



# PEP Policy Committee Meeting

May 2nd, 2019

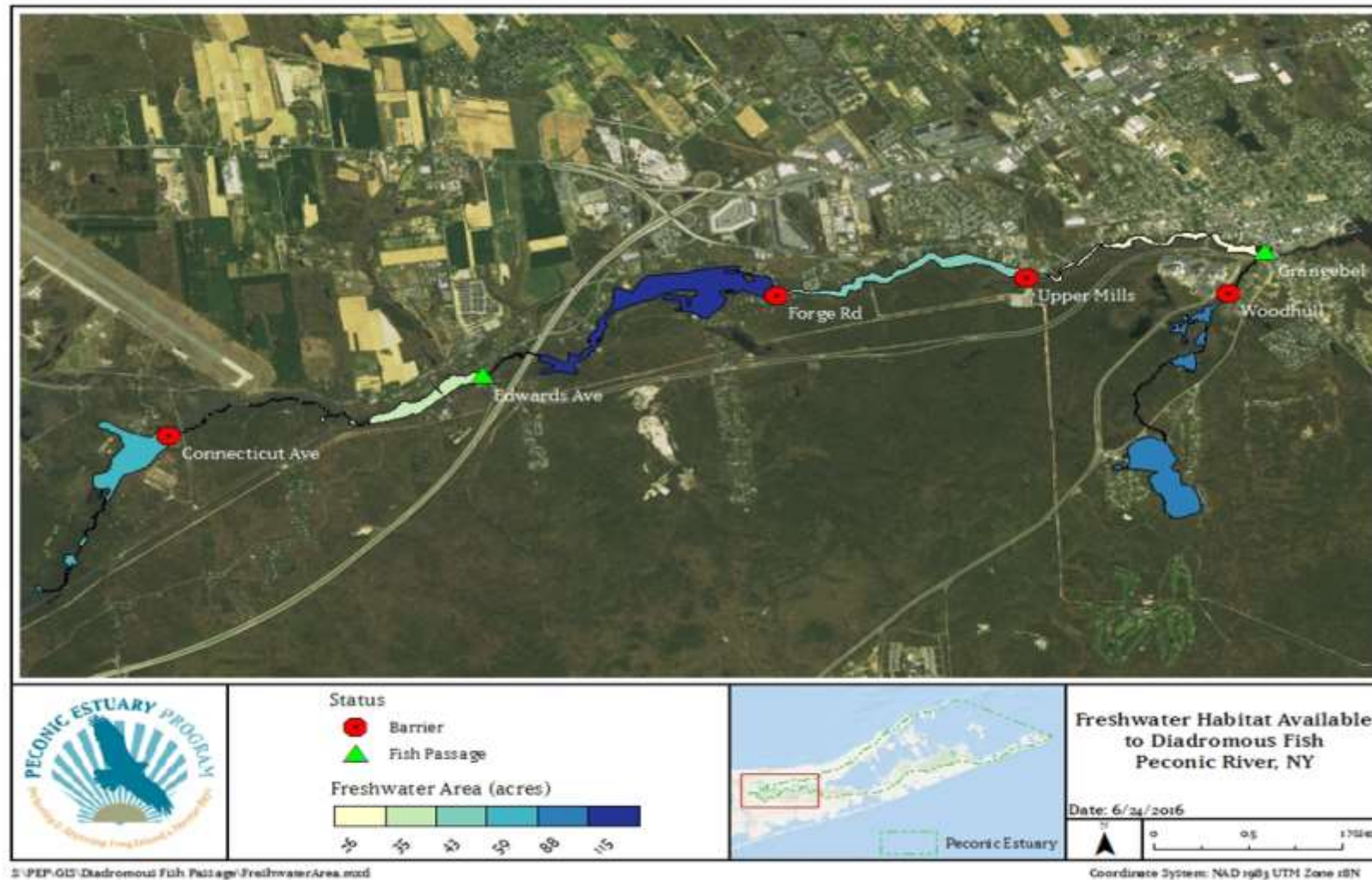
# Successful Local Government Committee Roundtable held April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- The PEP and Local Government Chair, Policy and Management Committee local government representatives held a collaborative roundtable meeting to incorporate local interest in the development of a comprehensive, regional, watershed-based National Estuary Program. Meetings to be held Quarterly.
- **Local Government Committee, Chair:** Village of Southampton Mayor, Michael Irving
- **Policy Committee, Local Government Committee Representative and voting member:** Riverhead Town Supervisor, Laura Jens-Smith
- **Management Committee, Local Government Committee Representative and voting member:** Southampton Town Councilman, John Bouvier



