Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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Long Island Sound Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee
September 6, 2018
10:00AM – 12:00PM
Earthplace, The Nature Discovery Center
10 Woodside Lane
Westport, CT

MINUTES

Advisory Committee Attendance:

Robert Klee, DEEP Commissioner

Sylvain De Guise, Connecticut Sea Grant

Catherine Finneran (by phone), and Mark Pappalardo, Eversource, Gas and electric distribution industry representative appointed by Governor Malloy

Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

David Carey, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture

Christine Nelson, Town of Old Saybrook Town Planner

Evan Matthews [ABSENT], Connecticut Port Authority, Commissioner Redeker's designee

Jason Bowsza [ABSENT], Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Reviczky's Designee

Eric Lindquist, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Secretary Barnes' Designee

Melanie Bachman, Connecticut Siting Council

Leah Schmaltz, represented by Bill Lucey, Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

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

Bruce Beebe, Beebe Dock and Mooring Systems, Madison

Mike Theiler [ABSENT], Commercial finfish industry representative

Alicia Mozian, Town of Westport Conservation Director

Sid Holbrook (by phone), Westbrook, recreational fishing/hunting community representative

Other attendees:

Emily Hall, NOAA Coastal Fellow

David Blatt, DEEP

Mary-beth Hart, DEEP

Brian Thompson, DEEP

Kevin O'Brien, DEEP

Christian Fox, TNC **(by phone)**

John T. Sieviec

Nina Quaratella

David Hudson, Norwalk Aquarium

Roger Klein

Nelle D'Aversa

Rindy Higgins

Tessa Getchis, CT Sea Grant

Jeff Simon

Representative Jonathan Steinberg

Susan Bryson

Mary Hogue

Paul Stacey (by phone)

Melissa Albino, NY DEC (by phone)

Other members of the public who did not sign in

Welcome, Introductions, and Update

At 10:00am Commissioner Klee welcomed the group to the Blue Plan Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, and noted that today's meeting would really highlight the "meat" of the Blue Plan in the presentations of its draft policies and progress on significant area designations. Klee also thanked the BPAC members for reviewing the draft documents ahead of time and bringing their comments to the meeting.

Ecological Characterization (EC) and Ecologically Significant Area (ESA) Update

Nathan Frohling noted that development of the Ecological Characterization (EC) and Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) are a stepping stone from the Inventory toward the final Blue Plan. The EC document is largely a summary of data sources and map products pertaining to the ecological value of Long Island Sound. From the EC, the Ecological Experts Group (EEG) is able to define what constitutes an ESA. A quick summary of this process can be found below.

Inventory -> Ecological Characterization -> Ecologically Significant Areas

So far the EEG has made good progress towards the EC and ESAs. An outline for the EC has been drafted and can be found in Appendix 1. Currently the EEG is focusing on developing the criteria for how an ESA will be defined and have focused on two main pillars of 1) Productivity and 2) Special, Unique, and Rare to organize the ecological criteria. There will be a series of additional in-person EEG meetings to continue this work, with the next one taking place September 20th. Frohling and the EEG are also planning to hold a webinar sometime in mid-November or December to show the preliminary results of this process to the Advisory Committee.

Significant Human Use Areas (SHUAs) Update

Kevin O'Brien provided an update on the parallel process to the ESAs, developing Significant Human Use Areas (SHUAs). As shown in the June 19, 2018 BPAC meeting minutes, there has been progress in aggregating the different human use data layers to understand where clusters of human uses exist. The general consensus since that meeting, has been to aggregate the human use data layers based on both topic area and area of impact (air and surface, water column, and benthos and substrate).

The SHUA data layers and aggregations are about halfway through development and there is a meeting September 10th to continue this work. O'Brien introduced an additional development, that there is an agreement in the works with UConn CLEAR to have all Blue Plan data layers publically available in a CT Eco data viewer.

Commissioner Klee asked O'Brien what is the number one challenge with developing the SHUAs and what can the BPAC provide to help? O'Brien noted that being open to answering questions is really helpful in the development phase. He mentioned that getting to a deliverable is easy once there is a consensus on the data and methodology, but making adjustments and refining later on is a little harder.

Policy and Plan Discussion

Emily Hall then presented the draft set of policies pertaining to the Sound as a whole, and the significant areas mentioned above.[1] The Blue Plan policies are separated into three distinct sections:

1. Sound-Wide Policies:

   Sound-wide policies are the highest level policies contained in the Long Island Sound Blue Plan because they apply everywhere within the Sound. This section focuses on matching policies to the Blue Plan's Vision and Goals statement; where goals include Healthy Long Island Sound Ecosystems, Effective Decision Making, and Compatibility Among Past, Current, and Future Ocean Uses.

[1] Draft Blue Plan Policies are available www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplanpolicy, however these have been refined since the September Advisory Committee meeting.

2. Special Area Policies:

The Blue Plan is required to designate Ecologically Significant Areas, and has determined it necessary to also take on a parallel process of designating Significant Human Use Areas. These unique and special areas have been designated through a set of criteria, vetted by the Blue Plan Advisory Committee and external stakeholders. We've crafted some general policies for each of these areas. For example:

"*New activities in the Blue Plan policy areas of Long Island Sound shall maintain, preserve, or enhance the values of an ESA and/or SHUA."*

For each ESA and SHUA we've also determined if there should be more specific siting and performance standards that a new use or proposal would have to comply with. An example of these siting and performance standards can be found below:

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.

