Peconic Estuary PROGRAM

UPDATE

November 2019

PEP CCMP Revision

- **October 15th to November 15th, 2019**- CCMP 30-day public review period.
- 3 public meetings held:

October 22nd, 2019
Hampton Bays Public Library
52 Ponquogue Ave, Hampton Bays, NY 11946
4:00 - 6:00 pm

October 23rd, 2019
Hallock State Park Preserve
6062 Sound Ave, Riverhead, NY 11901
6:00 – 8:00 pm

October 24th, 2019
South Fork Natural History Museum
377 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton, NY 11932
5:00 – 7:00 pm

- **December 31st, 2019-** Final CCMP complete.

PEP's Completed Projects!

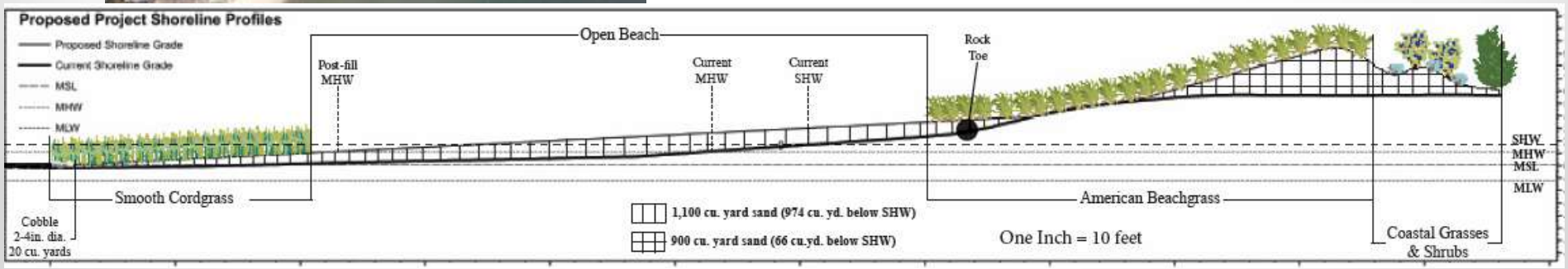
- Check out the Priority Issues in the Peconic Estuary page to view projects PEP is moving forward!

- Check out the PEP: Making Significant Change page to view PEP's impact in the region!

Living Shoreline Pilot Project- Greenport

PEP and Peconic Land Trust with Cornell Cooperative Extension

Status: Completed August 2019.



Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Planning in the Peconic Estuary

PEP and Land Use Ecological Services.

Status: Completed September 2019. Final reports will be distributed.

Conceptual habitat restoration designs developed for the following identified priority sites:

a. Southold: Narrow River Road Wetland Restoration (additional public and Town review necessary)

b. Southampton: Iron Point Wetland Restoration (Southampton Town to review)

c. East Hampton: Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement (funding secure)

d. Riverhead: Meetinghouse Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration (partial funding secured)

Seagrass Bio-optical Model

PEP and The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook

Status: Completed September 2019.

Final report released by 2020. GIS tool is being developed.

- Objective: Site specific information to inform eelgrass management and restoration programs.
- Link to project presentation at August 15th TAC meeting: https://www.peconicestuary.org/peconic-estuary-seagrass-bio-optical-model-project-presentation-kaitlyn-otoole-2018/

