



Save the Sound®

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Landmark \$12 million in Long Island Sound federal funding; Save the Sound applauds congressional champions

New Haven, Conn. – Congress has passed, and this afternoon President Trump signed, a budget that includes historic funding for Long Island Sound programs. The Fiscal Year 2018 package includes \$12 million for the Sound under the National Estuary Program, a 50 percent increase over last year's \$8 million. Fishing, shipping, tourism, and other Long Island Sound industries generate over \$9 billion in economic benefits for the region every year.

"Long Island Sound's bi-partisan team of congressional champions has turbo-charged the restoration of this magnificent body of water," said Curt Johnson, president of Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound. "A special thanks to Congresswomen Nita Lowey and Rosa DeLauro who led the fight in the House, to Congressman Lee Zeldin, our Republican champion from Suffolk County, and to every one of our Connecticut and New York senators and congressmen who have fought so hard and long for the Sound."

"These funds will help get bacteria and damaging excess nutrients out of the Sound, save beautiful shoreline places for people and wildlife, and protect neighborhoods from coastal flooding. It's an investment in this great body of water and in our collective future," Johnson added.

Johnson, Save the Sound Director Tracy Brown, and fellow members of Restore America's Estuaries traveled to Washington, D.C. in February to discuss funding needs with the region's congressional representatives. The Long Island Sound contingent met with the offices of Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Chris Murphy (D-CT), and the offices of Congressmen John B. Larson (D, CT-1), Joe Courtney (D, CT-2), Jim Himes (D, CT-4), Lee Zeldin (R, NY-01), Peter King (R, NY-02), Tom Suozzi (D, NY-3), Dan Donovan (R, NY-11), Joseph Crowley (D, NY-14), José E. Serrano (D, NY-15), Eliot Engel (D, NY-16), Nita Lowey (D, NY-17), Sean Maloney (D, NY-18), John Faso (R, NY-19), and Tom Reed (R, NY-23).

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study—a partnership among the EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York—has also been instrumental in making the case for investing in the Sound's water quality, monitoring, and habitat restoration programs.

The budget also contains strong funding for environmental programs that the Trump administration has repeatedly threatened with cuts or even elimination, including the Sea Grant programs, Coastal Management Zone and Regional Coastal Resiliency grants, National Estuarine Research Reserve System, Marine Mammal Commission, and climate research. NOAA's habitat conservation programming got a slight increase at \$53 million.

Clean water infrastructure and drinking water got a boost with \$1.693 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (\$300 million above the 2017 enacted level), \$1.163 billion for the Drinking Water State

Revolving Fund (also \$300 million above 2017), and \$63 million for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act grants.

“Clean water is something all Americans value and can rally behind,” Tracy Brown said. “Save the Sound is grateful to our hardworking senators and congressmen who recognize that, and to the many citizens who have spoken up to protect the Sound, rivers, and wildlife we all love and rely on.”

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