# 2018 PEP Highlights

## Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration



# Spring Alewife Monitoring

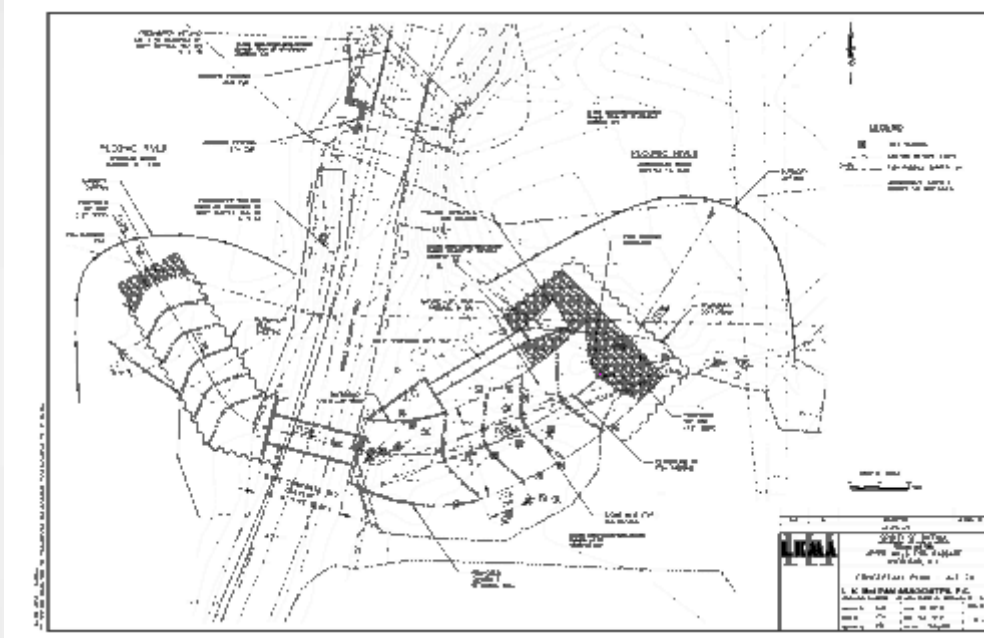
2019 Peconic River Spawning Run Estimated to be the largest in 10 years, >80,000 fish.  
New fish camera at Grangebel Park installed to improve accuracy of alewife counts.



