

Grants to benefit coastal areas

Seven projects that will benefit southeastern Connecticut's coastal areas are among those chosen to receive some of the \$2.4 million in Long Island Sound improvement grants announced Friday.

A total of 38 federal Long Island Sound Futures Fund grants for projects along both the New York and Connecticut sides of the Sound were announced by the Environmental Protection Agency. The grants will be matched with \$4.4 million from the grant recipients to help restore the Sound and the waterways that feed it, as well as promote public appreciation for the Sound's resources, the EPA said in a news release.

The various projects will restore eelgrass beds in both states, teach youth about the Sound, establish fishways for river herring and American eel, study the use of seaweed to extract pollution from waterways, reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality, restore habitats and foster environmental stewardship among the public, among other goals, according to the release.

The projects that will affect southeastern Connecticut lands and waterways are:

- Restoration of fish passage on Anguilla Brook, North Stonington. The Avalonia Land Conservancy will receive a \$75,000 grant for this project, which has a total cost of \$163,140.

- Restoration of eelgrass beds on both the Connecticut and New York sides of the Sound. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, N.Y., will receive a \$30,000 grant for the project, which has a total cost of \$173,172.

- Restoration of the Lord Cove coastal forest and stream in Old Lyme. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will receive a \$40,091 grant for this project, which has a total cost of \$108,883.

- Habitat management planning for Goshen Cove in Waterford, the lower Connecticut River in Essex and Hammonasset Beach in Madison. The Sea Grant program at University of Connecticut will receive a \$20,858 grant for this project, which has a total cost of \$37,365.

- Development of a storm-water management plan for Salem, Lyme and East Haddam. The Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area will receive a \$37,046 grant for this project, which has a total cost of \$75,972.

- Lessons for 750 Norwich, New London and New Haven elementary and middle school students about Long Island Sound. The Sea Research Foundation will receive a \$28,949 grant for the project, which has a total cost of \$51,886.

- Campaign to educate boaters and anglers about aquatic invasives at marinas and boat launches in Connecticut and along the north shore of Long Island. UConn's Sea Grant program will receive \$33,123 for this project, which has a total cost of \$65,097.

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