

Stakeholder Engagement Program

Prepared by the Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee
of the
Blue Plan Advisory Committee

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The public and Long Island Sound stakeholders attend an event about the Blue Plan process in Norwalk on November 16, 2016.



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Purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Program

Introduction: The Long Island Blue Plan

The "Blue Plan" legislation (Public Act 15-66) establishes a process by which Connecticut will develop a "Resource & Use Inventory" of Long Island Sound's natural resources and existing human uses and establish an official marine spatial plan to guide future use of the Sound's waters and submerged lands. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Coastal Management Program (CMP) protects coastal resources and guides development along the immediate coast. The Blue Plan will supplement the CMP's existing authority for the offshore reaches of the Sound.

The Blue Plan is intended to protect the Sound's marine life and habitats while also protecting its traditional human uses, such as fishing, recreation, aquaculture and navigation, from future conflicting or incompatible activities. This will help maximize compatibility between marine life and human uses and between different uses such as navigation and aquaculture. The deadline to complete a draft Blue Plan for the CT General Assembly is March 2019. See the Blue Plan website (www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan) for more information.

New York State is also included in this Stakeholder Engagement Program (SEP) so the outcome can benefit all of the Sound to the extent possible.

What is This Document's Purpose?

This document will frame the processes by which all interested parties (public, stakeholders, experts, Blue Plan officials) will be engaged in the Blue Plan development. It offers different strategies for specific stakeholder engagement that will be undertaken as the Blue Plan process unfolds, within the bounds of available resources.

This plan should help unify the efforts of Blue Plan team members with others engaged in reaching out to stakeholders and integrate the work of the Stakeholder Engagement Team with that of other Blue Plan teams. It can help the public and stakeholders understand the intended process and prepare them to participate in meaningful ways.

This document will be posted on the Blue Plan website to ensure widespread access. It will serve as an important resource for those responsible for guiding and implementing the stakeholder engagement process.

Why is Stakeholder Engagement Important?

Engaging stakeholders (i.e., all interested parties) in a meaningful way is critical to the success of the overall Blue Plan process. Appropriate and continual stakeholder engagement should yield a better Blue Plan that enjoys widespread support and greater trust in the appropriate implementation of the plan, while meeting the statutory goals for general public input.

There is overwhelming agreement among practitioners and experts, and in widely-referenced marine spatial planning guidance documents such as Ehler and Douvere (2009), that stakeholder engagement is a key tenet of MSP. Stakeholder engagement ensures the openness, transparency and legitimacy of MSP; increases buy-in; and contributes local knowledge to the process (Douvere, 2008; Gilliland & Lafolley, 2008; Pomeroy & Douvere, 2008). There is a consensus that stakeholder engagement for MSP should adhere to

a set of best practices. For example, MSP experts differentiate MSP stakeholder engagement from some legally-mandated forms of public participation such as public hearings and public comment periods, emphasizing the need for ongoing 2-way communication and collaboration (Gopnik et al., 2012).

Options for Developing Marine Spatial Planning in Long Island Sound: Sound Marine Planning Interim Framework Report, CT–NY Bi-State Marine Spatial Planning Working Group, 2016.

In 2016, the CT-NY Bi-State Marine Spatial Planning Working Group collaborated with the Consensus Building Institute to complete a report entitled “Options for Stakeholder Engagement in Long Island Sound Marine Spatial Planning” (hereafter the *Engagement Options Report*). This report provides information about stakeholder engagement specifically related to marine spatial planning in Long Island Sound and serves as a foundational reference for this SEP.

Stakeholders to Engage

For the purposes of this plan, stakeholders include anyone or any entity that has a direct or indirect stake or interest in Long Island Sound, its ecological condition, or in how this waterbody has been used, is currently being used, and will be used in the future. The term stakeholder includes the public in the broadest sense, state and federal public officials, scientists and experts whose interest may be academic or professional. Significant effort has already been undertaken to identify specific entities, organizations and individuals who are “stakeholders” and remains ongoing. Special emphasis should be placed on identifying “potentially impacted users” of the Blue Plan.¹

Outlined in the legislation, the Blue Plan Advisory Committee composition represents a number of key stakeholder categories:

- Commissioners / designees of the Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Agriculture
- Secretary / designee of the Office of Policy and Management
- Faculty member of the University of Connecticut Department of Marine Sciences
- Representatives of:
 - Connecticut Siting Council
 - marine trades
 - a conservation organization specializing in coastal issues

