

Vision and Goals: *DRAFT June 14, 2017*

Vision:

“Long Island Sound: a place where human uses and thriving marine life are compatible.”

We envision a Long Island Sound where new and existing traditional uses are mutually compatible with the habitats and natural features needed for marine life to thrive, assuring the wellbeing and prosperity of current and future generations.

Goals:

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.

Objectives: (the Blue Plan shall)¹

1. Reflect the value of biodiversity and ecosystem health in regard to the interdependence of ecosystems;
2. Identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats, including, but not limited to, scenic and visual resources;
3. Adapt to evolving knowledge and understanding of the marine environment, including adaptation to climate change and rise in sea level;

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.

Objectives: (the Blue Plan shall)¹

1. 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;
2. Be consistent with the Long Island Sound Resources and Uses Inventory, with provision for the ongoing acquisition and application of up-to-date resource and use data, including seafloor mapping;

3. 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;
4. Be coordinated, developed and implemented, to the maximum extent feasible, with the state of New York;
5. Be developed through a transparent and inclusive process that seeks widespread participation of the public and stakeholders and encourages public participation in decision making;
6. 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;
7. Be consistent with the state plan of conservation and development and the goals and policies described in section 22a-92 of the general statutes;
8. 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.

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.

Objectives: (the Blue Plan shall)¹

1. 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;
2. Preserve and protect traditional riparian and water-dependent uses and activities;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. Analyze the implications of existing and potential uses and users of Long Island Sound with a focus on avoiding potential use conflicts;
6. Foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of Long Island Sound;

7. Support the infrastructure necessary to sustain the economy and quality of life for the citizens of this state;

Guiding principles for plan development:

Meaningful public participation. The plan shall ultimately reflect the knowledge, perspectives, and needs of all stakeholders whose lives are touched by Long Island Sound.

Sound science. The plan shall use accurate, relevant data and information, from traditional and empirical knowledge to cutting-edge science and innovative mapping technologies to support planning and management of Long Island Sound resources and uses.

Transparent process. The plan development and implementation process shall be open and transparent, utilizing multiple means to communicate with and seek input from all interested parties and ensuring adequate and informed representation of all stakeholders.

Government coordination and collaboration. The plan shall ensure collaborative and coordinated planning among agencies and stakeholders based on a common vision, shared information sources, and transparent decision-making processes.

Adaptive management. The planning and implementation process will be updated as traditional uses are better understood or new uses emerge and as environmental, social and economic conditions change.

¹The Objectives listed here are taken directly from wording in the Blue Plan Statute PA 15-66. It is expected that the specifics which better define each objective will be spelled out as part of the planning process. "The Blue Plan shall" in the heading is wording that applies to each objective and is intended to make the connection to the statute clearer.