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New York State Department of State  
Division of Coastal Resources  
Long Island Sound Dredged Materials Management Plan

The Department of State is New York's designated coastal management agency. In that capacity the Department is responsible for the overall administration of New York's federally approved Coastal Management Program. Part of those responsibilities include comprehensive planning for the protection and uses of coastal natural and cultural resources, and advancing appropriate protection and uses of those resources through federal and State coastal regulatory and other decision-making processes. In this respect the Department has for more than two decades advocated the development and use of alternative practices, technologies, and beneficial use markets for the management of dredged materials so those materials are used as valuable commodities, rather than summarily disposed of in the stressed but important open water and benthic environments of Long Island Sound.

On June 3, 2004 the Department exercised its federally delegated Coastal Zone Management Act authority and objected to the designation of dredged material disposal sites in Long Island Sound. Part of the state's objection was based on the failure of government since the need in the early 1970's and again in the 1980's to develop a much-needed plan for the comprehensive management of dredged materials in the Long Island Sound region. Our respective New York and Connecticut Governors and subsequently our Congressional representatives called for, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to work with New York and Connecticut to develop a Dredged Materials Management Plan for Long Island Sound. That plan is to be different than other more traditional dredged materials management plans. It is to have great emphasis on significantly reducing and if possible eliminating the disposal of dredged materials in Long Island Sound by identifying and advancing new or needed technologies, beneficial uses, and markets for managing dredged materials in the region. It is to be developed with input from the public. This public meeting is part of the process through which the public can influence the plan.

The Department of State expects and will work to ensure the plan will be developed to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of New York's Coastal Management Program, as they are reflected in New York's regional Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program. This "consistent to the maximum extent practicable" standard is a federally required element of New York's Coastal Management Program. It does not allow agencies or others to use a general claim of a lack of funding or insufficient funds, or failure to include the costs of being consistent in budget or planning processes as a basis for not acting or undertaking activities in a manner fully consistent with all applicable policies of New York's Coastal Management Program. Agencies instead are to advance all applicable coastal policies relating to the protection and use of the coastal area and its resources in a manner that avoids conflicts between competing governmental policy objectives, without advancing any one of those objectives to the detriment of another. This is what distinguishes New York's Coastal Management Program decision-making from other regulatory and related decision-making requirements. It is what New York's Department of State is working toward and hopes to achieve with its partner agencies and the public as we develop and implement this Dredged Materials Management Plan for Long Island Sound. Please provide us, the respective partner agencies, with your comments and suggestions for developing and implementing a far-reaching and progressive comprehensive Dredged Materials Management Plan for the Long Island Sound region. Copies of comments to the partner agencies should be sent to the New York State Department of State at 41 State Street, Albany, New York, 12231-0001, attn: LIS DMMP. Comments may also be forwarded to the Department of State through e-mail at [Coastal@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:Coastal@dos.state.ny.us).