

THE PROBLEM

Long Island Sound (LIS) is the Northeast's largest estuary and includes some of the Earth's most productive natural habitats. The Sound is important to more than 20 million people who live within 50 miles and generates billions annually for local economies through tourism, fishing and other uses.

There are mounting demands for use of the Sound, from new energy development and the prospect of a cross-Sound bridge, to large structural responses to sea level rise. The character of the Sound could be significantly changed with just one major project, as was apparent by the Broadwater Liquefied Natural Gas proposal in 2001.

Currently, the state of Connecticut has no authority to comprehensively plan for multiple future uses of the Sound. At the moment, project applicants set the agenda, and the public and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) can respond only through the regulatory process to individual projects.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

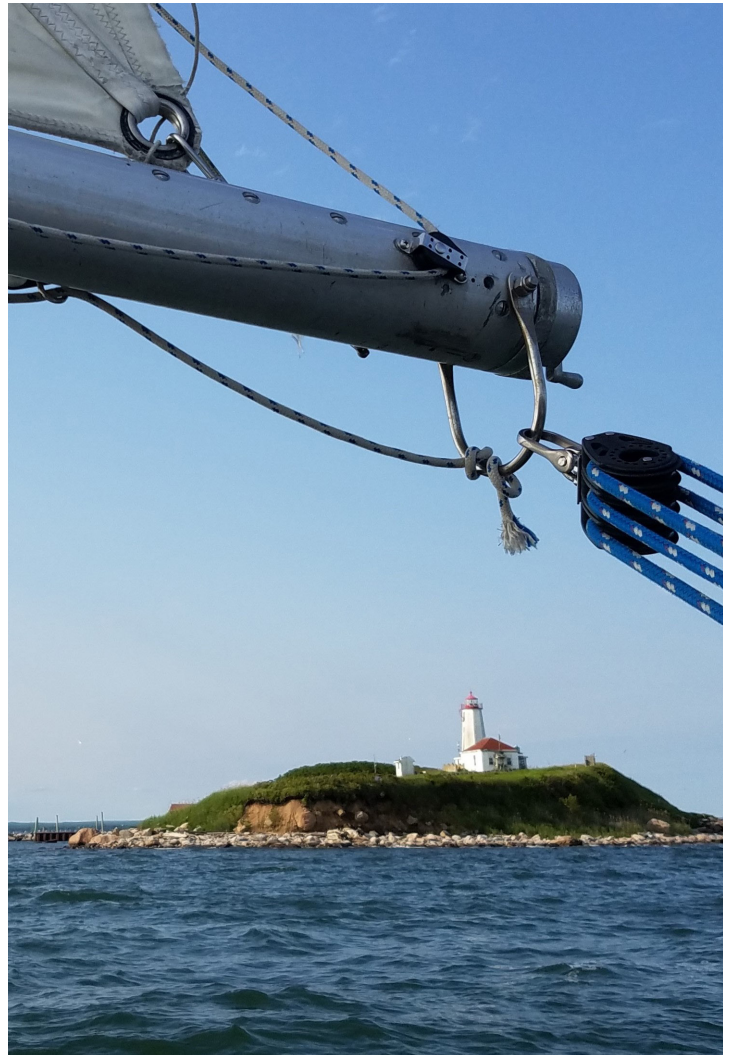
The General Assembly should approve the Blue Plan in its current form to enable its implementation. Such legislation will also enhance Connecticut's ability to coordinate marine planning with the State of New York.

The Blue Plan would proactively protect Long Island Sound all while preserving traditional uses, the maritime beauty, and the environmental values that make the Sound such a desirable place to live, work, and play. The Blue Plan assures that new uses are compatible with these traditional values and resources.

