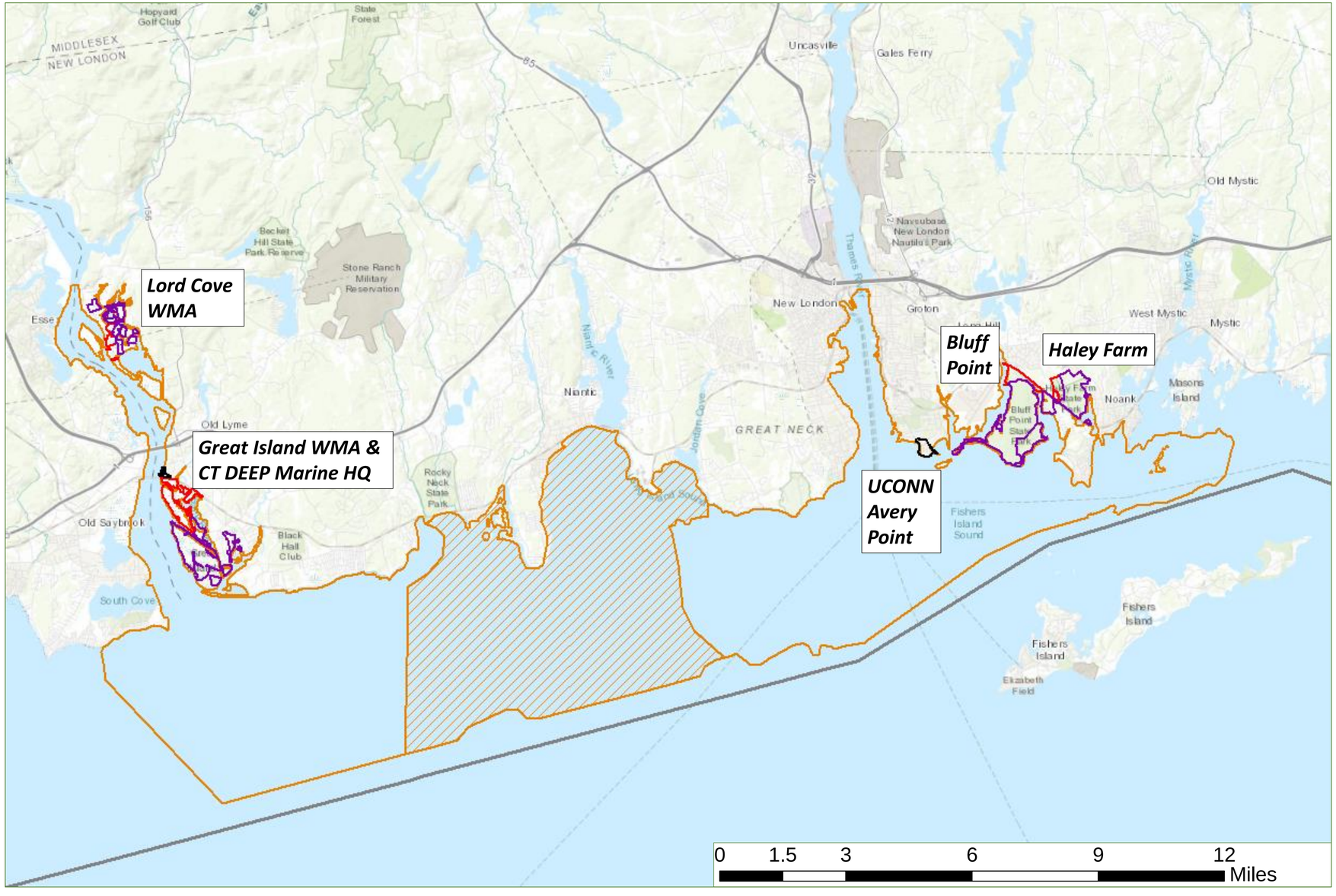
# 1. Proposed CT National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Site Map




*Map prepared by CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, October, 2018*

Upland areas include the following State owned properties:

- Lord Cove Wildlife Management Area (WMA);
- Great Island WMA;
- Bluff Point State Park, Coastal Reserve, & Natural Area Preserve;
- Haley Farm State Park

UCONN Avery Point and CT DEEP Marine Headquarters provide facility options.

Subtidal areas (within the public trust area water-ward of the Mean High Water shoreline) are designed to include areas of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and Eelgrass beds as well as hard and soft-bottom habitats spanning shallow to deep-water depths.