Additionally, if an applicant or proposal cannot meet these above policies for a special area, the Blue Plan provides some flexibility in draft language like:

- *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.*

3. Blue Plan “Lenses”:

   Blue Plan lenses 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 of a proposed project, the location of a proposed project, the 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.

A diagram explaining the basic structure of the draft policy document can be found in Appendix 2.

Hall then walked through a high level example of how the Blue Plan may be used in the permitting process (slides can be found in Appendix 3). The project example was the siting of a seaweed farm. First the applicant may view maps pertaining to characteristics needed for seaweed aquaculture, like shellfish bed leasing areas, water quality, and bathymetry. As some suitable locations with these characteristics emerged in the maps, the project should also account for potential conflicts like sailing races and navigational channels. Descriptive maps were also displayed for these uses, and one or two preferred siting locations began to arise.

In addition to siting the project using the maps, Hall also walked through how the policies may be used in this example. First the project proponent would have to ensure that they are consistent with the 1) Sound-wide policies, and 2) Policies of any ESA or SHUA they may impact. For example, if a project proponent were locating their project in a sailing race area they would have to ensure that no “fixed or floating structures would interfere with racing activity during the season.” Potential ways that this standard can be met include either siting the farm structures outside the sailing race area or using the Blue Plan lenses to determine when the sailing races occur vs. when the applicant needs to have seaweed aquaculture gear in the water.

Hall then opened up the discussion to the Advisory Committee to share thoughts, concerns, and questions about the proposed policies, based on the four questions previously posed to the Committee members by email. Commissioner Klee noted that the Blue Plan proposed policies and structure provide common language and data from which to make regulatory decisions. Alicia Mozian stated some concerns regarding language that “proposed uses are not prohibited outright” but “policies are enforceable and applicants must comply.” Mozian found this language to be somewhat inconsistent. Brian Thompson acknowledged that the Blue Plan has received these comments before, and we are continually trying to work out a way to illustrate that the Blue Plan will provide both guidance and enforceable standards. Nathan Frohling also emphasized that the Blue Plan is a policy for the state of CT. Frohling noted that the Blue Plan gives us a blueprint from which to make decisions.

Alicia Mozian mentioned a few other concerns including the reference to the 10ft contour, and if that could be further defined in how that was delineated. Mozian also mentioned concern with the language, “no permanent cross-sound infrastructure except in cases of public necessity” and sought a definition for public necessity. Christine Nelson agreed with Mozian’s point in that we may need more flexible language for certain protective Long Island Sound infrastructure considering the effects of climate

change. Nelson also mentioned that the cultural and historic sector is well incorporated into the draft policy document and she believe the policies dovetail nicely with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Catherine Finneran noted on the phone that at first she saw this document as a basis to prohibit uses, but sees now that the plan seeks to have no adverse impacts. She does see that these proposed policies are complex and detailed, and wonders 1) how much subjectivity will there be in interpreting this document, and 2) how much longer will it take to review applications. Bill Lucey mentioned that in his previous experience as a coastal planner, he would conduct pre-consultation meetings with a series of questions for the applicant. He sees this plan and draft policies as a way to save the permittee time, and not pursue a "dead end." Lucey said he understood the fear when you see the policies on paper, but he thinks it'll save time. Frohling agreed with Lucey, noting that the Blue Plan is trying to reduce the "opaque" nature of the permitting process, and provide more clarity to make more distinct, quicker decisions. Bruce Beebe also asked Thompson if he thought the Blue Plan would make for a timelier regulatory decision. Thompson noted that offshore projects, which is what the Blue Plan will be covering, often take time because there are more intensive needs, and he believes that the Blue Plan will save time for both the applicant and regulators in focusing on areas to site the projects.

Mozian also wondered how shellfish permits and US Army Corp permits would be would interact with the Blue Plan. David Carey responded that the Department of Agriculture has a working group to review the permit process and the Blue Plan will be incorporated into Aquaculture permits once it is approved.

Bill Gardella asked whether the policies in the vistas and visual impact section refer to upland construction, and if not that then we should make it clear that it does not apply. Klee noted that the coastal and inland lines often blur and we should write the language to ensure it refers to offshore structures.

Sylvain DeGuise also had two main comments, 1) the maps are the best we have at the time and we should incorporate language that says the plan will look beyond the maps, and 2) the team has worked hard to define ESAs and SHUAs, and there is currently a draft policy section in place to address specific places of human use or ecological significance. Therefore there is no need to establish an additional policy structure for geographically specific areas that would otherwise be covered by the ESA and SHUA policies. DeGuise and Thompson agreed that it may be difficult to create a process by which to designate additional specific areas of significance, and that adding another policy structure may cause some tension if certain places are designated over others. Others in the group thought that establishing other areas of significant use or ecological value could be really helpful to their towns in terms of resource protection, but agreed that a fair process for establishing such areas would have to be developed. A copy of the policy section described in these notes can be found in Appendix 4.

Another question from Beebe that emerged was what happens if a project is 10% in the Blue Plan policy area, and 90% removed from the policy area. Thompson mentioned that we hadn't previously thought of that and should address it.

Sid Holbrook mentioned that the presentation clarified many of his questions, and that the Blue Plan will be a tool that provides a starting baseline of resources and uses.

Outreach Updates

Due to time constraints Christian Fox was unable to provide an outreach update at the meeting, but he later followed up by email describing ongoing outreach efforts (Appendix 5).

