The BLUE PLAN

Public Act 15-66
A Long Island Sound Blue Plan and Resource and Use Inventory
Long Island Sound is extraordinary:

• Special natural place *and* vital economic, cultural resource

• It is *publicly-owned* . . . by you and me
Human demands growing/unanticipated changes lurk

- *Without a clear path, new demands could undermine what we love*
No authority to plan for future use ... to assure *public interest*

- Currently: States can only respond thru regulatory process to individual proposals
Blue Plan provides the authority to plan & protect what we cherish.
Outcome 1: Protect traditional uses & natural resources

- What places are important for recreational & commercial boating & fishing & maritime commerce?
- What places are important for fish & marine life, even potentially for scenic beauty?
Outcome 2: Reduce Conflicts & Cost

- Reduce *Conflicts between uses*:
  - Floating restaurant /shellfish beds
  - Seaweed farm /sailing regattas
  - LNG platform /shipping channels

- Reduce *Conflicts between uses and nature*:
  - Underground cable /biologically diverse reef

- Reduce *Costs of Conflict*, reduce litigation
Outcome 3: Plan new uses more efficiently

- **Possible Bonus**: Federal decisions and funding are consistent w/ plan
Blue Plan: How will it work?

Overall Lead : CT DEEP, Commissioner

Resource & Use Sub-committee: UConn
Official Blue Plan Advisory Committee: (16)

- Dept of DEEP, Transpo, Ag, OPM
- UConn Marine Sciences
- CT Siting Council
- Marine Trades industry
- Conservation Organizations (2)
- Gas & Electric industry
- Commercial Finfish industry
- Recreational fishing & hunting
- Shellfish industry
- Coastal Municipalities (2)
- Commercial boating/shipping industries
Officially Recognized Entities: Coordination, plan development

- State of New York
- Long Island Sound Study
- NE Regional Planning Body
- Bi-State MSP Working Group
- et al
Boundaries & Timeline:

- Seaward of 10’ depth contour; downstream of bridges
- Starts now - draft completed: March 1, 2019
BLUE PLAN:

Shall be considered in review of new applications for:

- DEEP permits (e.g. structures, dredging, fill, water discharges)
- CT Siting Council
- Aquaculture
- Seaweed cultivation
BLUE PLAN:

- Identify appropriate locations and performance standards for new activities, uses & facilities regulated under existing state programs

  i.e. guide siting of new uses to be compatible with the Blue Plan
Stakeholders & Public:

Blue Plan Shall:
“be developed through a transparent and inclusive process that seeks widespread participation of the public and stakeholders and encourages public participation in decision making;”
Bi-State Approach . . . What about State of New York?

Blue Plan process shall:

“be coordinated, developed and implemented, to the maximum extent feasible, with the state of New York”
New York State (DEC & DOS) has decided to participate . . .
But how to make Bi-State approach work?

One approach:
- Each state adopts a plan or program thru their own official processes
- The plans or programs are similar, consistent, able to apply Sound-wide,
- Cooperative agreement or other instrument guides inter-state cooperation and management
What about the bi-state planning process?

- New York State participate on the Blue Plan Advisory Committee
- Stakeholder engagement is bi-state, Sound-wide
- Cooperation between States on data management (e.g. NY Gateway)
- Pro-active bi-state communication and cooperation
We have a remarkable opportunity
• To chart a course for LIS in the public interest before the next controversy
• Success will take participation
• Remember the places you care about!

Thank you!