Core and buffer areas are required sub-divisions. They identify current key ecological areas and places that could accommodate future shifts in habitats and species.

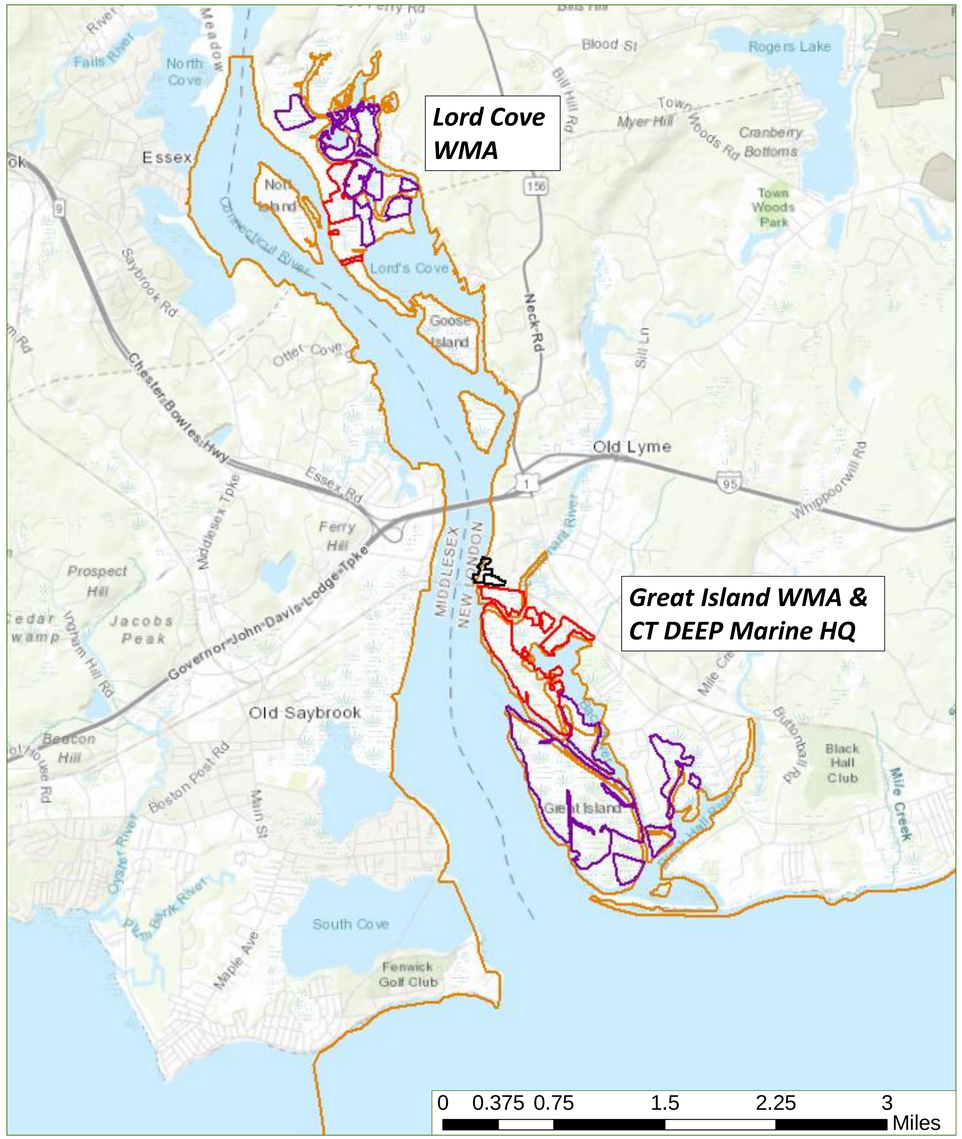
**Upland Areas**

- Core
- Buffer
- Buffer-Facility

**Subtidal Areas**

- Core
- Buffer

# 2. Proposed CT National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Site Map – Western Areas




*Map prepared by CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, October, 2018*

**Upland Areas**

- Core
- Buffer
- Buffer-Facility

**Subtidal Areas**

- Core
- Buffer

**Lord Cove WMA:**

Lord Cove Wildlife Management Area encompasses about 200 acres of brackish reed marsh and floodplain forest. In the high-marsh zone, the narrow–leaved cattail, can reach an average height of 5 feet and form monospecific colonies. It's also adjacent to intertidal flats and submerged aquatic vegetation beds.