# Upper Mills Dam Fish Passage Project

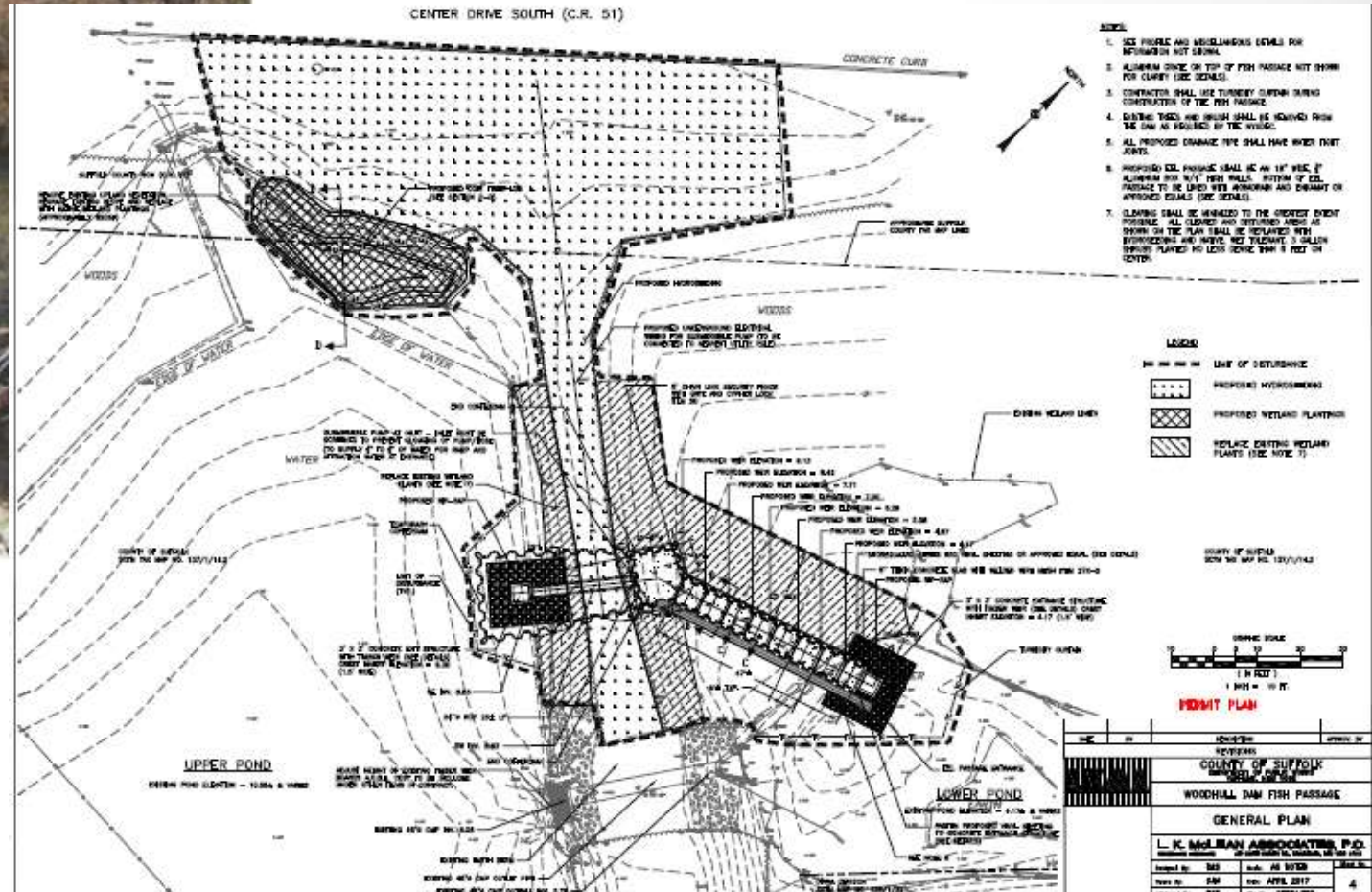
Contracting with L.K. McLean Associates for engineering design/permitting services

Status: 3 design alternatives developed. Preferred design moving to full engineering design phase.



# Woodhull Dam Fish Passage Project

Suffolk County contracted with L.K. McLean Associates for engineering design/permitting services  
 Status: NYSDEC WQIP Funding is awarded. Construction services to be advertised in May 2019.  
 Completion expected before spring 2020.



# Alewife Creek Culvert Right-sizing

The Town of Southampton was awarded \$410,000 for the Alewife Creek Culvert Right Sizing Project from the NY State Climate Smart Communities Grant. Will improve the largest alewife run in the Peconic Estuary.

**Alewife Creek Monitoring Sites**



# Conceptual Habitat Restoration Design Planning in the Peconic Estuary

Peconic Estuary is contracting with Land Use Ecological Services, LLC.

Status: Site surveys and schematics completed for 4 sites, anticipated completion July 2019.