Public Comment Period

Representative Jonathan Steinberg mentioned that he has attended a number of other planning and development-oriented meetings and mentioned that the draft policies are thus far one of the best representative documents in valuing many people's viewpoints. Representative Steinberg appreciates how it is a "living document" which will adapt to changes over time.

Commissioner Klee agreed with Representative Steinberg that the Blue Plan will be a living document and that the Plan and Inventory will change over time. Klee expects there will be revisions as we gain experience with the policies and see which ones are working and which ones need to change.

Jeff Simon asked how the Blue Plan is different from planning efforts in New York, and how the group is coordinating the Blue Plan with New York? Thompson noted that the intention of the plan is to be Sound-Wide, however the Blue Plan was created under CT law and therefore will only apply jurisdictionally to CT waters. Thompson also noted that we have been coordinating with New York in various working teams and subcommittees and they have been providing comment and feedback on the development of the plan.

Tess Getchis mentioned that the viewpoints and vistas section included the word "permanent" in some places and not in others, and she wanted to suggest that we are consistent with this language. She also noted that some industries use non-permanent visual infrastructure for operations, like buoys and lobster pots. Getchis also asked what the word "interfere" was intended to mean in terms of the waterfowl policy, whether it was meant to describe visual or noise interference. She also mentioned that for aquaculture siting, there is currently a checklist for what applicants have to look at and complete, and wondered if there would be a similar document for the Blue Plan. The Blue Plan group noted that we would like to pursue a "How-To" guide for the Blue Plan.

Dave Hudson stated that he sees the goals of the plan as not inhibiting activity but informing activity. Hudson mentioned that he would suggest adding "negatively" to the ESA policy example. The policy example is that an applicant shouldn't alter the ecological value of an ESA, however "altering" could be interpreted as negative or positive.

Susan Bryson asked what the timeline for the Blue Plan development is and that she wasn't clear on the relationship between the Inventory and the Blue Plan. Thompson noted that the Inventory and Blue Plan were two separate documents, and that the Inventory provides data and informs the development of the Blue Plan. Hall also mentioned that a draft of the Blue Plan has to be completed by March 1, 2019 and will then will be available for 90 days of public review.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan

Appendix 1. *Ecological Characterization Draft Description and Contents*

Long Island Sound Blue Plan
Ecological Characterization (EC)

General Description:

1. The EC catalogs map products considered important and/or potentially useful for developing the ESA and for characterizing LIS's ecological components through maps (geospatially).

2. EC map products stem primarily from data references in the Resource & Use Inventory with a few others having been added since the Inventory was drafted.

3. The EC reflects and includes *map product development work.* This work uses and builds on data and map sources referred to in the Inventory (and other sources). It is to generate geospatial map outputs from data and information that is not already in map form or not in a mapped form ready and usable for consideration in the ESA process. For example, Terrain Ruggedness Index (TRI) is a model/process that can be used with existing data sources noted in the Inventory to create a critical component of "Seafloor Complexity." Seafloor Complexity is one of the factors (criteria) that is to be generated to help produce the ESA, however, such a map product or data layer has to be produced, it does not exist in the Inventory even though the data used by the model is referred to in the Inventory. The EC catalogs this type of map product that was not otherwise available through the Inventory alone. In other cases, maps already exist and are referred to in the Inventory (e.g. SAV Eelgrass) but they must still be accessed and positioned for use in the ESA process (e.g. put onto data viewer platform).

4. In short, the EC process took the wealth of LIS ecological data referred to in the Inventory and shaped it to be useable for the ESA process (and to complete our geospatial representation of the LIS Ecosystem generally). Many but not all the data products of the EC will be used in the ESA process. The EC keeps track of both the data products ultimately used for the ESA and those that were considered for ESA and/or contribute to a spatial understanding of the LIS Ecosystem. The later data products may become important at some point for other uses (e.g. website, storymap).

