

Connecticut Clean Water Accomplishments 2009-2017

❖ CT DEP and [The Department of Public Health](#) (DPH) work collaboratively to study [polychlorinated biphenyls](#) (PCBs) and [mercury](#) levels in striped bass and bluefish in Long Island Sound (LIS). CT and New York work together to review recommended fish consumption levels. Due to declined levels of contaminants, increases for consumption rates in low risk groups are recommended.



2009

❖ [Connecticut Tidal Wetland Restoration Team](#), which includes the Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP) at CT DEP, receives the Coastal America Partnership Award from the federal Department of Commerce for 30 years of wetland restoration.



2010

❖ CT DEP redefines [Hypoxia](#) (low dissolved oxygen) to coincide with definitions used by NY and the Long Island Sound Study (LISS).



❖ The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) are merged creating [The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#) (DEEP).



2011

❖ [Statewide Bacteria TMDL Core Document](#) and first series of appendices are completed. This reformatted approach allows for more efficient use of CT resources and sets TMDL pollution reduction goals for many impaired waterbodies.

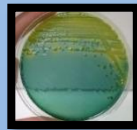


2012

❖ The CT Department of Agriculture, [Bureau of Aquaculture](#) (DABA) laboratory is among the first in the country to adopt new analytical methodologies to manage shellfish growing areas. Male Specific Bacteriophage (MSB) is used as an indicator to mimic the behavior of viruses in the environment and to safely reopen shellfish growing areas following sewage spills.



Additionally, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology is used to assess shellfish growing areas for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, a naturally occurring bacteria. While many parts of the country have continued to suffer from illness outbreaks related to both Norovirus and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, CT has effectively managed these two major hazards to greatly reduce the risk to consumers of shellfish.



2013

2014

❖ [CT DABA](#) uses hydrographic dye dilution studies to evaluate the dispersion of wastewater into the coastal waters of LIS. This technology provides detailed information allowing the DABA to [classify shellfish growing areas](#) and expand access to shellfish resources, while protecting public health. Based on the results of the 2014 Housatonic study, the DABA is able to upgrade almost 3000 acres of shellfish growing areas, and increase the availability of fresh and locally farmed shellfish.



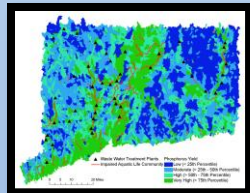
❖ The [Long Island Sound \(LIS\) Report Card](#) is issued by the [Integration and Application Network](#) at University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science providing a measurable assessment of the health of LIS.



2015

2016

❖ CT DEEP publishes the final [Phosphorus Strategy](#) report. A conclusion of the report was that the CT DEEP interim strategy for phosphorus reduction was justified and reasonable based on the current state of nutrient science.



2017

❖ Connecticut bans synthetic [microbeads](#) through legislative actions. This ban prohibits the use, sale, import or manufacture of personal care products within Connecticut that contain synthetic microbeads.



These plastic particles have been designed to wash down the drain after proper use of the product and pose a risk to aquatic organisms. There is no current technological treatment that reliably removes the microbeads from water treatment plant discharges.

(Photo Credit: [Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News](#))