collected in an Appendix, upon completion of the policy chapter.

² Connecticut's approved GLD from NOAA can be found at:

<https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/media/CTinterstateapproval.pdf>. This letter includes the federal license and permit activities for which the GLD applies.

³ New York's approved GLD from NOAA can be found at:

<https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/media/NYinterstateapproval.pdf>, and <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/media/ny.pdf>.

PART I: SOUND-WIDE POLICY

*Sound-wide policies are the highest level policies contained in the Long Island Sound Blue Plan because they apply everywhere within the Sound. This chapter contains a narrative list of broad policies and criteria for applicable regulatory programs, incorporating the statutory policy criteria of **CGS §25-157t(b)(2)** as integrated through the [Vision & Goals Statement](#). Policy language may include:*

1. Goal 1: Healthy Long Island Sound Ecosystem

Science-based planning and practices that consider both the environment and human uses will help us understand and protect Long Island Sound ecosystems and the services they provide, now (a.) and in the future (b.):

Policies:

- a. Any activity proposed within the Blue Plan policy area shall avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to natural resources in general, including ecosystem services and water quality, and Ecologically Significant Areas in particular, pursuant to CGS §25-157t(h).
- b. Any activity proposed within the Blue Plan policy area shall consider the future effects of climate change, including but not limited to water quality impacts, changes in species composition, and sea level rise, in accordance with scenarios established pursuant to CGS §25-68o as amended by PA 18-82; and pursuant to CGS §25-157t(h).

2. Goal 2: Effective Decision-Making

An inclusive, transparent, stakeholder-endorsed and science-based Blue Plan decision-making process that is consistent with other plans and legal requirements will lead to decisions supporting the long-term vision for compatibility of human uses and thriving marine life.

Policies:

- a. The Blue Plan “shall 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.”(CGS §25-157t(b)).
- b. The Blue Plan Inventory, Plan, and policies, including the maps, data, and descriptions therein, are meant to provide guidance and direction to project proponents/applicants, regulators, and the general public on how the state is to interpret and implement its existing authority including permit and decision-making responsibilities pursuant to CGS §25-157t(h).
- c. Any proposed regulated activities shall provide site-specific information necessary to evaluate consistency of the activities with existing regulatory criteria, as may be further informed by Blue Plan policies. Blue Plan policies do not approve or prohibit any specific regulated activity, nor do they pre-determine the outcome of any individual regulatory process.

3. Goal 3: Compatibility among Past, Current, and Future Ocean Uses

Science-based planning and practices that consider both human uses and the environment will sustain traditional and facilitate compatible new water-dependent uses to enhance quality of life and compatible economic development, including maintaining the ecosystem services they depend upon.

○ **Policies:**

a. Public Trust:

The Blue Plan recognizes that Long Island Sound belongs to the people of Connecticut and New York, and its waters and submerged lands are held in Public Trust⁴ by those States for the people. Management of the Sound shall utilize spatial planning for the benefit of the general public, and the pursuit of traditional public trust uses including but not limited to aquaculture, fishing, recreation, and navigation.

The Sound's Blue Plan policy area includes surface and air, water column, and benthos and substrate, and shall be left as open and unrestricted as possible. New uses of the policy area shall not unreasonably restrict public access except where necessary for resource protection, public health and safety, and national security.

Multiple-use areas shall be preferred, and permanent physical or visual obstructions or encroachments shall not be allowed unless providing a substantial public benefit⁵ and where necessary for water-dependent uses, resource protection/enhancement, public health and safety, or national security.

- i. Any activity proposed within the Blue Plan policy area shall avoid, minimize, and mitigate conflicts with traditional public trust uses, including Significant Human Use Areas, pursuant to CGS §25-157t(h).
- ii. Offshore structures shall be minimized to the extent practicable in physical scope and visual profile.
- iii. New non-water-dependent uses, including offshore industrial, commercial, or residential uses, shall not be placed within the Blue Plan policy area unless:

⁴ The Public Trust doctrine will be explained earlier in the plan.