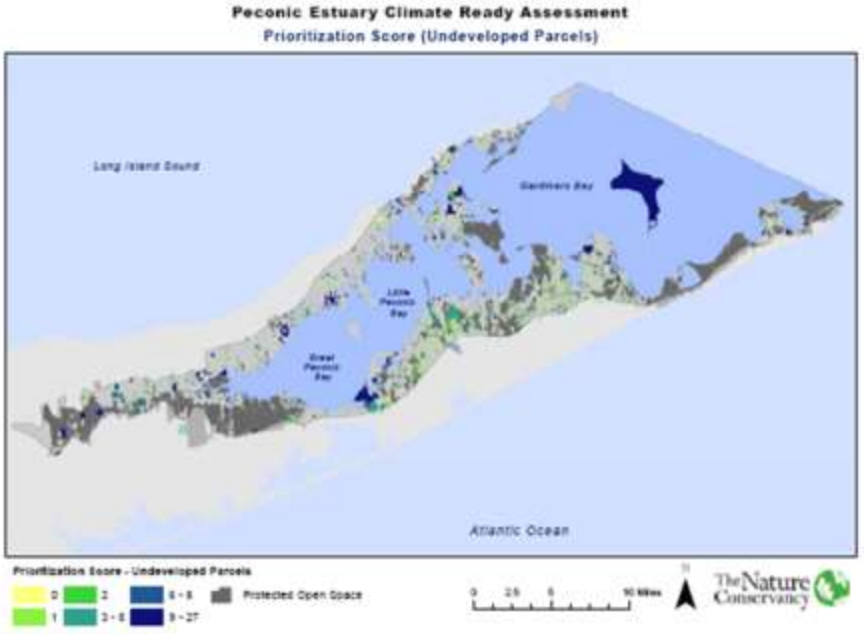
Critical Lands Protection Strategy Update and Climate Ready Assessment Services for PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation

PEP and Anchor QEA

Status: Completed September 2019.

Final report and products will be distributed.

Figure 13: Undeveloped Priorization with protected



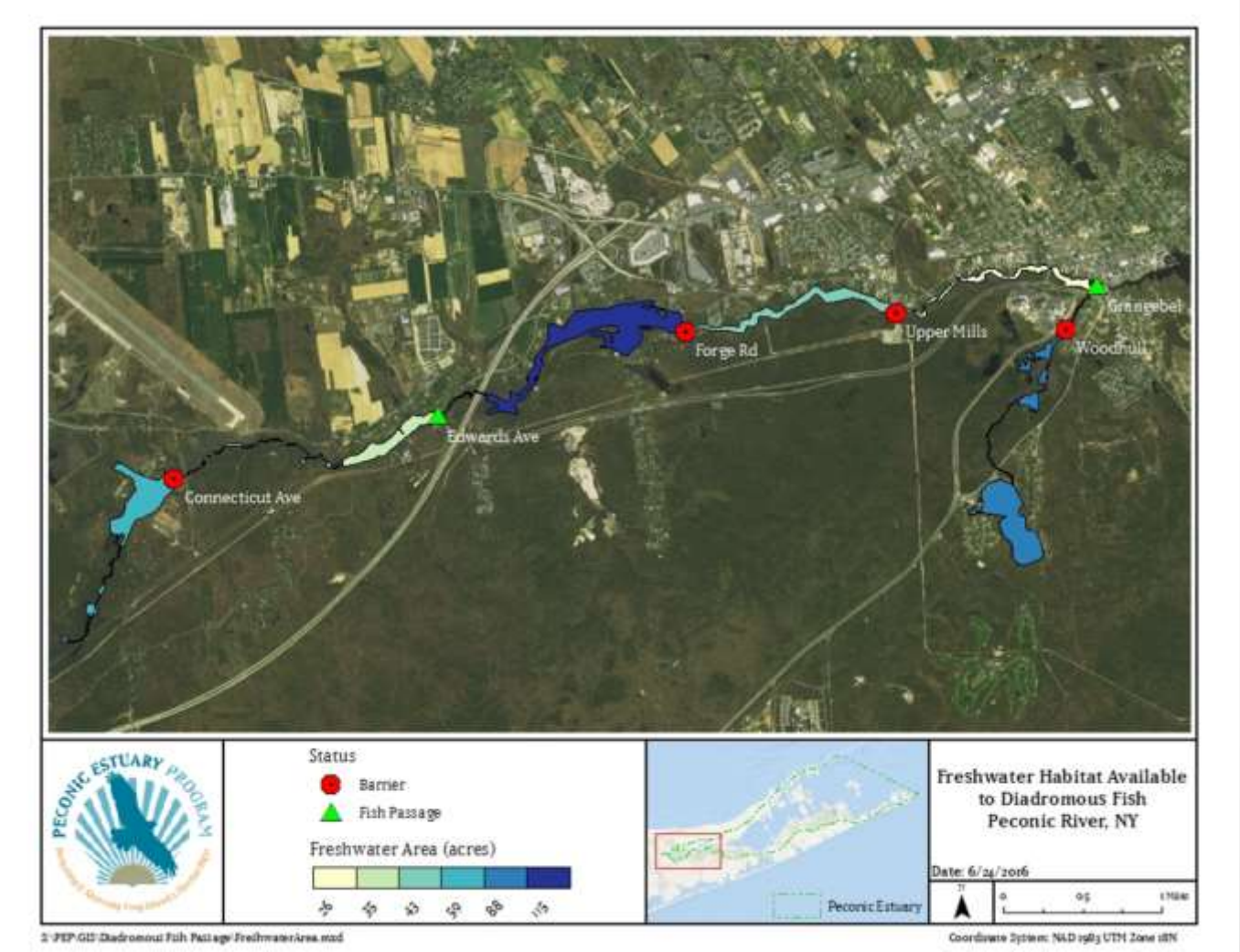
Objective:

1)Critical Lands Protection Strategy (CLPS)

2)Assessment of climate change vulnerabilities for both the Peconic Estuary Program and Shinnecock Indian Nation.

Habitat Restoration Updates

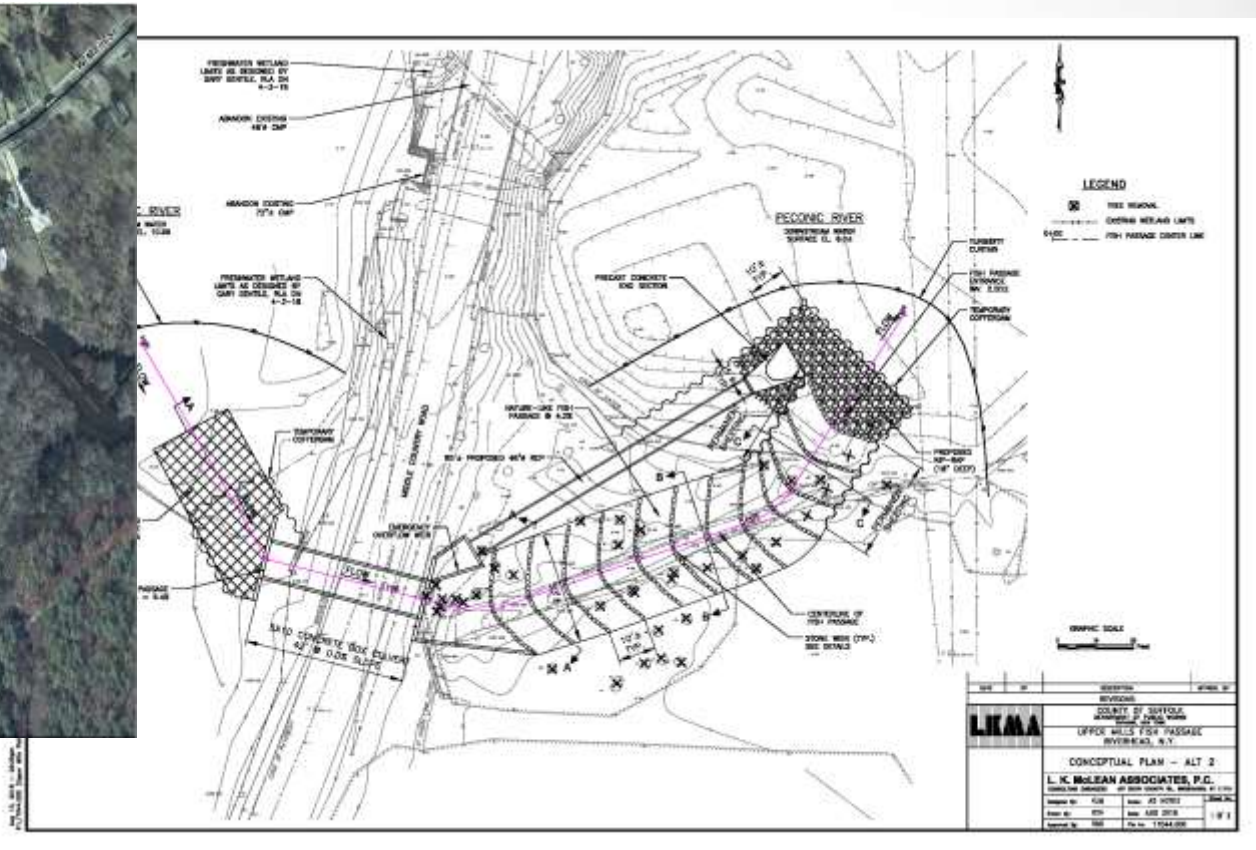
The Peconic Estuary Program is working with its partners to restore critical freshwater spawning and maturation habitat for diadromous fish on the Peconic River.



Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage

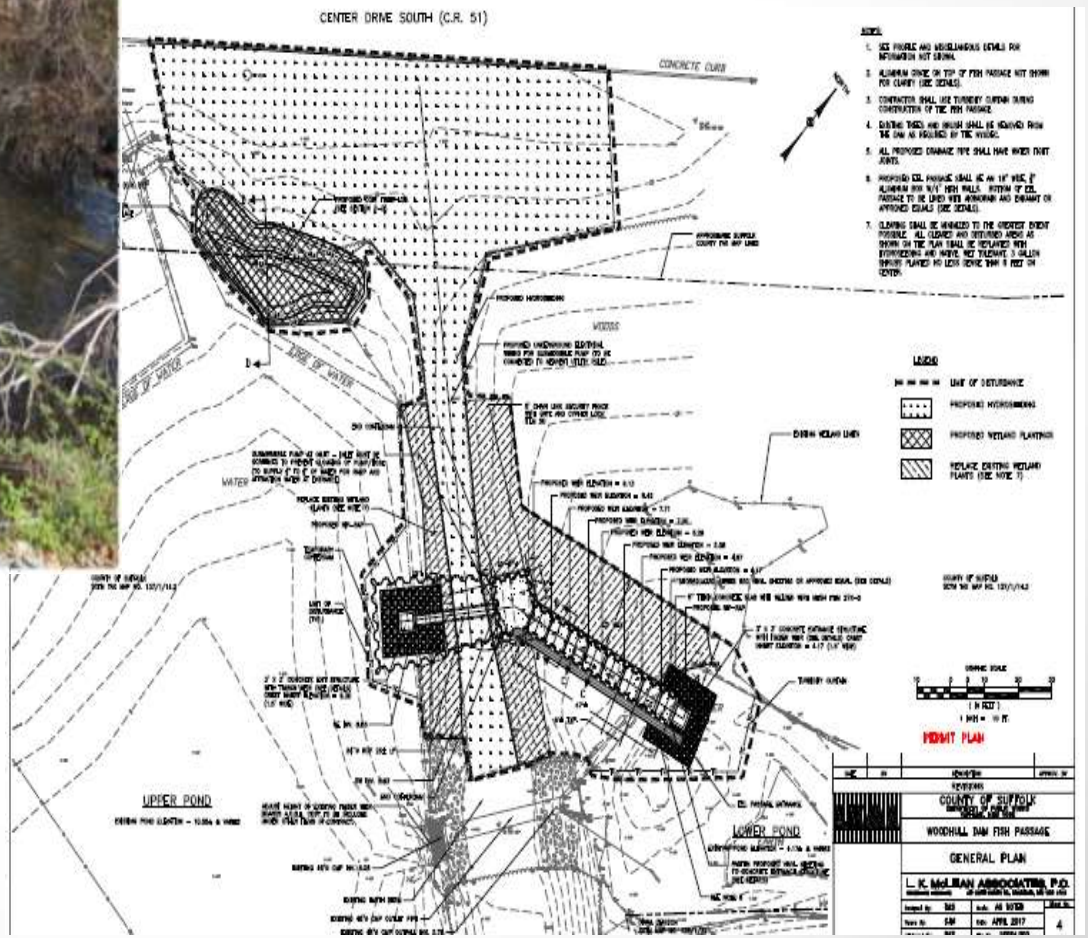
PEP and L.K. McLean Associates for engineering and permitting services