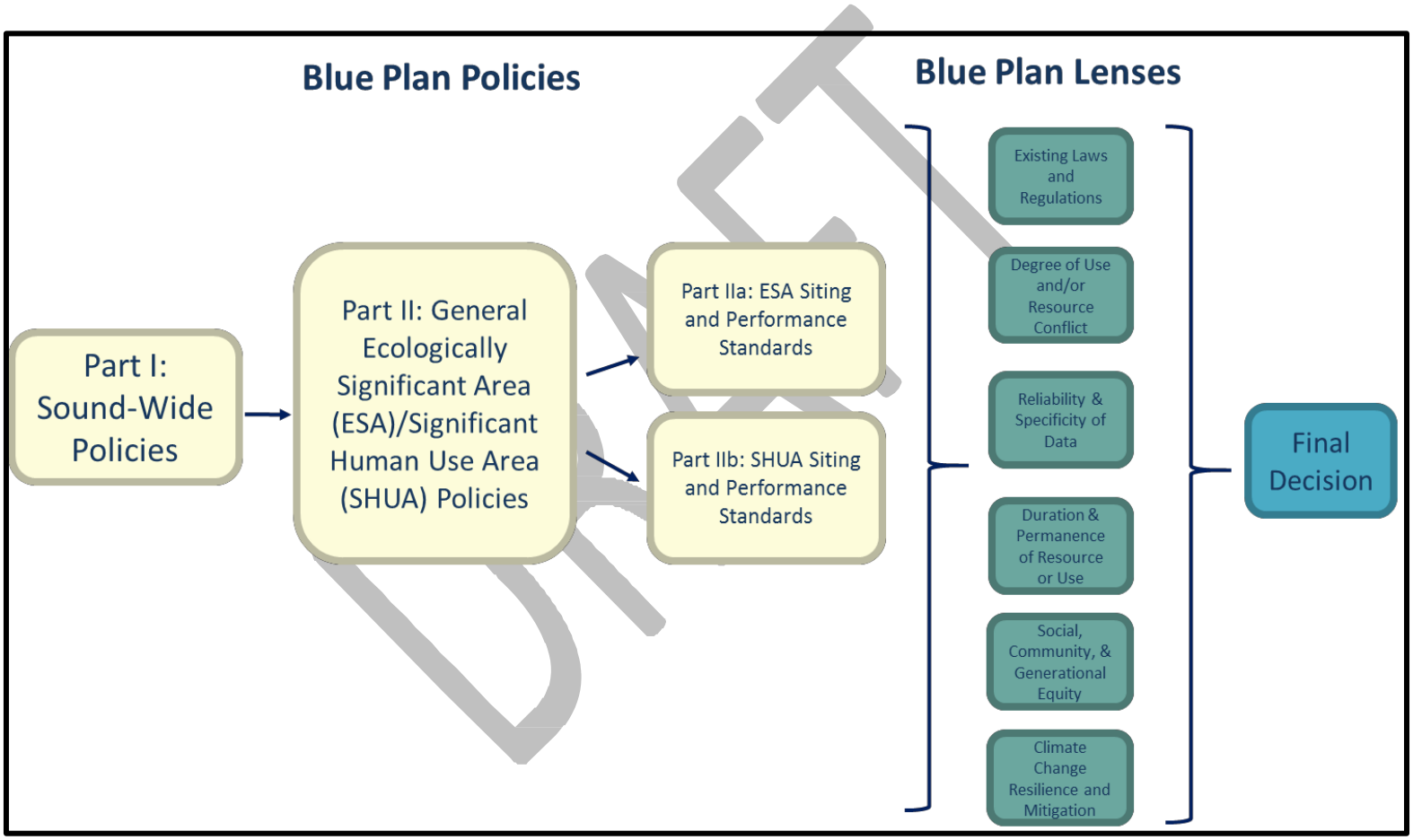
5. The structure of the EC is intended to be brief but usable. It follows the Inventory structure: Plants, Animals, Habitats, etc. Each dataset and accompanying map is to have a brief descriptive narrative and include appropriate metadata, much of which needs to be created as part of the EC process. The EC will briefly note or comment on applicability of the datasets to the ESA work.

Long Island Sound Blue Plan Ecological Characterization – draft outline – August 29, 2018

1. Introduction and context
2. Macroalgae
3. Phytoplankton
    a. Surface chlorophyll-a concentrations: WQ: LISWQ 2016 2010 Surface Chla
    b. Surface chlorophyll-a concentrations: WQ: LISWQ 2016 2010 Surface PAR
4. Eelgrass and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
    a. Seagrass: Eelgrass-SAV 2012
    b. Seagrass: Eelgrass-SAV 2017
5. Marine mammals
    a. Predicted cetacean abundance and diversity – Duke cetacean models (MDAT version 2, 2018)
    b. Cetacean and seal occurrences: Mar Mamm: MysticAquarium LIS Strandings 1997 2017
    c. Seal concentration areas: Mar Mamm: ESI Seal
6. Sea turtles
    a. Sea turtle occurrences: SeaTurtles: Stranding – Riverhead 2018
7. Birds
    a. Bird abundance: Birds: eBird data products (Steen and Elphick 2018)
    b. Audubon Important Bird Areas: Birds: NY LIS IBAs Fall 2014; CT CoastlBndry IBAs 2017
    c. CT DEEP Migratory Waterfowl Concentration Areas: Birds: CT MigratoryWaterfowl
    d. NOAA ESI Bird Special Use Areas: Birds: ESI
8. Fish, Pelagic Invertebrates, Shellfish, and Zooplankton
    a. Fish abundance/biomass: Fish: LIS Trawl Data (Fish Species Biomass) 2005-2014
    b. Shellfish Etc: CT Shellfish Beds Natural 2018
    c. Shellfish Etc: CT Recreational Beds 2018
    d. Shellfish Etc: Proportion of future (avg 2061-2080) days just right/warm/too cold/too hot – American lobster
    e. Fish species richness: FISH LISEA LISTS – sp richness – all species
    f. Fish persistence: FISH LISEA LISTS – weighted persistence – demersal, diadromous, pelagic
    g. Zooplankton abundance – CT DEEP LIS Water Quality Monitoring?
9. Benthic Invertebrates
    a. Cold-water coral observations: BenthInv: Cold-water coral 2010s
    b. Benthic species richness: BenthInv: LISRC 35 LIS Benthic Communities, Buzas Foraminiferal, C perfringens, Samples Pelligrino
    c. BenthInv: LISCable LISMARC Epifaunal & Infaunal 2012/2013 Community Clusters, Richness, Abundance, Diversity Indices
10. Coastal Wetlands
    a. Imp Hab Areas: ESI Wetlands
    b. Imp Hab Areas: NWI CT & NY – 2km LIS buffer
11. Bathymetry and Seafloor Complexity
    a. Bathymetry: TopoBathy: NOAA NOA Hi-Res Bathymetry
    b. Bathymetry: TopoBathy: NEODP LIS bathymetry
    c. Seafloor complexity: TopoBathy: LISEA bathy complex
    d. Seafloor complexity: TopoBathy: TRI Composite 8m
    e. Seafloor complexity: TopoBathy: Slope Composite 8m