⁵ Public benefit definition will include facilities in the national interest defined by CGS 22a-93(14), and facilities in support of the State's [Comprehensive Energy Strategy](#) and the State [Plan of Conservation and Development](#).

- a. There are no significant adverse impacts to natural resources, including ecosystem services and water quality, and to existing human uses; and
 - b. There is a substantial public benefit that outweighs occupation of public trust lands and waters and any unmitigated adverse impacts; and
 - c. There is no feasible⁶ and less environmentally damaging land-based alternative to the proposed use.
- iv. Artificially created or enhanced habitats, such as artificial reefs, islands constructed of dredged material, or barges used for seabird nesting may be authorized if:
 - a. any adverse impacts to existing resources are avoided, minimized, and mitigated, and
 - b. they provide resource and use benefits outweighing any adverse impacts, and
 - c. they serve a primary purpose to provide a public benefit.
- v. New permanent cross-Sound transportation infrastructure (e.g., bridges and tunnels) shall be avoided except in cases of significant public benefit where adverse impacts, including visual, have been minimized.
- vi. New pipelines and cables are preferred to be located within existing or designated infrastructure corridors, which shall not exceed 1,000 ft in total width.
- vii. Offshore structures intended for flood and storm protection (e.g., tidal barriers and flood walls) shall be avoided except in cases of significant public benefit and where adverse impacts, including but not limited to changes to the Sound's tidal processes and water quality, have been minimized.
- a. Vistas and Visual Impact:

A prominent and characteristic visual feature of Long Island Sound is the unobstructed views from shore to shore; in Connecticut, across to Long Island and Fishers Island, and to the smaller islands and lighthouses which serve as visual landmarks to the public. Accordingly, no new activity may be allowed with significant permanent effect on vistas from public viewing points of state or regional significance, such as state parks or prominent viewing areas.
- i. Artificial illumination shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the functioning of a water-dependent use, except for temporary exhibitions

⁶ Feasible uses the same definition as CGS §22a-38(17).

such as fireworks displays and as legally required for public health and safety.

- ii. Municipal authorities are encouraged to implement Connecticut Coastal Management Act policies to identify and protect coastal and inshore visual resources that are visible at the local or neighborhood level.⁷
- iii. Applicants for visible in-water or on-water activities are required to provide a visual impact analysis, including day and night digital simulations of different development scenarios, when the regulatory agency administering the programs listed in CGS §25-157t(h) determines such analyses are necessary to review the potential visual impact of a regulated activity.

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⁷ Refer to the Visual Impact Factsheet in the Connecticut Coastal Management Manual https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/long_island_sound/coastal_management_manual/manual_section_2_08.pdf.

PART II: GENERAL ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA and SIGNIFICANT HUMAN USE AREA POLICIES

This chapter encompasses language describing a blanket policy to all Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) and Significant Human Uses Areas (SHUAs). Part II is separated into two sections based on ecological resource category and human use category.

The following sections of Part IIa and Part IIb outline more specific siting and protection standards that the applicant will need to comply with dependent on the type of resource, use, or identified area their new proposed use will impact.

Potential Language for this section may include:

1. To ensure that the development, preservation, or use of Long Island Sound proceeds in a manner consistent with the capability of the Sound's natural resources to support development, preservation, or use without significantly disrupting either the natural environment or existing human uses of the Sound;
2. To give preference to new uses that minimize adverse impacts on the Sound's natural resources, and avoid conflicts with existing human uses of the Sound:
 - a. New activities in the Blue Plan policy area of Long Island Sound shall maintain, preserve, or enhance the values of an ESA and/or SHUA.
3. A proposed activity may be located within an ESA and/or SHUA provided that it has been demonstrated, through site-specific survey, scientific data, and analysis submitted pursuant to the applicable regulatory program under CGS §25- 157t(h) that:
 - a. The project will cause no significant adverse impacts to the ESA and/or SHUA, or
 - b. There is no feasible, less damaging alternative and all reasonable mitigation measures and techniques have been provided to minimize adverse impact, and the public benefits of the project outweigh the harm to the ESA and/or SHUA resource, use, or value.
4. Each SHUA and ESA sub-criterion will have a map or a group of maps associated with it that will designate the best available information on the current extent of that resource or use. These maps are not enforceable standards, because the best known current extent will likely change over time with new information. The maps are meant to assist state and local governments, applicants, and stakeholders by showing current SHUA and ESA locations. The ESA and SHUA policies and protection standards are applicable pursuant to the most up-to-date extent of the ESA and SHUA.⁸