Status: Design alternative selected at April 9th, 2019 stakeholder meeting. Developing engineering designs.



Woodhull Dam Fish Passage

PEP and Suffolk County contracted with L.K. McLean Associates
Status: Partial funding secure - PEP is securing additional funds with a goal of completing construction in 2020.



Expansion and Monitoring of the Town of Southold Living Shoreline

PEP and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Status: Work is underway. Expected project completion in August 2020.

Figure 2. Location of proposed living shoreline project on Southold Town Trustee land near Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center.

- Expansion to an existing Town of Southold Living Shoreline Demonstration Project.
- Goal is to establish a larger project area and the addition of monitoring services at the project site.
- Enable the quantification of nitrogen and pathogen uptake of *Spartina alterniflora* and ribbed mussels.

Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

PEP and United States Geologic Survey

Status: Model Development phase and scenario development.

Next project meeting on December 4th, 2019.

Link to PE Solute Transport Model Webpage

Objective: This Solute Transport Model will be a tool to estimate time-varying nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary

Specifically, the objectives of the investigation are to:

1) develop data sets representing current and historic land uses relevant to nitrogen loading in coastal watersheds

2) estimate current estuarine loading rates and nutrient concentrations in the aquifer, and

3) use these current-condition models to simulate the response to possible wastewater-management actions.

Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping

Status: Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping Project was presented at the PEP Natural Resources Subcommittee on June 28th, 2019.
Final report is anticipated in 2020.

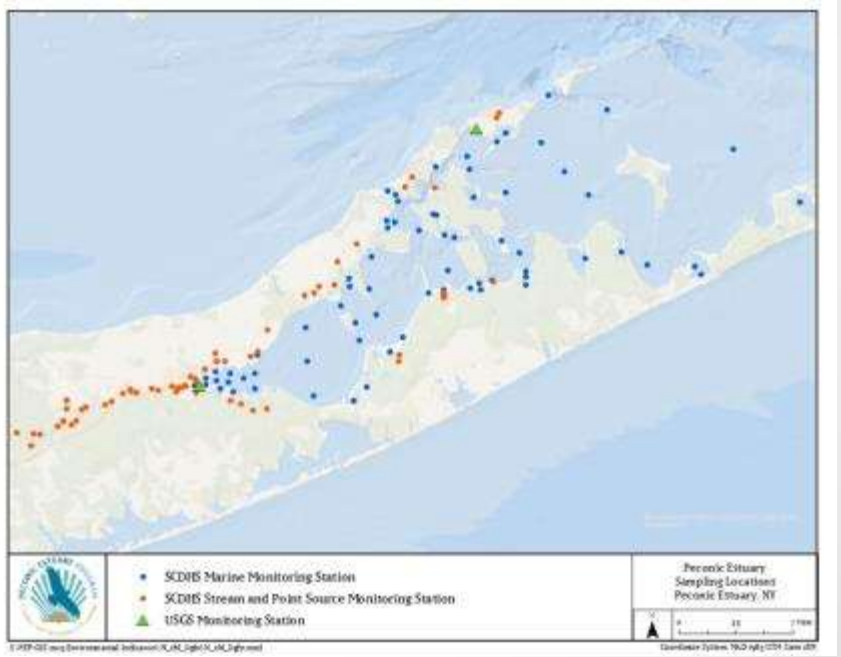
- PEP completed a GIS mapping project to quantify the amount of hardened shoreline in the Estuary. The last survey was in 2003 using maps from 2001.
- The preliminary results are being reviewed and ground-truthed in advance of final report distribution.