12. Sediments and Geochemistry
    a. GeoChem: USGS seddata pts
    b. GeoChem: LISEA hardbottom
    c. GeoChem: LISCable LDEO Grabs, Cores, Grain Size, Sediment Texture Shepard, Sediment Texture Folk, SedenvEnergy
    d. GeoChem: LISCable LISMARC 2012/2013 Sediment, N, H, TOC
    e. GeoChem: USGS LIS Surficial Sediment, Sedimentary Environment
13. Physical Oceanography, Meteorology, and Water Quality
    a. WQ: LISWQ 2016 2010 FW/SS Corrected O2, PAR, Temp, Chla, DOC, NH LC, TDN LC, TDP
    b. WQ: nst contaminants (Sediment, Oyster, Mussel, Fish Liver
    c. WQ: EPA NCCA Benthic Index, Sediment Quality Index, Water Quality Index
    d. GeoChem: Annual/seasonal sea floor stress/sediment mobility (USGS)
    e. Regional-scale oceanography/meteorological data – regional Portals
    f. LIS oceanography/meteorology – Jim O'Donnell
14. Ecologically Notable Places and Ecological Marine Units
    a. GeoChem: LISEA Benthic EMU
    b. GeoChem: LISEA Benthic EMU var
15. Other
    a. Imp Hab Areas: NY Significant Habitats
    b. Imp Hab Areas: CT estuarine critical habitats
    c. Restoration sites
16. Ecologically Significant Areas
    a. Matching Ecological Characterization data with Ecologically Significant Areas criteria
    b. EC data with no match to ESA criteria – however these are still being used as inputs/covariates in bird abundance modeling; could be used in other ecological models
        i. Chemical and contaminant data
        ii. Temperature, salinity, DO, nutrient data
        iii. Other oceanography/meteorology data
    c. ESA criteria for which there are incomplete or no EC data available
        i. High priority restoration sites
        ii. Macroalgae
        iii. Sea turtles

Appendix 2. *Blue Plan Policy Basic Structure*



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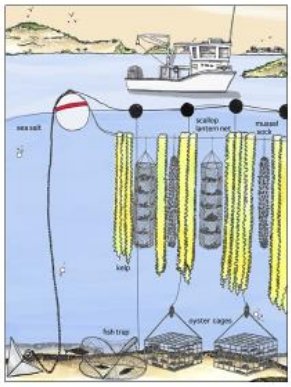
Appendix 3. *High Level Example of using the Blue Plan for a Seaweed Farm Application*