⁸ Not all maps may be made publicly available due to confidentiality agreements with other government agencies.

- a. Some ESAs and SHUAs are located outside the policy area, i.e., landward of the 10 ft depth contour up to the coastal boundary as defined by CGS §22a-94(b). Policies associated with such ESAs and SHUAs may only be applied within the proximate policy area.

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PART IIa: SITING AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS BY ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE CATEGORY:

This section includes a summary table describing siting and performance measures, more specific than the general policy, that will apply to a specific resource in the benthos and substrate, water column, and air and surface. The General ESA/SHUA policies also apply to all the following siting and performance standards.

**This table has not been drafted out yet, and will follow along the work of the Ecological Experts Group, which includes both Connecticut and New York experts.*

Resource Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
1. Areas with unique or fragile physical features, or important natural habitats			
1.2 Hard bottom and complex sea floor			Example: No structures or activities that would permanently or significantly adversely alter ecological values.
1.3 Areas of submerged aquatic vegetation			
1.4 Endangered, threatened, species of concern, and candidate species listed under state and federal ESA and their habitats			
1.5 Areas of observed cold water corals			
1.6 Coastal Wetlands	The Blue Plan only has jurisdiction in waters 10 feet and deeper, therefore please refer to the Connecticut Tidal Wetlands Act [CGS §22a-28 as referenced by CGS §§22a-92(a)(2), 22a-92(b)(2)(E), 22a-92(c)(1)(B), and 22a-92(b)(1)(B)] and the Connecticut Coastal Management Act [CGS §§22a-93(15)(H) and 22a-93(15)(G)] for appropriate policies and standards.		
Resource Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
2. Areas of High Natural Productivity (HNP), including areas important for supporting or exhibiting productivity			
2.1 Areas of HNP Cetaceans, Pinnipeds, Sea Turtles			

2.2 Areas of HNP - Birds			
2.3 Areas of HNP – Fish (and mobile invertebrates) and Shellfish			
2.4 Areas of HNP – Soft bottom benthic communities			

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PART IIb: SITING AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS BY CATEGORY OF SIGNIFICANT HUMAN USE:

This section will include a summary table describing siting and performance measures, more specific than the general policy, that will apply to a specific use in the benthos and substrate, water column, and air and surface. The General ESA/SHUA policies also apply to all the following siting and performance standards.

Significant Use Area Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
3. Areas with features of historical, cultural, or educational significance			
3.1 Areas associated with lighthouses and other offshore historic buildings	No activity that would significantly restrict physical or visual access to the site.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.
3.2 Shipwrecks	No permanent fixed or floating structures that affect the shipwreck site or access to it. Site marker buoys may be allowed.	No permanent fixed or floating structures that may affect the shipwreck site or access to it.	No bottom disturbance, including deposition or shifting of sediments.
3.3 Areas of Tribal Significance, Submerged Archaeological Sites and Submerged Areas of Sensitivity	No permanent fixed or floating structures that affect submerged natural or cultural resources. Site marker buoys may be allowed.	No permanent fixed or floating structures that affect submerged natural or cultural resources.	No bottom disturbance.
3.4 Discrete areas important for research, education, and monitoring	No activity that would significantly adversely affect the use of the area for such purposes.	No activity that would significantly adversely affect the use of the area for such purposes.	No activity that would significantly adversely affect the use of the area for such purposes.
Significant Use Area Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
4. Areas of Substantial recreational and/or “quality of life” value			
4.1 Sailing and Rowing Races	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with racing activity during the season.	No activity that would interfere with racing activity during the season.	No activity that would interfere with racing activity during the season.
4.2 Marine Events	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with regular event activity.	No activity that would interfere with regular event activity.	No activity that would interfere with regular event activity.