WQ Monitoring Assessment

PEP and CoastWise Partners.

Status: Held workshops to review WQ monitoring programs in Peconic Estuary. Assessment will continue through out the year and is to be incorporated into CCMP.

- Goal of this project is to create a PEP Monitoring Strategy that will be relevant for all decision makers.
- The purpose of this project is to develop appropriate indicators of estuarine health, and ensure appropriate parameters are collected on a temporal and spatial scale to assess these indicators. The results of the project will be an updated monitoring strategy with the end goal of annual water quality reports.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.



Organizational Assessment

PEP and CoastWise Partners.
Status: On-going.

- Examine the relationships between all groups in the Management Conference and provide recommendations about how they can work together more effectively.
- The purpose of this project is to develop a set of guiding policies for the Management Conference and sub-groups.
- Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.

Quality Assurance Project Plan Development for Supplemental Water Quality Sediment Data Collection

PEP and Tetra Tech, Inc.

Status: A project Technical Advisory Committee has been developed. Reviewing draft Quality Assurance Management Plan. Anticipated completion September 2020.

- A NYSDEC and EPA approved Quality Assurance Management Plan (QAMP) will be developed;
- Identify and prioritize subwatersheds in the Peconic Estuary that should be targeted for water quality improvement activities; ensure water bodies are properly listed on the NYS Impaired Waters list;
- Help the PEPC members and partners assess the current baseline in water quality, and effectiveness of water quality improvement interventions over time.

Non-point Source Pollution Management Project

PEP and Village of Sag Harbor.
Status: Contracting phase. Expected completion September 2020.

- Implement a non-point source pollution management project at Havens Beach.
- The project involves utilizing green infrastructure best management practices to treat stormwater that would otherwise flow across the beach and/ or through an existing discharge pipe directly to Sag Harbor Bay.
- The project will significantly reducing the nitrogen pollutant loads to the waterbody and improving the overall health of the Peconic Estuary.

Nitrogen Load Reduction Assessment Project

PEP and Anchor QEA, LLC.
Status: Contracting phase. Expected completion September 2020.

- Objective is to compile and assess the cost per pound of nitrogen reduction to groundwater for various nitrogen reduction best management practices (BMPs) currently being employed throughout the country.
- The project will provide a decision-making tool to guide cost effective management scenarios to reduce nitrogen on a subwatershed basis in the Peconic Estuary.