*Lord Cove, as seen from the north, looking southwest towards the Connecticut River*

**Great Island WMA:**

The Great Island Wildlife Management Area consists of an extensive system of salt and brackish meadow marshes. It is located at the mouth of the Connecticut River, the only principal river in the northeastern United States without a major port or urban area there. This has preserved the rural character of the regional landscape and helped maintain the River's extraordinary array of natural and relatively undisturbed biotic communities.

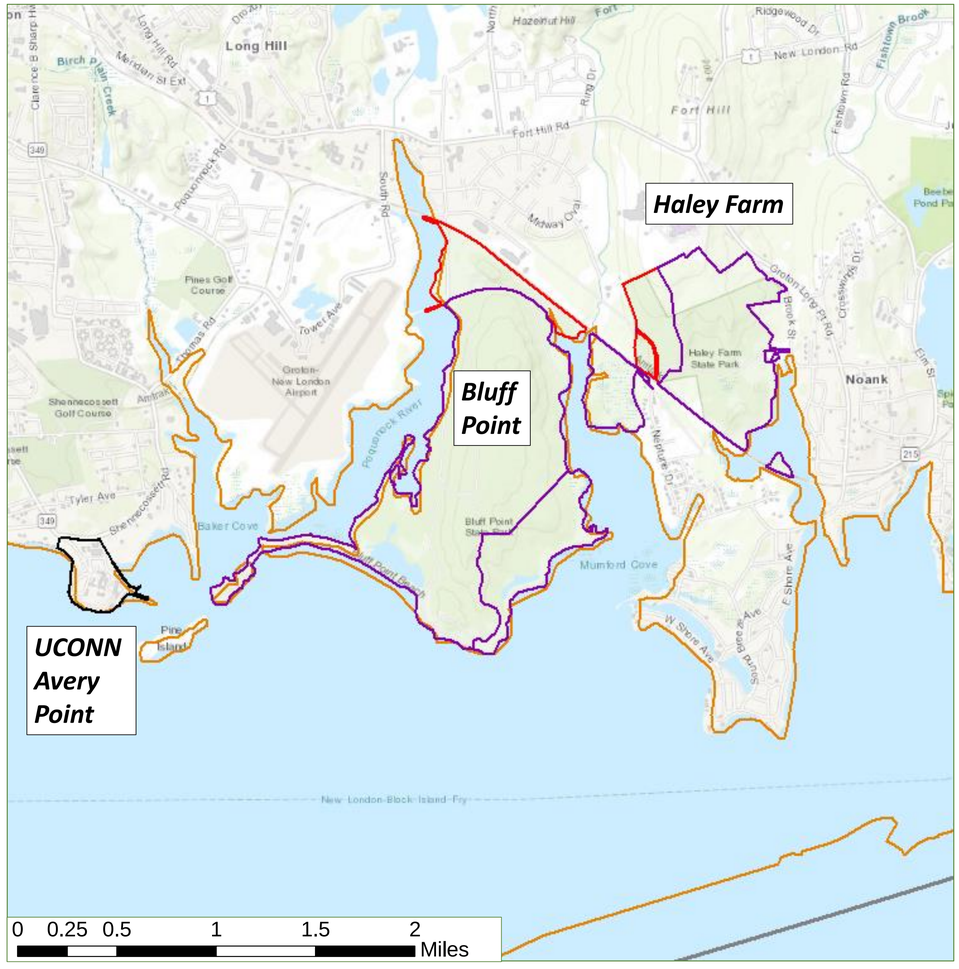
*A portion of the Great Island marshes, looking west from the Lieutenant River public access point. The Connecticut River can be seen the background beyond the marsh..*

**CT DEEP Marine Headquarters:**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Marine Headquarters in Old Lyme house the office and support space for the Fisheries and Boating divisions. It also includes docking for small vessels, and a public access boardwalk along the Great Island marshes. These facilities can help provide opportunities to support NERR functions and activities.