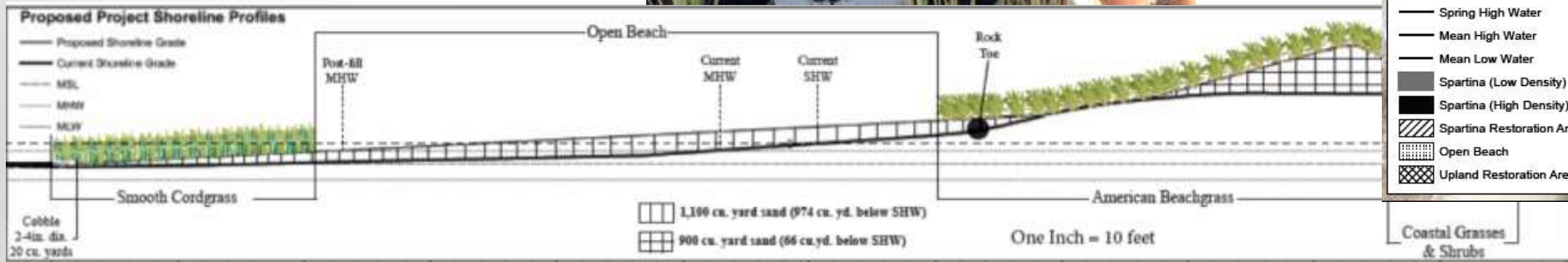
- a. Southold: Narrow River Road Wetland Restoration
- b. Southampton: Iron Point Wetland Restoration
- c. East Hampton: Lake Montauk Alewife Access and Habitat Enhancement
- d. Riverhead: Meetinghouse Creek Main Road Wetland Construction/Restoration





# Living Shoreline Pilot Project- Greenport

PEP is contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Peconic Land Trust  
 Status: Construction began Spring 2019. Anticipated completion August 2019.



# Expansion and Monitoring of the Town of Southhold Living Shoreline Demonstration Project

Peconic Estuary Program is contracting with Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Status: Work is underway. Expected project completion in August 2019.



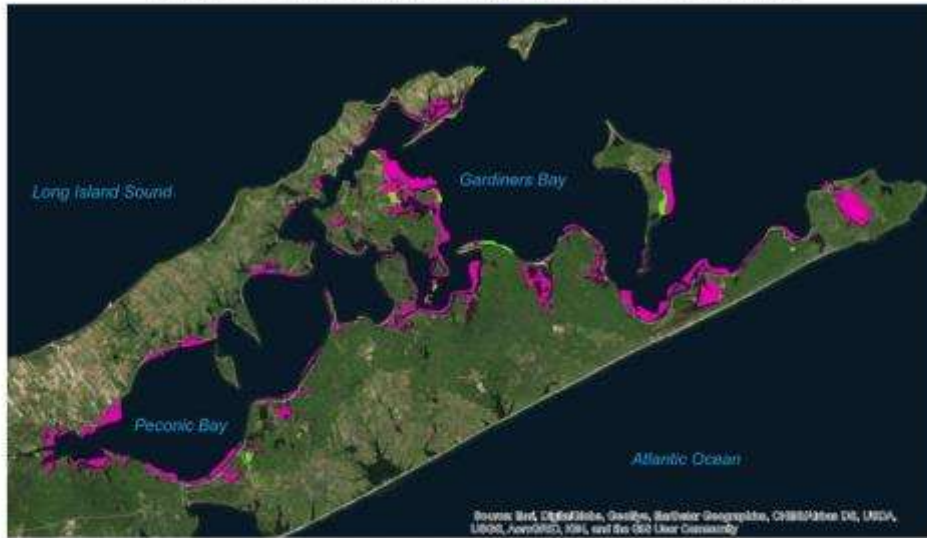
**Figure 2.** Location of proposed living shoreline project on Southhold Town Trustee land near Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center.

- Expansion to an existing Town of Southhold Living Shoreline Demonstration Project contract with the Town of Southhold Trustees and the Suffolk County DEDP.
- Establish a larger geography of the project and monitoring services to run in tandem with the existing project to enable the quantification of nitrogen and pathogen uptake results and assessment of the effectiveness of the living shoreline to mitigate nitrogen pollution in the Peconic Estuary- *Spartina alterniflora* and ribbed mussels.