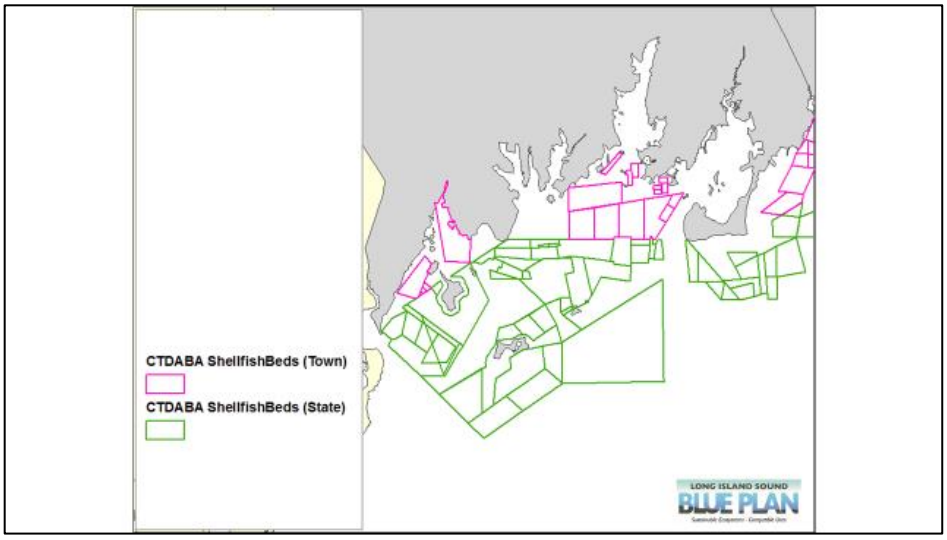
Project Example: Seaweed Farm

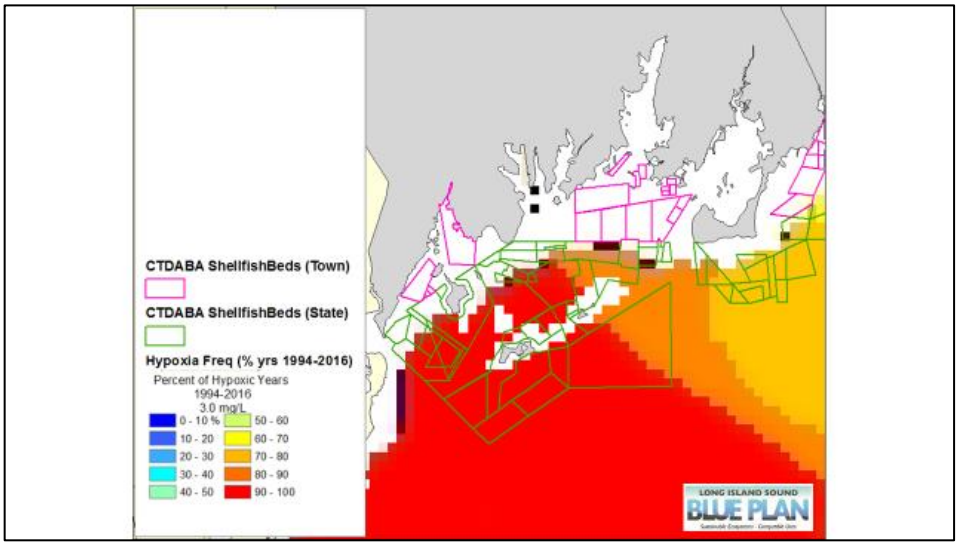


NBC News

What are your initial considerations? How do you site your project?

- Lease over a shellfish bed
- Water Quality
- Bathymetry


CTDABA ShellfishBeds (Town)
CTDABA ShellfishBeds (State)
LONG ISLAND SOUND
BLUE PLAN


CTDABA ShellfishBeds (Town)
CTDABA ShellfishBeds (State)
Hypoxia Freq (% yrs 1994-2016)
Percent of Hypoxic Years
1994-2016
3.0 mg/L
0 - 10 %
10 - 20
20 - 30
30 - 40
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60 - 70
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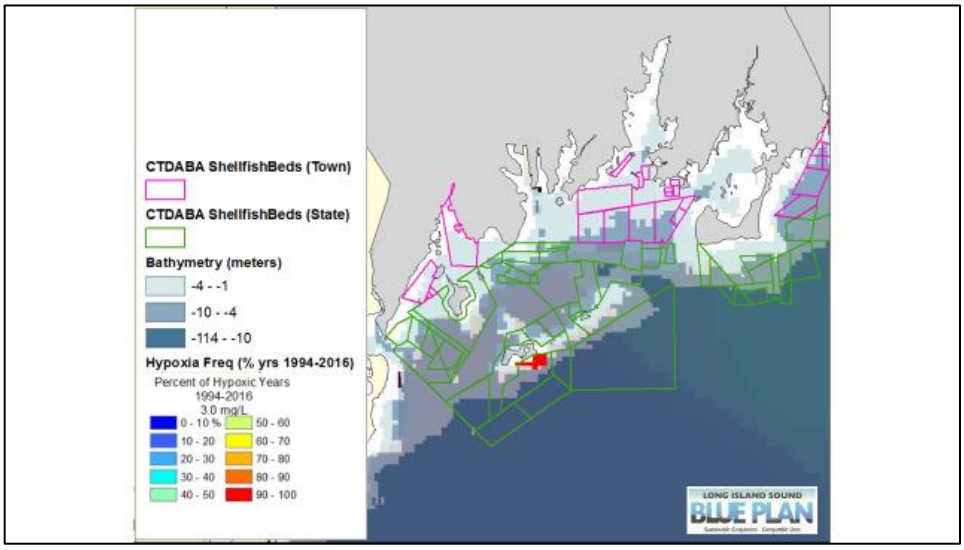
80 - 90
90 - 100
LONG ISLAND SOUND
BLUE PLAN