*The docks at CTDEEP Marine Headquarters. The research vessel John Dempsey (blue hull) can be seen on the left.*

# 3. Proposed CT National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Site Map – Eastern Areas




*Map prepared by CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, October, 2018*

**Upland Areas**
- Core
- Buffer
- Buffer-Facility

**Subtidal Areas**
- Core
- Buffer

**Bluff Point State Park, Coastal Reserve & Natural Area Preserve:**

The natural habitats of Bluff Point include coastal woodlands, beach & dune grasslands, coastal ponds, coastal bluffs, tidal wetlands, intertidal mud flats and offshore eelgrass beds. The coastal reserve was established by the legislature in 1975. A portion of the reserve was further designated a natural area preserve to support protected resources. Over 200 bird species have been seen here, including many uncommon to Connecticut, but that use the area during migration seasons.

*The bluffs and rocky shoreline at the southern end of the Bluff Point.*

**Haley Farm State Park:**

Haley Farm is a mosaic of upland and wetland vegetation types. Algae and intertidal plants are found on the shores of Palmer Cove. The swampy areas have red maple and tulip trees, but the uplands include cherry, hickory and shrubs. As a former working farm dating to the Colonial era, remnants of numerous stone walls dot the landscape. Haley Farm is one of the more accessible State parks, providing handicap access to parking and trails.

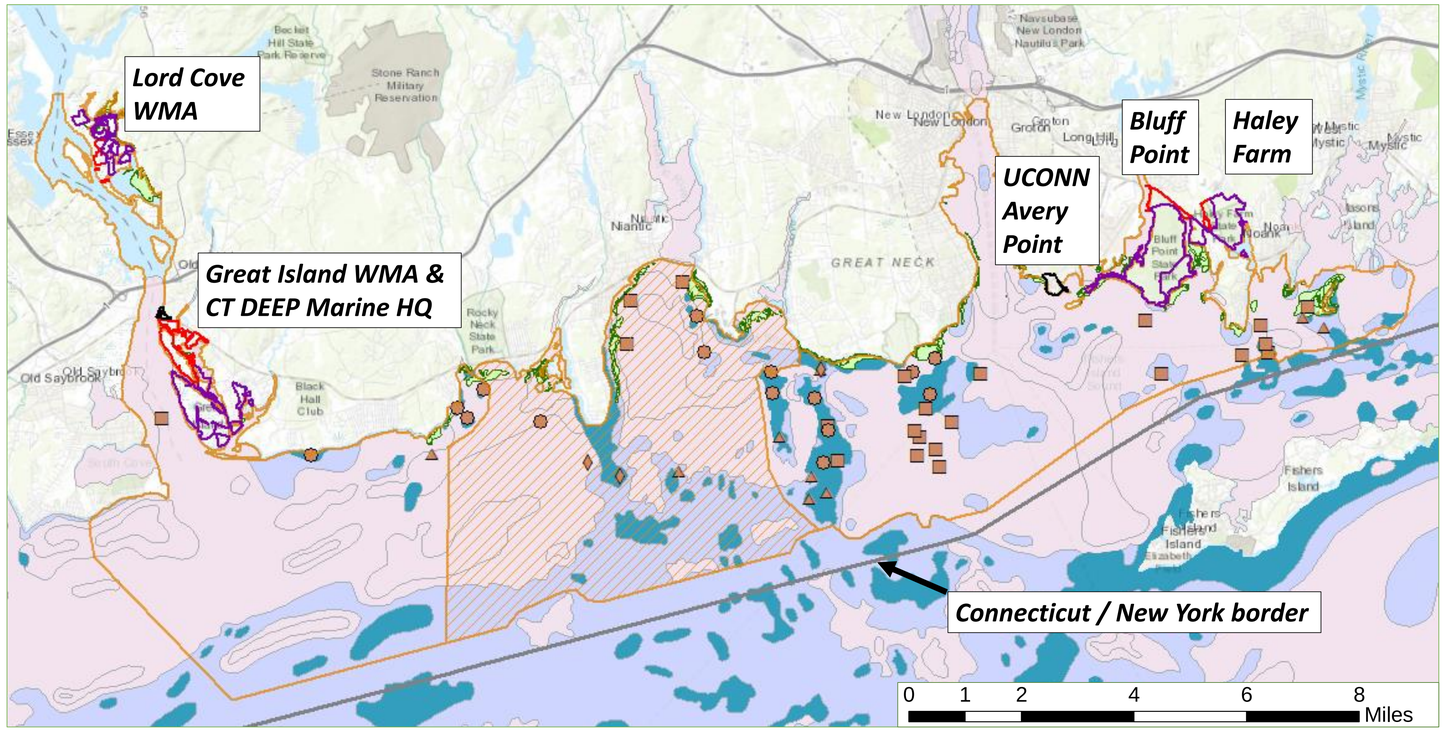
*Eastward view from the Haley Farm State Park walking trail. The waterbody beyond the foreground vegetation is Palmer Cove.*