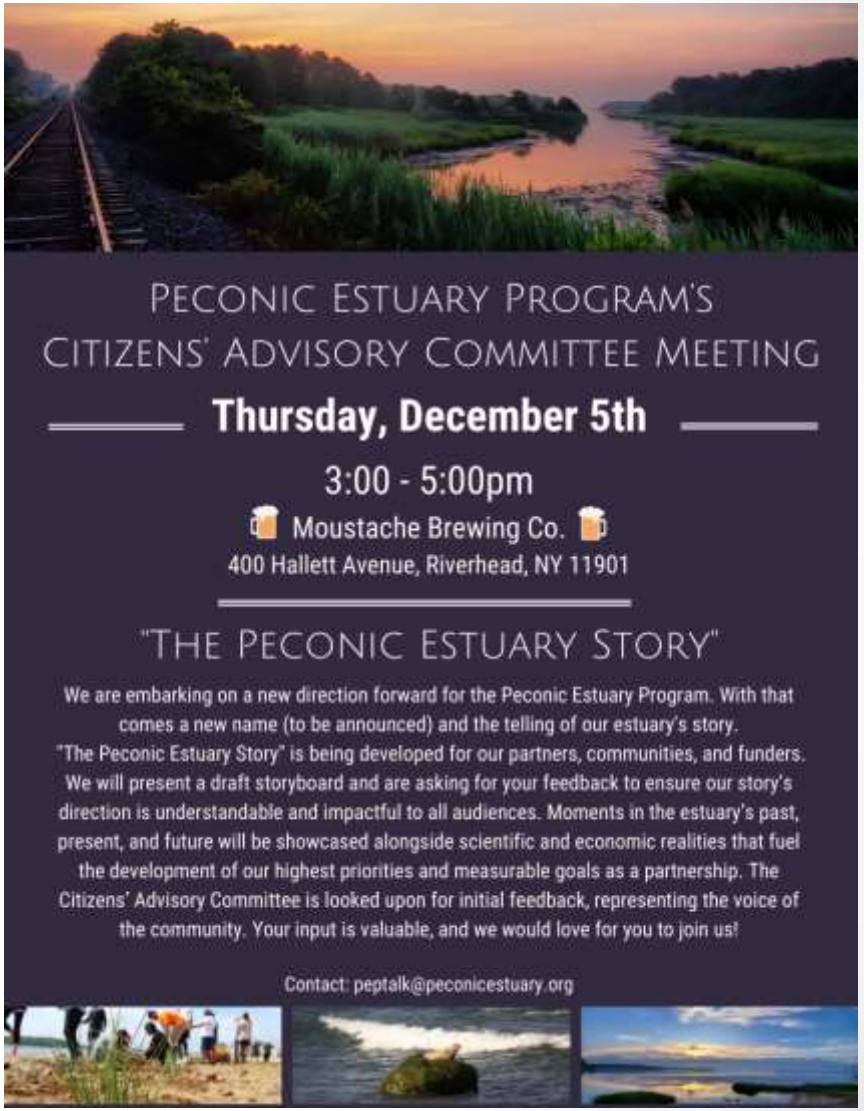
Peconic Estuary Ecosystem Study

PEP, NYSDEC and SUNY Stony Brook.
Expected completion Fall 2021.

- Analyze spatial and temporal trends in the Peconic Estuary finfish trawl survey dataset, and develop risk metrics from ecological relationships for the Peconic Estuary that examine whether local and regional environmental changes have increased the vulnerability of individual finfish and mobile invertebrate species, community assemblages, and ecosystem processes.
- ECOSIM is a quantitative modeling framework that can represent all major ecosystem functional groups and can be used to identify and assess structural changes in the ecosystem in response to environmental change.
- The proposed study will identify vulnerable species, critical habitats, and ecosystem properties within the Peconic Estuary.
- This information has direct application to decisions affecting the use, management, and conservation of the natural resources in the bay.

Education and Outreach Highlights

CAC Meeting:
Moustache Brewery
December 5th
3:00-5:00pm!



Education and Outreach Highlights

- Fall Newsletter published!

https://www.peconicestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Fall-Newsletter-2019-Digital-2.pdf

Peconic Estuary PROGRAM

FALL NEWSLETTER 2019

What's Inside?

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PECONIC ESTUARY

Starting on page 02, learn the climate change impacts for our estuary.

WILDLIFE MONITORING NETWORK

The importance of wildlife monitoring and how you can be involved on page 04.

PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM UPDATES

On page 06, read about projects that Peconic Estuary Program has been working on and has completed!

November 1st - April 1st

Local Law 41-2007 prohibits lawn fertilizer application between November 1st through April 1st in Suffolk County. During this time period, lawn grass doesn't grow rendering fertilizers useless. The purpose of this law is to reduce the amount of nitrogen released into our groundwater and surface water to reduce harmful algae blooms and hypoxic, or low oxygen events in our waterways. Retailers are required to post signs near fertilizer displays notifying customers of the date restrictions. Violators, whether it be homeowners, landscapers or other parties risk fines of $1,000. Laws like these help us to develop cleaner and safer water.