4.3 High Activity Recreational Boating Areas	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with vessel traffic.	No activity that would interfere with navigation.	No activity that would interfere with navigation.
4.4 Mooring and Anchorage Areas	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with moored vessels or anchored vessels or vessel traffic.	No activity that would interfere with moored vessels or anchored vessels or vessel traffic.	No activity that would interfere with moored vessels or anchored vessels, or the placement of mooring tackle.
4.5 Marinas, Boat Launches, and Yacht Clubs	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.	No activity that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.	No activity that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.
4.6 Waterfowl Hunting	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with seasonal hunting activity or waterfowl habitat.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.
4.7 Dive Sites	No permanent fixed or floating structures that adversely affect submerged natural or cultural resources, or unreasonably restrict divers. Site marker buoys may be allowed.	No in-water activities or structures that interfere with diver access.	No bottom disturbance that would adversely affect submerged natural or cultural resources, including deposition or shifting of sediments.
4.8 Coastal Public Use Areas	No structures or activities that would interfere with coastal public use activities.	No structures or activities that would interfere with coastal public use activities.	No structures or activities that would interfere with coastal public use activities.
Significant Use Area Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
5. Areas important for Navigation, Transportation, Military, Infrastructure, Economic Activities			
5.1 Working Waterfronts	No activities, or permanent fixed or permanent floating structures that would interfere with maritime and water-dependent activities, including access to navigational channels and infrastructure. Fishing	No activities, or permanent fixed structures that would interfere with maritime and water-dependent activities, including navigational channels and infrastructure.	No on-bottom structures or disturbance that would interfere with operations, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and infrastructure.

	and boating activities allowed subject to operations.	Aquaculture and fishing allowed subject to operations.	
5.2 Designated Navigation Channels	No permanent fixed or floating structures that interfere with navigation or channel maintenance.	No permanent structures that would interfere with navigation or channel maintenance.	No permanent bottom or sub-bottom structures that interfere with navigation or channel maintenance. Potentially appropriate to co-locate cables, pipelines, and other uses that may require bottom disturbance during installation, given the need for periodic dredging.
5.3 Commercial Anchorage Areas, Security Zones, and other Designated Areas	Activities shall be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.	Activities shall be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.	Activities shall be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.
5.4 Areas of Lightering Activity	Activity shall comply with applicable Coast Guard and other regulations. No potentially conflicting activity during lightering operations.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.
5.5 Vessel Traffic Areas	No activity or permanent fixed or floating structures that interfere with vessel traffic and navigation, including maneuvering.	No activity or permanent structure that would interfere with navigation. Fishing activities allowed subject to vessel traffic.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.
5.6 Dredged Material Disposal Areas: Active	No activity or permanent structures that interfere with disposal operations.	No activity or permanent structures that interfere with disposal operations.	No excavation. No bottom disturbance, except as incidental to disposal operations.
5.7 Dredged Material Disposal Areas: Historic/Closed	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No excavation. No bottom disturbance, except for scientific or remediation activities.
5.8 Cables, Pipelines, and Cable/Pipeline Areas	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No specific standards applicable. General policies apply.	No activities that would significantly disturb existing cables and pipelines, except that new facilities may be co-located within corridors,