# Seagrass Bio-optical Model

PEP is contracting with The Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook  
Status: Final tasks underway. Anticipated completion Spring 2019.

Seagrass Distribution in 1930 vs. 2014 in the Peconic Estuary




 Peconic Estuary  
PROGRAM

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter  
Author: Peter Lallier



 Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
of Suffolk County

 2014 Eelgrass  
 1930 Eelgrass

2014 Eelgrass Distribution (2014) Download: Peconic Estuary Program  
1930 Eelgrass Distribution (2014) Download: Peconic Estuary Program



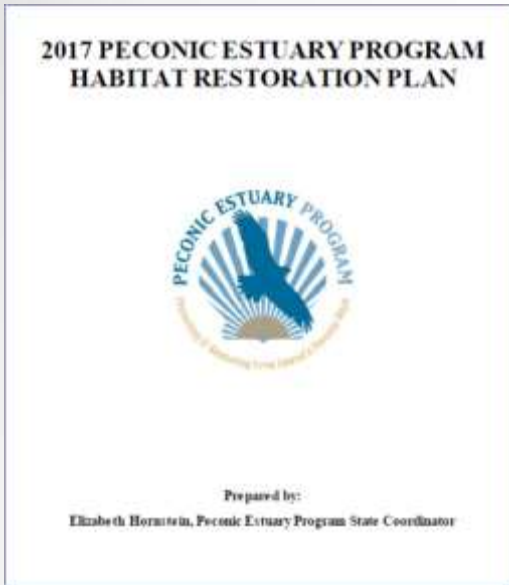
- Objective: Site specific information to inform eelgrass management and restoration programs. This project will lead to a better understanding of specific light and temperature requirements for eelgrass in the Peconic Estuary (PE). This is the critical next step towards understanding the threats to the eelgrass community and where restoration projects have the best probability of success.
- Link to project presentation at August 15<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting:  
<https://www.peconicestuary.org/peconic-estuary-seagrass-bio-optical-model-project-presentation-kaitlyn-otoole-2018/>

# Habitat Restoration Plan and Map

## Finalized

### Habitat Restoration

Informational map about habitat restoration projects in the Peconic Estuary.



Interactive

Watershed view

Easy to use and access

Up-to-date tracking tool



# CLPS Update and Climate Ready Assessment Services for PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation

Contracting with Anchor QEA, LLC.

Status: New CLPS criteria complete. Next Steps: Mapping of CLPS and continue work on Climate Vulnerability Assessment with PEP and Shinnecock Indian Nation. Expected project completion August 2019.



## Objective:

1) Re-evaluation of the original prioritization of the Critical Lands Protection Strategy (CLPS).

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

***\*To complement this project, PE Hardened Shoreline GIS Mapping will be complete this summer with the help of 2 interns. Last Hardened Shoreline mapping done in 2003.\****

# 2018 PEP Land Protection Highlights

- The Peconic Land Trust, in partnership with the Peconic Estuary Program, was awarded **\$3 million from the NYSDEC WQIP Round 15 grant program for Phase II of the source water protection program (Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition Program Phase II)** that acquires land within regional Special groundwater Protection Areas and /or in close proximity to public supply wellheads. Lands that will be prioritized in Phase II are in the Town of **Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island.**