CTDABA ShellfishBeds (Town)
CTDABA ShellfishBeds (State)
Bathymetry (meters)
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-10 - -4
-114 - -10
Hypoxia Freq (% yrs 1994-2016)
Percent of Hypoxic Years
1994-2016
3.0 mg/L
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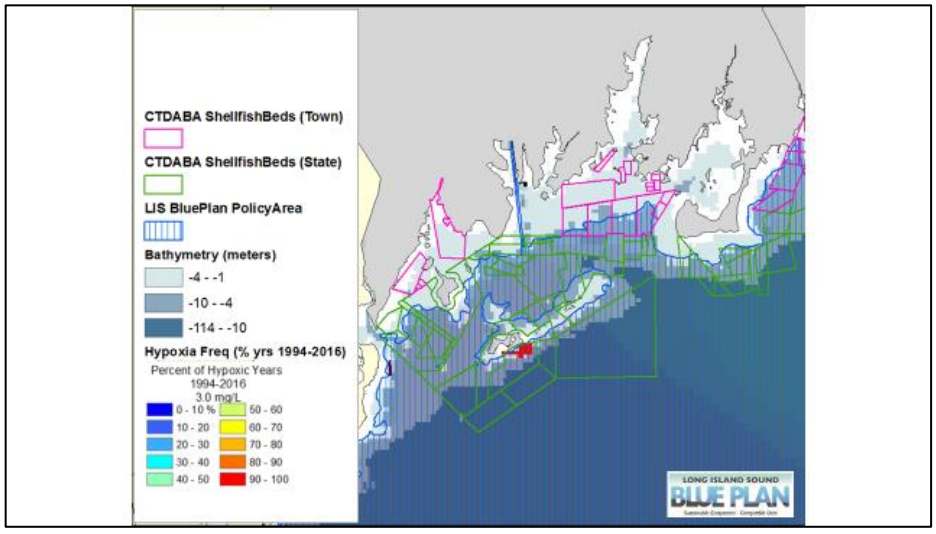
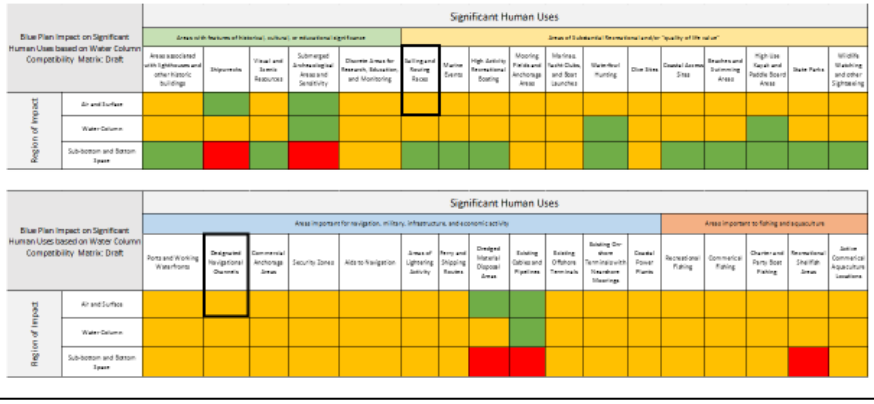
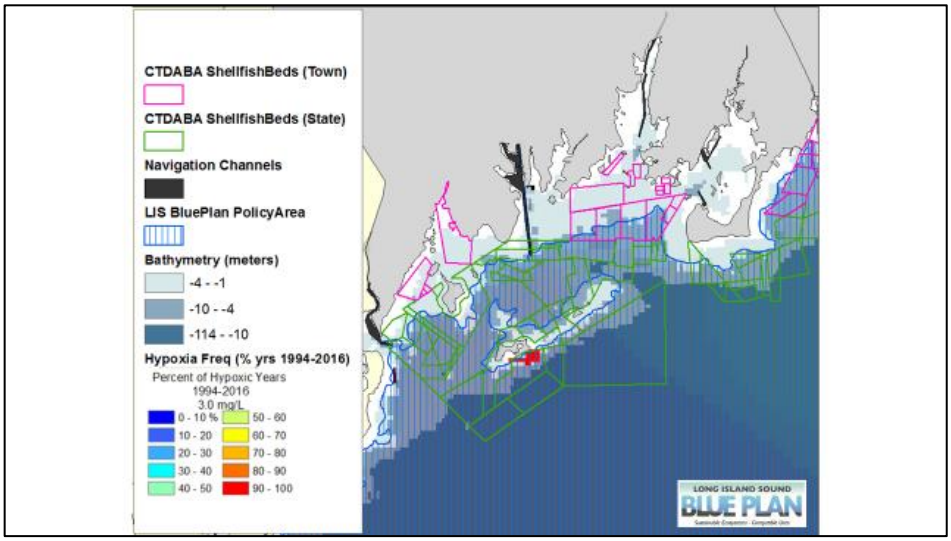


What part of the water column would your use likely have impact? What uses/resources will there be potential conflict?



What part of the water column would your use likely have impact? What uses/resources will there be potential conflict?

- Sailing Races
- Navigational Channels


CTDABA ShellfishBeds (Town)
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Navigation Channels
LIS BluePlan PolicyArea
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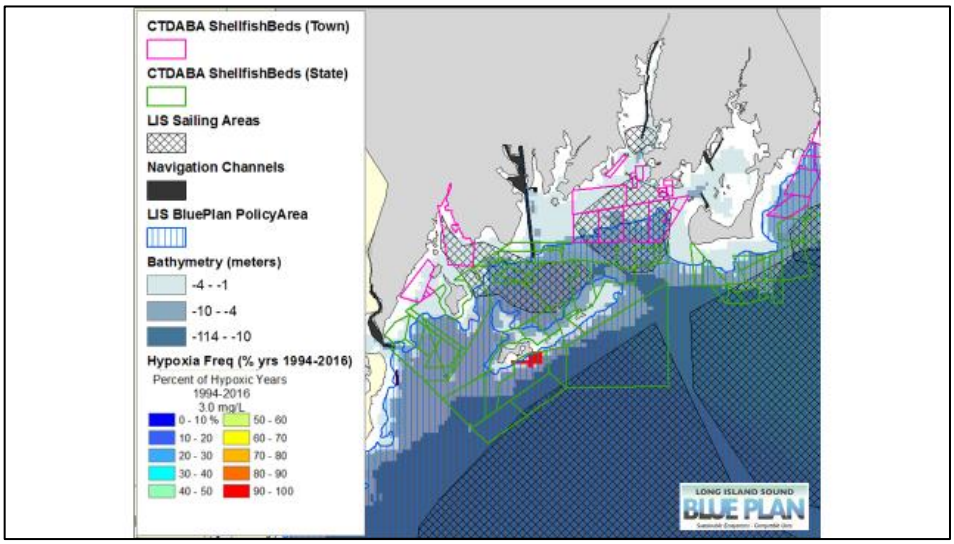
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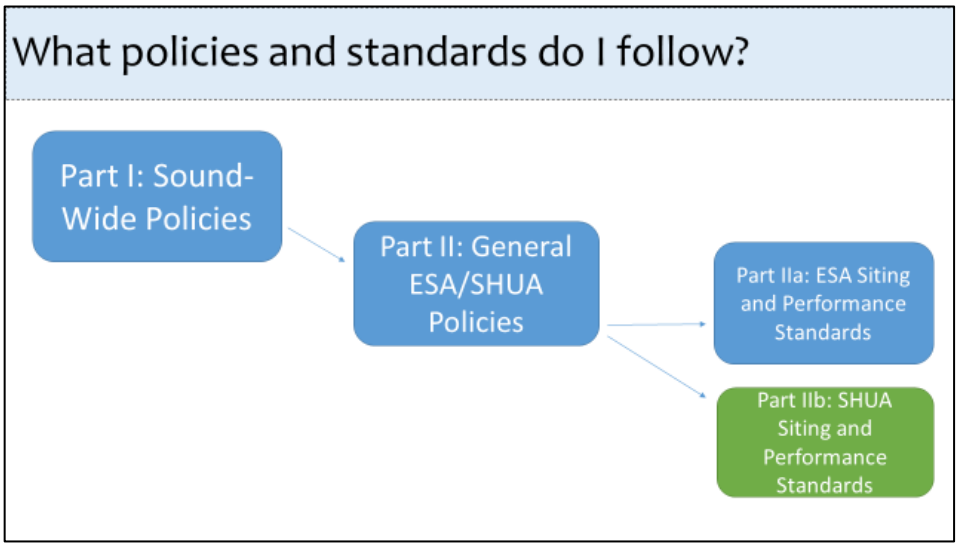
What policies and standards do I follow?
Part I: Sound-Wide Policies
Part II: General ESA/SHUA Policies
Part IIa: ESA Siting and Performance Standards
Part IIb: SHUA Siting and Performance Standards