			as appropriate, to avoid impact to adjacent areas
Significant Use Area Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
6. Areas Important to Fishing and Aquaculture			
6.1 Recreational Fishing	Permanent displacement of recreational fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.	Permanent displacement of recreational fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.	Permanent displacement of recreational fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
6.2 Commercial Fishing	Permanent displacement of commercial fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Consultation with sector is required commensurate with intensity of commercial fishing activity potentially being impacted.	Permanent displacement of commercial fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Consultation with sector is required commensurate with intensity of commercial fishing activity potentially being impacted.	Permanent displacement of commercial fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Consultation with sector is required commensurate with intensity of commercial fishing activity potentially being impacted.
6.3 Charter & Party Boat Fishing	Permanent displacement of charter and party boat fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.	Permanent displacement of charter and party boat fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.	Permanent displacement of charter and party boat fishing and related activity by other activity, or permanent structures shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
6.4 Recreational Shellfish	No permanent structures or activity that unreasonably restricts access to designated shellfish beds or recreational shellfishing activity.	No permanent structures or activity that unreasonably restricts access to designated shellfish beds or recreational shellfishing activity.	No permanent structures or activity that unreasonably restricts access to designated shellfish beds or recreational shellfishing activity.

6.5 Commercial Aquaculture	No permanent structures or activity that significantly restricts access to commercial aquaculture activity.	No permanent structures or activity that significantly restricts access to commercial aquaculture activity.	No permanent structures or activity that significantly restricts access to commercial aquaculture activity.
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PART III: LENSES FOR CONSIDERATION

This section will describe the following six “lenses” which are meant to be taken under consideration when applying the various policies and standards presented above. These lenses are meant to assist the applicant or agency when determining the suitability, location, and timing of a proposed project, and if the project calls for additional information and data collection. Each of these lenses will also have an associated “tool” that will assist the user in considering the lens.

Potential Language for this section may include:

1. Existing Laws and Regulations
Review and consider the existing laws and regulations that may be applicable to a proposed project, beyond the policies outlined in the Blue Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2: Blue Plan Management Framework for additional information.
2. Degree of Use and/or Resource Conflict
Review and consider the degree of conflict a proposed project may have with various natural resources, including ecosystem services, and human uses present in Long Island Sound. Please see Appendix X for a series of conflict and compatibility matrices that outline whether two uses or a use and resource are synergistic, compatible, conditionally compatible, or in conflict.
3. Reliability and Specificity of Data
Review and consider the reliability of certain data sets or map products when siting a proposed project. For instance, navigational channels will likely remain constant, while recreational boating and fishing areas may change by season or year. Utilizing data that is more fluid may require additional surveying or outreach. Please see Appendix XX and the Inventory for more information on the data utilized in this Plan and any current gaps.
4. Duration and Permanence of Resource or Use
Review and consider the duration and permanence of the resource or use that may be impacted, and the duration and permanence of the new use proposed. For example, duck hunting and sailboat races occur seasonally while uses like ferry trips occur throughout the year. (Will Create a Resource for this Lens)
5. Social, Community, and Generational Equity
Long Island Sound is a public trust resource and shall be shared between different stakeholders, communities, and multiple generations. Review and consider how a new use may impact the greater population of Long Island Sound users, now and in the future. Applicants should also consider how their proposed project will differentially impact various users. (Will Create a Resource for this Lens – DEEP’s Environmental Justice Policies)

6. Climate Change Resilience and Mitigation

Climate change is already evident on a global scale, and locally in Long Island Sound, including such impacts as rising air and water temperatures, increasing sea levels, extreme storm events, changes in species composition and habitat utilization, and water acidification. Further effects of climate change are anticipated in the future, and could be exacerbated by 1) natural changes from coastal processes, and 2) changes in human development patterns. In an effort to adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the marine environment, including adaptation to climate change and sea level rise, it is vital for future activities and projects within the Blue Plan policy area to consider a changing climate in their design by enhancing the resiliency of the proposal and, where possible, mitigating any contributions to a changing climate. (Will Create a Resource for this Lens)

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POLICY DOCUMENT DIAGRAM

This diagram below is a visual representation of how the Blue Plan draft policy document is structured.