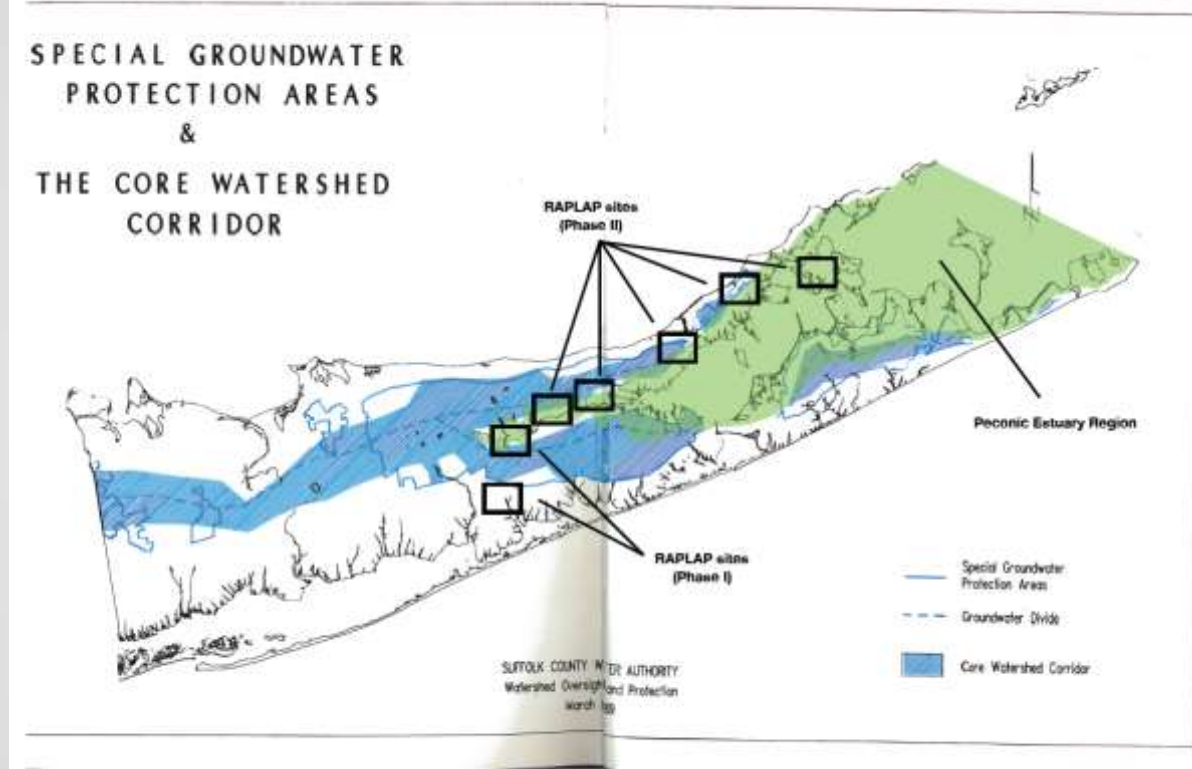


Figure 1. Regional Aquifer Protection Land Acquisition (RAPLAP) and pertinent regional overlap with the Peconic Estuary Region.

# Peconic Estuary Solute Transport Model

Contracting with United States Geologic Survey

Status: GIS preparation and Model Development phase. **Next project meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Link to [Solute Transport Model webpage](#)



Objective: This Solute Transport Model will be a tool to estimate time-varying nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary resulting from wastewater and fertilizer inputs to the groundwater. The overall objective of the study is to apply methods that will allow for the quantitative analysis of nitrogen loading rates to the Peconic Estuary resulting from wastewater and fertilizer inputs to groundwater in Suffolk County. 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) incorporate these data as source terms in models capable of simulating transport processes to estimate current estuarine loading rates and nutrient concentrations in the aquifer, and
- 3) use these current-condition models to simulate the response of estuarine loading rates to possible wastewater-management actions.

# Outreach Highlights

- Continued alewife monitoring, horseshoe crab monitoring, and terrapin monitoring in the Peconics
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Terrapin Monitoring Pilot Program completed - The goal of the program is to understand where terrapins are nesting on the East End to gauge need of conservation efforts.
    - In 2018, we found that Northwest Harbor County Park in East Hampton was a favorable site for nesting.
      - Terrapin evidence observed during season (June-July):
        - 36 predated nests
        - 6 live turtles – one juvenile and 5 adults
        - 8 test holes
        - 16 sets of tracks
        - \*Mostly in elevated grassland/shrubland area





