

Long Island Sound Eelgrass Collaborative Workshop | DRAFT Meeting Agenda

Date (Time) **Wednesday- June 12th, 2024 (10am – 4pm)**

Location UConn Avery Point Campus
1080 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT 06340
Lowell Weicker Building, (LWB), Room 103 (70 capacity)

9:30 am	Registration and Check-In
10:00 am	Welcome and Workshop Overview – <i>Katie Lund, CT NERR</i>
10:10 am (45 mins)	Keynote Speaker Focus: Eelgrass and Shellfish Interactions <i>Bradley Peterson - Associate Professor, Stony Brook University</i>
10:55 am (15 mins)	Keynote Questions & Discussion
11:10 am (15 mins)	EPA - LISS Eelgrass Project Updates – <i>Cayla Sullivan, U.S. EPA Region 2-LIS Office</i>
11:25 am (20 mins)	Breakout Session Overview and Directions – <i>Breakout Facilitators</i>
11:45 am	Lunch
12:30 – 1:40 (70 mins)	Breakout Session A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Track 1 – Restoration: research & projects for seed (or plant) movement</i> - <i>Track 2 – Water Quality: LIS monitoring at different scales and next steps for eelgrass</i> - <i>Track 3 – Management: bi-state updates, regulatory & nonregulatory assessment</i>
1:40 pm (10 mins)	Break
1:50 – 3:00 (70 mins)	Breakout Session B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Track 1 – Restoration: seed based restoration – what do we need to know?</i> - <i>Track 2 – Water Quality: bi-state nitrogen reduction strategies</i> - <i>Track 3 – Management: eelgrass & aquaculture interactions</i>
3:00 pm (10 mins)	Break
3:10 (50 mins)	Breakout Summary (20 mins) + Impact/Effort Grid (20 mins) + Next Steps (10 mins) Adjourn at 4:00 pm
4:15 – 5:15	Optional skiff trip (participation based on pre-registration)

Funding provided by:



Facilitated by:



Breakout Session A (12:30 - 1:40) - Working Draft

Track 1: Restoration	Breakout A Focus: Research & projects for seed (or plant) movement
Room #	
Facilitator: Torrie Hanley, Sacred Heart Univ.	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed genetics as related to thermal tolerance, transport, and choosing source populations. • Common garden experiments in National Parks from ME to NC and how this project can inform broader coordination and advance restoration in LIS. Topics include choosing appropriate seed locations and donor beds for restoration. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randall Hughes, Professor of Marine and Environmental Sciences - Northeastern University • Holly Plaisted, Biologist and NCBN Estuarine Water Quality and Seagrass Monitoring Project Lead - National Park Service 	

Track 2: Water Quality	Breakout A Focus: LIS monitoring at different scales and next steps for eelgrass
Room #	
Facilitator: Jamie Vaudrey, UConn & CT NERR	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality monitoring at different scales (USGS, Unified Water Study multi-station, and Millstone local monitoring). • Presentations, followed by panel Q&A, and feedback on next steps. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Morrison, Chief of Applied Hydrology Branch/New England Water Science Center - USGS • Peter Linderoth, Director of Water Quality - Save The Sound • Athena Ryan, Biologist, Millstone Environmental Laboratory - Dominion Energy 	

Track 3: Management	Breakout A Focus: Bi-state updates, regulatory & nonregulatory assessment
Room #	
Facilitator: Katie Lund, CT NERR	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIS Eelgrass Collaborative assessment to-date; regulatory and non-regulatory case studies. • CGA Eelgrass Working Group update and outcomes of CT legislation. • NY Seagrass Task Force update and next steps. • Facilitated panel discussion and Q&A. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Watling, Master's Student and Research Assistant - UConn & CT NERR • Bill Lucey, Long Island Soundkeeper - Save the Sound • Della Campbell, NY Seagrass Coordinator - NYDEC 	



Breakout Session B (1:50 - 3:00) - Working Draft

Track 1: Restoration	Breakout B Focus: Seed-based restoration - what do we need to know?
Room #	
Facilitator: Cayla Sullivan, U.S. EPA - LIS Office	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols and/or best management practices for seed collection, storage, and movement. • Logistics of scaling up - what's needed to accomplish eelgrass restoration at regional scale. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Schott, Marine Botany and Habitat Restoration Specialist - Cornell Cooperative Extension • Steven Heck, Ph.D. Student - Stony Brook University (<i>invited</i>) • Forest Schenck, Environmental Review, Habitat Program - MA DMF (<i>invited</i>) 	

Track 2: Water Quality	Breakout B Focus: Bi-state nitrogen reduction strategies
Room #	
Facilitator: Jamie Vaudrey, UConn & CT NERR	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <p>NY & CT 2nd generation nitrogen strategy - overview and next steps needed for restoration.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michele Golden, Environmental Program Specialist - NYDEC • Traci Iott, Supervising Environmental Analyst - CT DEEP • Kelly Streich, TMDL and Technical Support Lead - CT DEEP 	

Track 3: Management	Breakout B Focus: Eelgrass & aquaculture interactions
Room #	
Facilitator: Katie Lund, CT NERR	Notetaker:
<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional perspective on the federal regulatory framework. • Research project overview: interactions between oyster aquaculture and eelgrass in Beebe Cove - how can research inform policy? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Schillaci, Marine Ecologist - NOAA • Craig Tobias, Professor of Marine Sciences and CT NERR Director - UConn 	