MORE INFORMATION

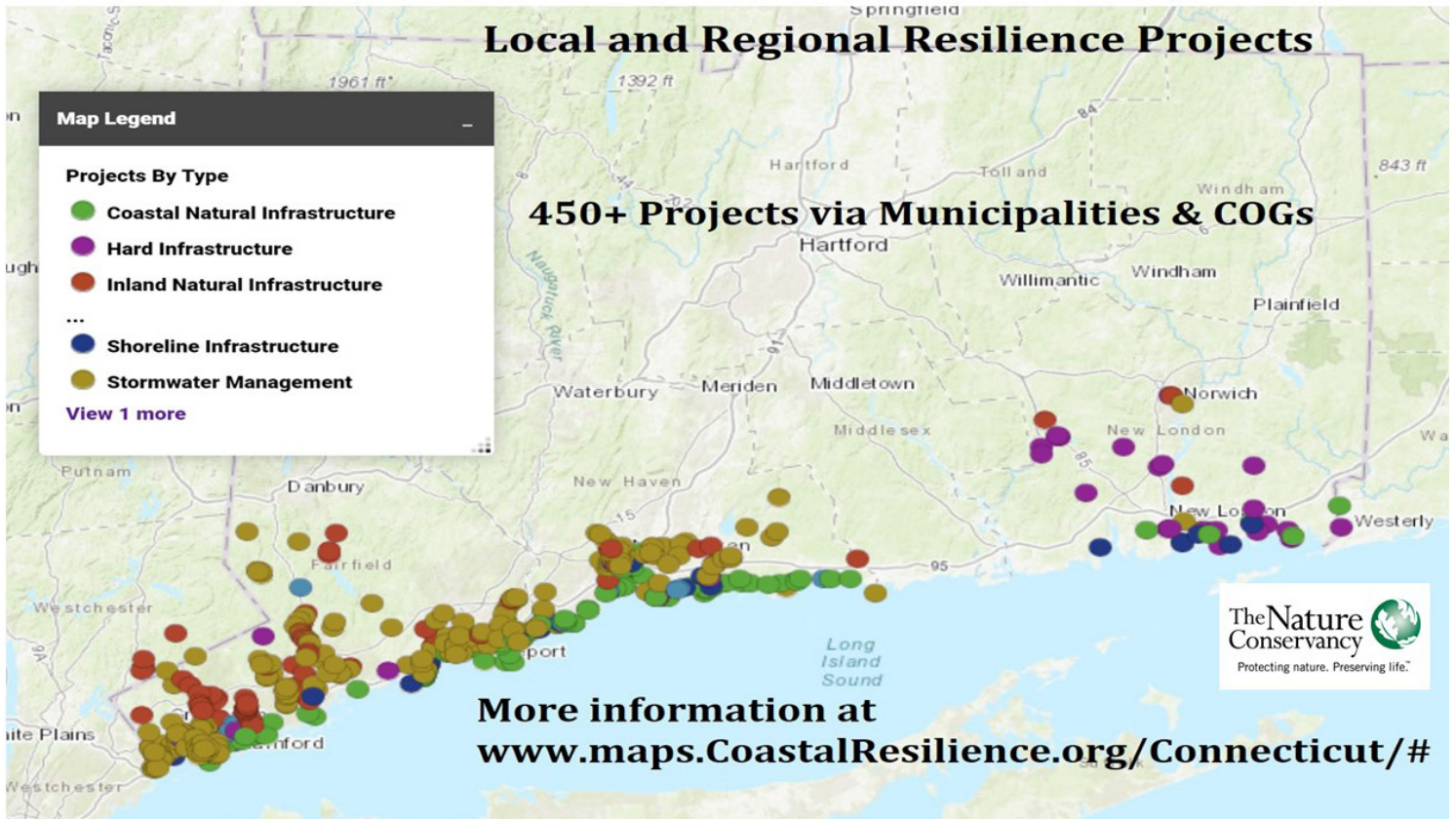
To learn more about the Blue Plan, contact:

Nathan Frohling, The Nature Conservancy
Director, CT Coastal & Marine Initiatives
203-980-5149 | nfrohling@tnc.org



FAST FACTS

- ◆ Built on the best available science and stakeholder expertise, the Blue Plan incorporates the contributions of nearly **2,000 individuals** from conservation, business, recreation, government, Native American tribes and the public.
- ◆ The Blue Plan will help protect **14 “Ecologically Significant Areas,”** representing the diversity of marine life and habitats in Long Island Sound.
- ◆ It will also help protect **29 “Significant Human Use Areas”** such as fishing, boating and maritime commerce.



Connecticut is home to a collection of communities each with its own individual identity and history. The fate of each community is closely tied to the social, environmental, and economic health of the entire region. The extreme weather and climate change challenges facing Connecticut are best tackled collectively with multiple towns, organizations, agencies, departments, associations, institutions, foundations, and businesses working together to advance this local and regional resilience.

The Community Resilience Building team at The Nature Conservancy, in direct partnership with municipalities and Councils of Government, has identified and catalogued over 450 resilience projects. The goal of these projects is to reduce risk to people and property, improve public amenities, and enhance ecosystems. All of these projects have been integrated into three Regional Resilience Frameworks. These projects and the encompassing regional framework will help communities clarify common challenges and strengths while providing a positive vision for continued dialogue, resource sharing, and forward-thinking leadership.

For more information on Community Resilience Building, visit:
CommunityResilienceBuilding.org