# Outreach Highlights

- Increased engagement with Spanish-speaking community. An “Introduction to Estuaries” video was created in Spanish to showcase the importance of the Peconic Estuary for our community.
- Top two PEP Talk Videos (new approach interviewing community members instead of focus on PEP staff):
  - 1) “National Estuaries Week” Interviewed citizens in our community and asked them why the estuary is important to them. Reached 1,902 people on Facebook thus far.
  - 2) “Sustainable Fishing with Haskell’s Seafood” Interviewed Captain Peter Haskell of Haskell’s Seafood and discussed sustainable fishing practices and how a healthy estuary is important for the success of our fisheries. Reached 2,401 people on Facebook thus far.
  - Both videos had highest engagements for PEP Talk Videos. This approach shows great success!



# New Projects in 2019

Status: Contracting through NEIWPC with CoastWise Partners, LLC. Work is underway. Services were recommended as a Finding of the EPA's 2017 Program Evaluation of the PEP.

- **WQ Monitoring Assessment Services**

Review and update the existing water quality monitoring strategy.

The goal of this project is to create a PEP Monitoring Strategy that will be relevant for approximately ten years and will be part of the CCMP Update.

The purpose of this project is to develop appropriate indicators of estuarine health, 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 that is implementable given the programs human and financial resource constraints.

- **Organizational Assessment Services**

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. The results of the project will be a set of documents to be reviewed and approved by the Management Conference.



# 2 Important Nitrogen Management Projects in the Peconic Estuary watershed!

## **Peconic Estuary Nitrogen Load Reduction Cost Assessment Services**

Work will involve assessing the cost per-pound of nitrogen reduction to groundwater for various nature-based nitrogen reduction best management practices currently being employed in the New England and Mid-Atlantic region of the United States that, based on the geographical, environmental and climate based needs of the County, have potential to be installed in Suffolk County. Compiling a list of all these nature based BMPs, including, but not limited to, agricultural buffer zones, residential fertilizer reductions, green infrastructure, water re-use, bio-remediation, permeable reactive barriers, etc. Comparing the cost and benefit estimates based on a per-pound of nitrogen reduction for any public or private property owner. Analysis will be made available for the public to use and will also be used as a tool for municipalities for geographic and financial planning purposes.

**Application due date: May 1st, 2019 at 3:30 pm**

## **Peconic Estuary Non-Point Source Pollution Management Project Program**

The Peconic Estuary Program is calling for applications for the Peconic Estuary Non-point Source Pollution Management Project Program. We are seeking a single proposer (Town, Village, non-profit, etc.) to participate in the Peconic Estuary Non-point Source Pollution Management Project Program. The awardee will receive up to \$24,711 toward the construction of a non-point source pollution management project within the Peconic Estuary watershed.

**Application due date: May 13th, 2019 at 4:30 pm**

# Peconic Estuary Water Quality QAPP

Contracting with Tetra Tech, Inc.

Status: Kick-off meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

- The QAPP is to be developed to establish sampling, analysis, and documentation protocols to enable individuals and/or entities to quantify water quality parameters so that equally comparable data can be collected and shared for uses such as to inform the New York State Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, provide data quality that is sufficient to inform loading estimates related to current or future waterbody impairments, MS4 designation or classification, and related stormwater sampling, outfall sampling, and water quality sampling including that for nitrogen and pathogens, as appropriate.

# Peconic Estuary Program's CCMP Revision

Categories ▾ Tags ▾

< NOVEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2019 > Collapse All Expand All Agenda ▾

**NOV**  
**9**  
Fri

**CCMP Workshop: Water Quality Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center**

Nov 9 @ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This WATER QUALITY CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 4: CLEAN WATERS AND WATERSHEDS.

CATEGORIES: [CCMP WORKSHOP MEETING](#)

[Read more →](#)

**DEC**  
**5**  
Wed

**CCMP Workshop: Habitat and Living Resources Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center**

Dec 5 @ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This HABITAT AND LIVING RESOURCES CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 5: Healthy Ecosystem with Abundant, Diverse Wildlife .

CATEGORIES: [CCMP WORKSHOP MEETING](#)

[Read more →](#)

**JAN**  
**7**  
Mon

**CCMP Workshop: Climate Change and Resiliency Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center**

Jan 7 @ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 7: Resilient Estuary Communities Prepared for Climate Change.

CATEGORIES: [CCMP WORKSHOP MEETING](#)

[Read more →](#)

**FEB**  
**6**  
Wed

**CCMP Workshop: Public Engagement and Stewardship Chapter @ Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center**

Feb 6 @ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

This PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP CCMP Workshop meeting will look at CHAPTER 6: Well-informed, Active Stewards throughout the Local Community.

CATEGORIES: [CCMP WORKSHOP MEETING](#)

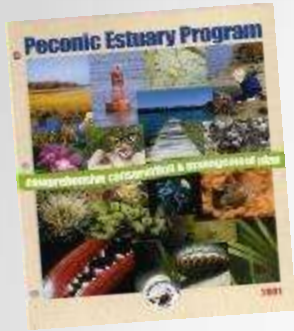
[Read more →](#)

- **PEP held CCMP Workshop Meetings monthly** November 2018 – February 2019 to gain specific feedback on the Draft CCMP Outline and Chapters.
- **April 2019-** The draft CCMP document was submitted for review by EPA, NYSDEC, Suffolk County and Local Governments. **Comments due May 31<sup>st</sup>!**
- **July- August 2019-** CCMP 60-day public review period.
- **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019-** Final CCMP complete.

# CCMP Revision Schedule

Keep up to date on the CCMP Revision here: <https://www.peconicestuary.org/protect-the-peconic/the-ccmp-revision/>

Task	Date
Strategy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement partner and public input strategies; Develop CCMP outline</li> <li>Management Committee review of strategy document and CCMP outline; Revise strategy/outline as needed</li> </ul>	Jan 29 – April 10, 2018  April 11 - April 30 2018
Stakeholder Input Phase I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Phase I of partner and public input strategy; Schedule and hold meetings</li> <li>Synthesize stakeholder input</li> </ul>	May 1 – July 31 2018  Aug 1 – Aug 31 2018
Write CCMP Draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise CCMP outline based on stakeholder feedback and put together draft CCMP</li> <li>Management Committee review of draft CCMP</li> <li>Incorporate management committee comments into draft; Submit draft CCMP to EPA</li> </ul>	Sept 1 – Dec 31 2018  Jan 1 - Jan 31 2019 Feb 1 - Feb 28 2019
Institutional Review of Draft CCMP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA, NYSDEC, Suffolk County, and Local Government review</li> <li>Revisions to draft CCMP based on comments</li> </ul>	March 1- April 30 2019 May 1 – June 30 2019
Stakeholder Input Phase II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release draft CCMP for 60-day public comment period and implement Phase II of partner and public input strategy; Schedule and hold meetings</li> <li>Synthesize stakeholder input and public comments on draft CCMP</li> </ul>	July 1 – Aug 31 2019  Sept 1 – Sept 30 2019
Incorporate Stakeholder Input and Finalize CCMP	Oct 1- Dec 31 2019



On the left are the 2001 CCMP local priority issues and on the right are the proposed priority issues for the 2018 CCMP Revision:

2001 CCMP Priority Issues
Brown Tide
Nutrients
Pathogens
Toxins
Habitat and Living Resources
Critical Lands Protection
Public Education and Outreach
**
Environmental Monitoring Plan Finance Strategy Program/Management Structure

2018 CCMP Revision Proposed Priority Issues
<b>Water Quality</b> -Nitrogen -Harmful Algal Blooms -Pathogens -Toxins and Marine Debris
<b>Habitat and Living Resources</b> -Habitat Restoration -Land Protection -Sustainable Resource Use
<b>Public Engagement/Stewardship</b> -Regional Consensus -Citizen Science -Environmental Justice
<b>Climate Change and Resiliency</b> -Climate Change Planning -Increase Coastal Resiliency
**
Environmental Monitoring Plan Finance Strategy Program/Management Structure