

Meeting Highlights
Mapping New York's Seagrasses
March 4, 2008

A. Current State:

| | <u>Peconic Bays</u> | <u>Long Island Sound</u> | <u>South Shore</u> | <u>Narragansett Bay</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Responsible Entity</u> | PEP -> CCE | LISS -> USFWS | NYSDOS ->NOAA CSC | NBNERR ->URI EDC |
| <u>Last Survey</u> | 2000 | 2006 | 2002 | 2006 |
| <u>Mapping Frequency</u> | | | | |
| <i>Desired</i> | 2 years | 4 years | 2 years | |
| <i>Actual</i> | 9 years | 4 years | 6 years | 10 years |
| <u>Methods</u> | C-CAP; 1:14000 True Color DOQQ | C-CAP; 1:20000 True Color DOQQ | C-CAP | C-CAP; 1:12000 True Color Ortho |
| <u>Entities</u> | | | | |
| <i>Aerials</i> | PEP contracted out | USFWS contracted out | DOS Contracted w/ Sewall | J. W. Sewall Co. |
| <i>Interpretations</i> | USFWS | USFWS | NOAA CSC/Photoscience | URI EDC |
| <i>Groundtruthing</i> | CCE and Peconic BayKeeper | USFWS | NOAA CSC | URI/ NB NERR |
| <u>Next Survey?</u> | 2008/2009 | 2009 | 2008 | ? |

B. Recommendations, Conclusions, Issues and Action Items:

General Mapping:

- Ideally, plan for complete mapping every 2 years
- Mapping vs Trends Analysis
- Map SAV only or macroalgae too?

Aerial Timing/Frequency:

- Aerials should reflect peak biomass (Peconics & LIS- June/July; SSER- May)
- Ideally, aerials should be taken same time, every mapping effort
- More important that LIS and Peconic efforts match up- similarity of beds
- Technology- digital is the way to go
- *NYSDOS to roll Peconics into NOAA/Photo Science MOA for 2008 season – aerials and interpretation only? (Action Item)*
- *Historical photosets: ID what historic sets exist (to be used for intermediate analyses)- Seagrass Task Force (Action Item)*

Digitizing:

- Heads-up digitizing best method
- Good bathy data needed
- Minimize # of photo interpreters
- Standardized classification system (continuous, patchy, discontinuous)
- Standardized minimum mapping unit
- What about beds not detectable on aerials? Mapping vs trends analysis.
- *South Shore bathy data issues need to be resolved- Seagrass Task Force (Action Item)*

Groundtruthing:

- Should be conducted same season as aerials (2 month turn around)
- Peconic to duplicate LIS groundtruthing methods
- Use of acoustic?
- Distance b/w video transects?

C. Action Items:

1. *NYSDOS to investigate feasibility of adding Peconics to NOAA/Photo Science MOA for 2008 season – aerials and interpretation only. PEP to provide info on coverage area for quote.*
2. *Seagrass Task Force to identify and inventory all historical photosets- to support intermediate analyses.*
3. *Seagrass Task Force to resolve South Shore bathy data issues.*

D. Attendees:

| Name | Affiliation | Phone | Email |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
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Agenda

Mapping New York's Seagrasses

Tuesday March 4th, 2008 1pm-4:30pm
NYSDEC, Bureau of Marine Resources
East Setauket, NY

1:00pm **Introductions**

1:15pm **Where are we Now?**

Brief presentation/discussion of estuary efforts. Topics may include but are not limited to: last completed survey and results; survey frequencies; methodology used for aerials, aerial interpretation and groundtruthing; who actually does the work; when the next survey will likely occur.

- Peconic Estuary
- Long Island Sound
- South Shore Estuary
- Narragansett Bay

2:45pm **Where should we go? And how do we get there?**

- Discussion of different techniques, methodologies, timing, frequency, etc.
- Appropriateness/applicability of non-SAV photosets for intermediate analyses?
- What really is the best route?
- How can efforts be coordinated b/w estuaries to ensure consistency?

4:00pm **Conclusions and Next Steps**