¹ For the purposes of this SEP, “potentially impacted users” are those entities, sectors and individuals whose uses may be potentially impacted by policies that the Blue Plan develops. Blue Plan policies will only encompass the Blue Plan’s “spatial planning area”: the areas “seaward of the bathymetric contour of minus ten feet North American Vertical Datum to the state’s waterward boundaries with the states of New York and Rhode Island ... [and] not extend[ing] into any river that flows into the sound beyond the first motor vehicle bridge or railroad bridge” (Public Act 15-66, Section 1(c)). However, in developing the Blue Plan Resource and Use Inventory, the Advisory Committee is not constrained to the Blue Plan spatial planning area, as Inventory development is aimed at assembling data to assess what resources and uses exist in *and* with regards to Long Island Sound. As such, it is important to recognize that while all “potentially impacted users” are stakeholders for the purposes of this SEP, not all stakeholders with whom the Advisory Committee engages may be “potentially impacted users.” As a final point of clarification in helping to define “potentially impacted users,” it should be noted that Blue Plan policies will not change existing regulatory processes or jurisdiction and will not dictate what can and cannot be done throughout Connecticut waters. Blue Plan policies will, however, create standards and guidance for regulators, users and stakeholders regarding new uses and/or new applications of existing uses in the Blue Plan spatial planning area. (Underlined for emphasis.)

- gas and electric distribution industries
- commercial finfish industry
- recreational fishing and hunting communities
- a nonprofit conservation organization with expertise in marine assessments and planning
- either the shellfish industry or an organization familiar with commercial or recreational aquaculture
- two coastal municipalities
- commercial boating or shipping industries

In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee must also consult with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, representatives of the telecommunications industry, representatives of waterfront businesses, representatives of the state's two federally recognized Indian tribes (the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes), and representatives of the tourism or recreation industry.

To the extent feasible, the Advisory Committee will consult with applicable New York State agencies, advisory counterparts, and the CT-NY Bi-State Marine Spatial Planning Working Group to devise a mutually agreeable process for engaging stakeholders in developing the Inventory and Blue Plan.

The Executive Summary of the *Engagement Options Report* provides a good overview of stakeholders:

A broad range of stakeholders should be engaged in MSP; in LIS these could include but are not limited to sectors such as the marine trades; conservation organizations; energy; commercial and recreational fishing and boating, shell fishing, commercial boating/shipping, telecommunications; tourism and recreational industries; recreational interests; ports and waterfront businesses; local municipalities; non-traditional aquaculture interests; defense; academic interests; tribes; and others. (*Engagement Options Report*, Executive Summary.)

The appendix of the *Engagement Options Report* includes comprehensive summary of different types of stakeholders. Finally, detailed lists of experts and stakeholders have been compiled and are continuing to be updated as part of the overall Blue Plan process.

Expert and Stakeholder Engagement for Data & Information Processes

A major element of stakeholder engagement is the explicit effort to engage both ecological experts and human use stakeholders to contribute and evaluate relevant data and information needed for completing the ecological and human use characterizations of the Sound. These data are the foundation of the "Blue Plan Resource and Use Inventory." Ultimately, the Blue Plan and its policies will arise from the Inventory, data and map products that result from these characterizations.

In addition to the Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee, committees and teams such as the Inventory and Science Subcommittee and the Human Use and Ecological Characterization Work Teams will have a role in designing and/or implementing the expert and stakeholder outreach and engagement process. Coordination among these teams will be critical to both the design and successful implementation of the outreach process.

The process of outreach to experts and stakeholders for these data and informational purposes includes:

- Identifying experts and stakeholders and finding viable ways to engage them in a time-efficient manner;
- Creating a broad group of “Interested Parties” to establish relationships with key experts and stakeholders; and
- Reaching out to targeted human use sectors or ecological experts in a more focused manner than the Interested Parties process can provide, entailing one-on-one meetings and organized efforts to meet with representatives from a given sector.

Expected outcomes from this expert and stakeholder process include 1) review of preliminary map products and assessment of data for accuracy, representativeness and relevance; 2) evaluating map products for data display format; 3) identifying data gaps and missing datasets; and 4) assessing availability of new data to address these gaps.

The experts and stakeholders will also review and provide input on revised/improved data and map products. These experts and stakeholders will be asked to help turn the refined and improved data and information into fundamental source material and products that will be used to design the Blue Plan.

