

BLUE PLAN BASICS

Introduction



Sustainable Ecosystems - Compatible Uses

In 2015, the Connecticut legislature passed [Public Act 15-66](#), which outlined a marine spatial planning process for Long Island Sound. This process consists of: (1) putting together an “Inventory” of the Sound’s natural resources and human uses and (2) using the Inventory to create a spatial “Blue Plan” to guide future uses of the Sound’s waters and submerged lands.

Why is the Blue Plan Process Important?

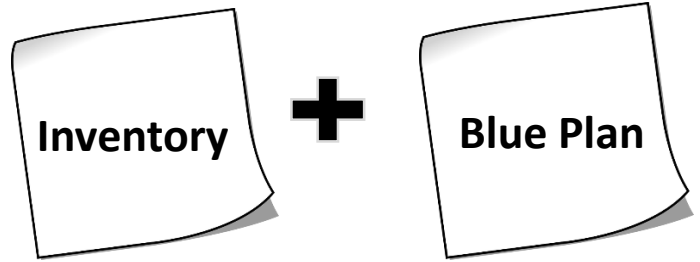


Long Island sound supports a thriving marine ecosystem and a variety of human uses, valued at \$17-\$36 Billion annually.

The traditional uses and ecology of the Sound are currently not protected under a comprehensive legal document.

The Blue Plan will protect the existing human uses and resources of Sound to ensure that future uses of the Sound are compatible with these existing uses and resources .

What are the Outputs of the Blue Plan Process?



There are two outputs of the Blue Plan process:

- A comprehensive Resource and Use Inventory that characterizes the Sound’s human uses and natural resources. The Inventory will be based on the best available data and information, including stakeholder input, and serves as the foundation of the Blue Plan.
- The Blue Plan, which will identify locations, performance standards, and siting measures for proposed activities, uses, and facilities in the Sound. **The Blue Plan will NOT create new regulations**; rather, it will be included as a part of the State’s decision-making processes within *existing* regulations. The Plan will reflect all of Long Island Sound, but policies will only apply to Connecticut waters.

When completed, the Plan’s policies will protect both ecosystems and existing human uses — all while allowing for new sustainable and compatible uses.

How is the Blue Plan Process Being Carried Out?

The process is overseen by the Blue Plan Advisory Committee (BPAC), which includes delegates from water-dependent industries, universities, NGOs, local governments, and more. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), CT Sea Grant, and The Nature Conservancy lead in primary Inventory and Blue Plan development.



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Did You Know?

A draft Plan is due by **March 2019**.

The BPAC holds quarterly meetings, open to the public, and has six subcommittees and work teams that conduct work on a regular basis. There is no special state funding to carry out the Blue Plan process; capacity is leveraged only through existing resources, in-kind support, and grants .



For more information or further resources, please visit: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan>