

# Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan Programmatic EIS



# What is an EIS

- Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) states that “the Federal Government shall...include in...its recommendations, proposals...and other major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment, a detailed statement...that identifies, analyzes, and documents...effects and issues associated with the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.”
- The detailed statement referred to is the Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS.

# NEPA Process

- A decision making tool, providing full disclosure
- Public is involved throughout the process
- Documents existing conditions, evaluates alternatives, and documents and analyzes impacts
- Identifies a preferred course of action in a Record of Decision (ROD)

# Programmatic EIS

- A PEIS evaluates environmental impacts of broad agency actions
- The PEIS will evaluate the overall impacts of alternatives identified in the DMMP
- It will allow decision makers a means to evaluate different dredged material disposal options with full knowledge of potential environmental consequences
- More detailed NEPA documents may be prepared to evaluate specific impacts resulting from implementation of a given option at a specific location
- Prepared concurrently with DMMP
- Prepared to comply with requirements of other applicable statutes and regulations, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

# Studies and Activities for PEIS Analysis

- Compile and review existing data on:
  - Water quality
  - Sediments
  - Physical Oceanography
  - Near bottom modeling
  - Biological Resources
  - Cultural Resources
- Determine data gaps
- Develop study methodologies to meet the data needs

# PEIS and Public Involvement

- A public involvement program will be conducted throughout the PEIS process
- Will provide public with information on the EIS process, progress of studies for the PEIS, and create opportunities for the public to provide input and comment on the development of the PEIS
- Activities will include:
  - Public scoping meetings (week of Nov 26)
  - Public information sessions and workshops
  - Periodic newsletters or fact sheets
  - 45-day review of Draft EIS
  - Public Meeting/Hearing on Draft EIS
  - Final EIS made available to public for 30 days



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