Analysis of Stakeholder Sectors to Facilitate Outreach

A basic analysis of each sector should be completed as a precursor to stakeholder engagement. There are potentially thousands of individuals that the stakeholder process could actively engage, but this is not feasible on a one-to-one basis. The stakeholder process as a whole should allow for those “thousands” to be connected to or at least become aware of the Blue Plan development process. Many of the following techniques will serve to assure all potential stakeholders have access to the process. The question is: who are the key entities and individuals, including potentially impacted users, with which special, proactive outreach from the overall Blue Plan process is most important? Identifying these entities and individuals will make the overall process more effective and practical. The recommended steps are:

1. Seek to engage all stakeholder sectors identified in the Blue Plan legislation (beyond the BPAC members themselves).
2. To the extent possible, identify additional sectors not mentioned in the statute that may have a clear interest in the Blue Plan. (This is not an attempt to capture all parties and stakeholders that theoretically may be interested.)
3. Identify individuals, associations or other representative entities that may provide a practical avenue for reaching out to each sector, to make them aware of the overall Blue Plan process and to assess levels of interest, issues and concerns they may have and their potential to contribute information to the process.
4. Plan and conduct proactive outreach to the identified sectors to the extent possible, *according to this plan*. Consider techniques that a) allow multiple sectors/parties to be included and addressed collectively, b) consider and identify those sectors that may suggest a more individualized approach, and c) consider the relative urgency of approaching a given sector.

Communications and Messaging about the Blue Plan

Communications and messaging are foundational elements of stakeholder engagement. In conjunction with the Blue Plan Advisory Committee, Connecticut DEEP will develop and disseminate outreach materials that meet stakeholder needs. Using available resources, a public outreach and information program will be developed and implemented to inform the public about the Long Island Sound Blue Plan. Outreach materials will be used to inform and encourage participation of stakeholder groups. Most communications about stakeholder engagement activities will be at the overall Blue Plan-level; individual project- and location-specific activities will supplement Plan-level activities.

Outreach Content and Materials

DEEP and the Blue Plan Advisory Committee will develop clear, consistent, and timely informational materials to:

- develop public understanding of the Blue Plan;
- communicate the Advisory Committee’s goals and implementation strategy for the Blue Plan, and how these relate to stakeholder interests;
- inform the public on how to get involved; and
- motivate stakeholders to contribute to the Blue Plan implementation.

As appropriate, outreach materials such as fact sheets, brochures, FAQs, presentations, maps and graphics will provide both program-related and project-specific information. A Blue Plan logo and tagline has been developed to identify Blue Plan-related materials. Outreach materials will be made available in print and/or electronically, posted to the website, distributed to media and trade publications, handed-out at meetings and open houses, or emailed as e-updates.

Web-Based Outreach

The DEEP Blue Plan website will serve as an important outreach tool for communicating information on the process and progress of the Blue Plan development. More information is contained under “Stakeholder Engagement Actions to be Implemented.”

Media Outreach

DEEP staff and partners will identify preferred media outlets to issue information regarding public meetings, established to solicit feedback and participation. Options include but are not limited to news/press releases, newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and media briefings. Media outreach will be used to maximize public understanding and awareness. Major project milestones and engagement opportunities will be announced via news releases vetted through proper DEEP review channels. See more on Media in “Stakeholder Engagement Actions to be Implemented.”

Methods of Engagement

Introduction: Principles of Engagement

The Advisory Committee will adhere to the following principles in engaging the public and key stakeholders in the SEP, as well as in its own decision-making:

Collaborate. No single group can generate the perfect “answer” alone. Be willing to generate ideas with others.

Listen. Over the course of the process, provide opportunities for all who care about Long Island Sound to share their thoughts.

Be flexible. Conditions and needs may change over the course of the Blue Plan process. Be willing to nimbly adjust the stakeholder engagement approach so it is the best it can be.

Be transparent. Keep the public informed about the Blue Plan process. Share information about the process, the likely products, how people are being engaged, and what will result from engagement and data collection efforts.

Respect multiple truths. Respect the many stakeholders who care passionately about Long Island Sound, be sensitive to the fact that there can be many realities in the same place and anticipate that people will have a variety of sometimes-conflicting real interests and stories to share.

Adopted from the *Engagement Options Report*, 2016.

Basic Techniques of Engagement

For the SEP, the Advisory Committee finds many suitable techniques suggested in the *Engagement Options Report*, which summarized the research, experience and expertise of the authors, as well as results of interviews with 25 Long Island Sound stakeholders about how best to conduct stakeholder engagement. Their opinions fell along a range of engagement levels, from general informational communications to in-depth discussions:

Communication about the Blue Plan to the Public. These are typically one-way communications from the project to the public about what is happening and do not provide opportunities for stakeholder input.