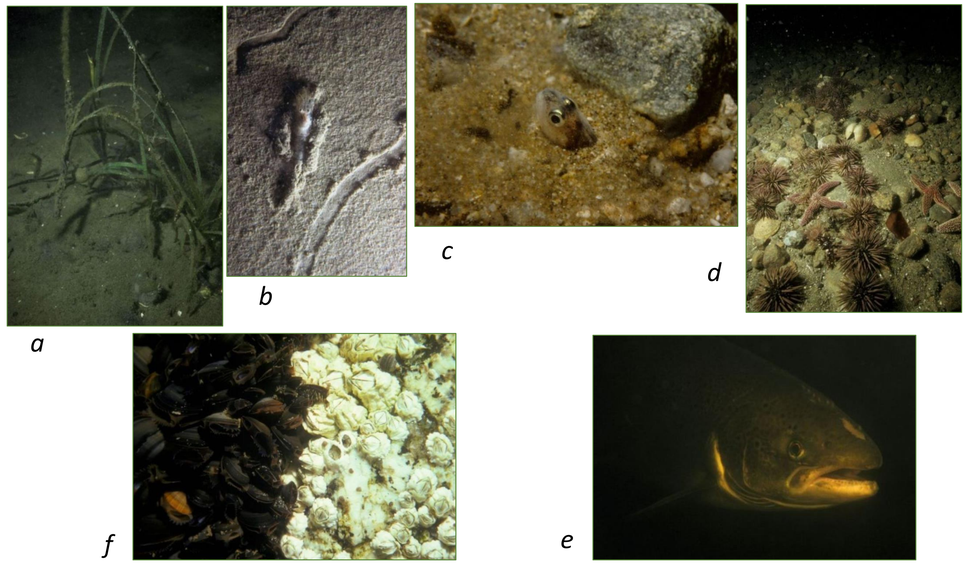
**UCONN Avery Point:**

The Avery Point facilities, located on 72 acres of land and bordered on three sides by water, contain classrooms, laboratories, offices, and support areas for the University's Marine Sciences Department as well as the offices of the Connecticut Sea Grant Program. Avery Point is conveniently located mere minutes away from Bluff Point, either by land or by water. It's resources and proximity can directly help support a variety of NERR programs.

*An aerial view of the UCONN Avery Point campus. The Marine Science building is easily visible in the center, and docking facilities are seen at the lower right.*

# 4. Proposed CT National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Site Map – Offshore Areas




*Clockwise from top left: (a) eelgrass; (b) a sand shrimp burrows into the mud; (c) a juvenile striped cusk eel digs into the sand tail first; (d) purple sea urchins and sea stars on cobble covered seafloor; (e) Atlantic salmon migrate through estuaries to the inland rivers and streams for spawning; f) Blue mussels and barnacles compete for space on hard rock substrate.*

**Upland Areas**
- Core
- Buffer
- Buffer-Facility

**Subtidal Areas**
- Core
- Buffer

**Observed Hard Bottom**
- Bedrock
- Boulders
- Rock
- Rocky

**Eelgrass & SAV**

**Surficial Sediments**
- Other (multiple softer bottom types)
- Gravel, Sand
- Gravel, Bedrock

*Map prepared by CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, October, 2018*
*Photos and captions courtesy of Explore Long Island Sound (http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/explorelis/)*

The offshore waters include areas of hard-bottom (reefs, ledges, gravelly/bedrock, rocks/boulder features) surrounding areas of variable soft-bottom sediment types, (mud, silts, and sand) and areas mapped as SAV (eelgrass and other.) These habitats span depths from shallow (just below the public trust shoreline) to deep (> 100 ft.)

While the upland and offshore habitats support a wide range of ecological diversity and functions, many important human uses also share the same space. It is critical to note that activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, boating, maritime commerce and industry, infrastructure, fishing, shellfishing, etc., have long coexisted with various research and environmental conservation interests at these locations.

A Connecticut reserve and the scientific, educational, and stewardship programs it can support would not alter this, as it would not impose new regulations or prohibitions.