Significant Use Area Categories	AS. Air and Surface	WC. Water Column	BS. Benthos & Substrate
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 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.

Significant Use Area Categories	AS. Air and Surface	WC. Water Column	BS. Benthos & Substrate
5. Areas important for Navigation, Transportation, Military, Infrastructure, Economic Activities			
5.1 Ports and 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 port infrastructure. Fishing and boating activities allowed subject to port operations.	No activities, or permanent fixed structures that would interfere with maritime and water-dependent activities, including navigational channels and port infrastructure. Aquaculture and fishing allowed subject to port operations.	No on-bottom structures or disturbance that would interfere with port operations, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and port infrastructure.
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 must be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.	Activities must be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.	Activities must be consistent with the regulations for that designated area.
5.4 Aids to Navigation	No activity or permanent structures that interfere with vessel traffic and navigation, including maneuvering.	No activity or permanent structures that interfere with vessel traffic and navigation, including maneuvering.	No activity or permanent structures that interfere with vessel traffic and navigation, including maneuvering.

How should I consider the Blue Plan "lenses"?

<u>*Duration and Permanence of Resource or Use*</u>

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.

- ✓ What are the dates of the sailing races?
- ✓ Do I want to leave equipment in all-year round, or will I take equipment out seasonally?

Appendix 4. *Geographic Significant Areas (formally known as part IIc)*

- **PART IIc: AREA-BASED PRORITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

  This section will contain siting and performance standards for distinct geographic regions, based on the area of the water column. There will also be a section stating the priority uses of the area.

  *The below statements are examples, and the locations and policies will be developed further as the ESA/SHUA process evolves.

Designated Management Area Locations	Priority Uses	Air and Surface	Water Column	Benthos & Substrate
Stratford Shoals	Habitat Conservation	No permanent fixed or floating structures	Fishing, vessel traffic allowed	No bottom disturbance
ELDS	Dredged material disposal	No restrictions except during disposal operations	No in-water aquaculture structures or fixed fishing gear (e.g., lobster pots)	No bottom disturbance except for disposal operations
Thimble Islands	Shellfish aquaculture, navigation	No structures that would interfere with priority uses; no residences or other non-WDU within regulated areas	No fixed structures or fishing gear that would interfere with navigation or aquaculture activities	Utility lines should be comprehensively mapped and encouraged to be buried within existing corridors, outside of leased or designated shellfish beds, and not be extended to undeveloped islands.
Thames River Maritime Commercial Center	Military, Transportation, Marine related Manufacturing	Structures for marine commercial uses shall have priority over other uses, although adverse impacts may need to be mitigated.	No fixed structures or fishing gear that would interfere with navigation, military, or marine commercial activities.	Dredging to support priority uses is allowed under applicable regulatory standards. Cooperative area wide mitigation projects are encouraged.

Appendix 5. *Outreach Follow-Up Email to BPAC*

Hello Blue Plan Advisory Committee members,

Thank you again for the great conversation last Thursday about policy development. Since that discussion was key to the formation of the Plan we did not want to interrupt it, so we omitted a couple of agenda items to save time. I am writing to you now to provide a quick update on some outreach actions we are also pursuing:

- This week we expect to begin reaching out to "Sector Champions;" additional folks familiar with both the Blue Plan as well as with the concerns of specific sectors. We will be asking about the clarity of policies and Siting and Performance Standards in Section II.b.

- We expect to share the updated policy document publicly later this month, posting it on the BP web page. We will also begin reengaging with sector organizations via meetings and webinars to discuss policy development.

- To present the Blue Plan more publicly, DEEP and Middlesex Community College (MxCC) are working together on a video interview series. We expect that the episodes will feature several BPAC members and a few stakeholders, to explore the details of why the Blue Plan matters to all of us; look for more detailed information soon.

- The next Public Hearing will be in early November (tentatively the 8th) and solicit public input on the policies.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you,
Christian