Seeking Individual Input. These techniques provide opportunities for individuals to share information, data, opinions, thoughts and ideas. While this input may be gathered during group meetings, each individual will be sharing his/her own perspective, and there will not be group deliberation or extensive dialogue.

In-Depth Engagement with Small Groups / Sectors. These are opportunities for people to collectively deliberate at key points or on key topics. They tend to be structured to elicit ideas and give people a chance to explore them together, thinking through pros and cons, and building on each other’s suggestions. They may also provide a chance for the same group of people to talk together over time.

Engagement with the Public in Large Forums. These larger meetings are designed to engage people in a more extensive, deliberate way than public hearings (e.g. where people have their 3 minutes at the microphone but no opportunity for discussion), sometimes working in small groups or having open discussion to elicit ideas and input from participants.

Adopted from the *Engagement Options Report*, 2016.

A chart from the *Engagement Options Report*, re-created here, outlines basic engagement techniques suitable for the SEP, from which the Advisory Committee will draw.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS	
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS	
<i>Communication About The Blue Plan To The Public</i>	
LISTSERV	Voluntary subscription for broadcasts of general information
WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS	Accommodation of those limited by distance or availability
BASIC WEBSITE	Up-to-date and timely information for general reference
<i>Seeking Individual Input</i>	
CONTACT INFO	Contact information for individuals able to respond to inquiries
INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT	Coordination or consultation about specific information
OPEN HOUSES	Informal orientation about particular aspects
PUBLIC COMMENT BPAC MEETINGS	Purposeful time for public comment to Advisory Committee
PUBLIC HEARINGS	Presentations during development, completion and annually
SURVEYS	Sampled queries of specific categories of stakeholders
ROBUST WEBSITE	Expanded basic functions to more vibrant, interactive website
<i>In-Depth Engagement With Small Groups / Sectors</i>	
KEY SECTORS	Assessment of key entities and stakeholder sectors
ID'D STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	Consultation with legislatively-identified stakeholder groups
EXISTING GROUP MEETINGS	Attending existing meetings of various sectors
TOPIC-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS MTGS	Ad hoc solicitation of input or feedback on Blue Plan products
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTING GROUP	Receptivity to corresponding group of multiple stakeholders
TOPIC-SPECIFIC WORKING GROUPS	Creation of work groups to output on particular topics
<i>Engagement With The Public In Large Forums</i>	
DAY-LONG STAKEHOLDER FORUMS	Long-format stakeholder forums for the general public
LISTENING SESSIONS / PUBLIC FORUMS	Hosting of 2-hour regional status and listening sessions

General Engagement versus Data & Information Gathering Processes

Stakeholder engagement for the Blue Plan includes two related but distinct elements. The first focuses on general awareness, support and input from the public and stakeholders. It both promotes awareness of the overall Blue Plan process and serves as a vehicle for receiving and integrating input into the planning process. This input plays a role in shaping the planning process and its policy outcomes.

The second element is the explicit effort to engage with experts and stakeholders to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the planning process, particularly in acquiring needed data and information that may not be otherwise available. The data and information will enhance understanding and planning for both the ecological resources and human uses of Long Island Sound and the completion of the “Blue Plan Resource and Use Inventory.”

Appropriate and relevant technique(s) will be used for both general engagement and data and information gathering.

Role and Frequency of Engagement

Intrinsic constraints on available capacity or expertise will focus implementation of the engagement techniques chosen by this SEP. For this reason, each technique the Advisory Committee chooses for use is conditioned by how large a role it will play (whole, partial, contingent) and the frequency the Advisory Committee anticipates having the capacity to implement each (continual, periodic, one-and-done, occasional, as-needed or not applicable).

<u>Role:</u>	Whole	The BPAC recommends implementing the technique wholly.
	Partial	The BPAC expects to conduct some part of the technique at some point in the next 2-3 years, the degree to which is to be determined as the SEP progresses.
	Contingent	The BPAC may employ the technique depending on capacity or expertise available as the SEP unfolds.
	Not applicable	The BPAC decided the technique does not have a role in the SEP.
<u>Frequency:</u>	Continual	The BPAC will maintain the technique throughout the SEP.
	Periodic	The BPAC will conduct the technique at a regular interval.
	One-and-done	The BPAC will employ the technique once.
	Occasional	The BPAC will host the technique at milestone moments.
	As-needed	The BPAC may work the technique into the SEP depending on capacity or expertise available as the SEP unfolds.

Stakeholder Engagement Actions to be Implemented

This Chapter presents specific stakeholder engagement actions to be implemented as part of the Blue Plan process. Many of these engagement efforts are already underway. The Connecticut General Assembly requires certain minimal actions and enables the Advisory Committee to employ others as needed. This SEP document presents the actions to be implemented under each of the four basic techniques listed above, with notes about the role and frequency included.

Communicating to the Public

The Advisory Committee will communicate with the public about what is happening in the overall Blue Plan process using one-way engagement techniques; these techniques do not provide opportunities for stakeholder input. Each can be scaled to target announcements broadly or specifically to sectors or small groups.

Listserv (Whole, Continual) — The Advisory Committee uses a listserv created through the Connecticut DEEP website to continually broadcast general information about the Blue Plan process. Individuals, businesses, entities and associations can voluntarily subscribe to the listserv; the Advisory Committee advertises the opportunity to sign up via the DEEP website and public events. If feasible, the Advisory Committee will add a mechanism for targeted messaging to categories of participants based on something in particular to report, such as scheduling of more specific engagement actions of the SEP.

Webinars and Conference Calls (Partial, Occasional) — The Advisory Committee may host informational webinars or conference calls occasionally to accommodate greater participation among those limited by distance or availability. For example, the Advisory Committee could promote this technique to the general public in New York where there will likely be fewer general public meetings or other venues for dissemination of information. The Advisory Committee will assemble one or two of these webinars or conference calls early in the overall Blue Plan process to gauge usefulness in diversifying general public outreach in addition to being a vehicle to engage with experts, stakeholders or “Interested Parties” in the data and information input process described above.

Basic Website (Whole, Continual) — Even before fulfilling membership of the Advisory Committee, DEEP established a basic website, which the Advisory Committee employs on a continual basis as a source of general information about the Blue Plan. As a basic website, it will serve to share up-to-date and timely information with interested and involved stakeholders. Project-specific content for the website — including written text, graphics and maps — will be developed, such as:

- Advisory Committee meeting information, including agendas and meeting minutes
- Public opportunities to provide input, including links to join the Blue Plan Listserv and to the online comment form
- Continuously updated FAQs
- Links to key documents or websites (e.g., the New York Geographic Information Gateway)
- Links to social media outreach via YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Announcements of all Plan-level stakeholder engagement activities
- Status of individual project- or location-specific activities
- Blue Plan schedule information
- Webinars developed, as needed, to communicate information to the public

- Surveys developed and conducted, as needed
- Videos about the Blue Plan

Conventional Media (Whole, Occasional) — To maximize public understanding of the overall Blue Plan process, especially major project milestones and engagement opportunities, DEEP will work with its partners to utilize conventional media. DEEP will maintain a list of general print and broadcast media in the state and region, as well as specialized media such as organizational newsletters, to convey educational and news items. DEEP news releases will be vetted as required. Materials include but are not limited to: news/press releases, newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and media briefings. Such materials will be used for content in:

- Water agency/organization publications
- Environmental and fisheries publications
- Public interest group publications
- Newsletters of affected parties and stakeholders/sectors
- Regional academic publications (e.g., Connecticut Sea Grant)

Social Media (Partial, Occasional) — Links to various social media platforms will reside on the DEEP Blue Plan website by which stakeholders may access DEEP postings of videos, images and other one-way communications about the overall Blue Plan process as it happens.

Seeking Individual Input

The Advisory Committee has chosen these engagement techniques for *Seeking Individual Input* to collect information, data, opinions, thoughts and ideas. While some techniques involve people being in the same place at the same time, in those cases where individuals are not deliberating or in extensive dialogue together but are rather sharing from their own perspective sequentially.

Contact Info (Whole, Continual) — The Advisory Committee will provide contact information for key individuals able to respond to inquiries about various aspects of the Blue Plan process and/or its related subcommittees and teams.

Individual Engagement (Whole, Occasional) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee may occasionally engage with specific individuals, such as a representative of an interested party, entity or industry sector who can orient Blue Plan officials to specific information that will benefit the overall Blue Plan process or its products. Individual engagement will help meet the statutory requirements of the Blue Plan law, which requires coordination or consultation with representatives of certain industries (e.g. tourism or recreation). Engaging the right individual about particular concerns can make that increased depth of inquiry more effective than doing so through a larger group or other venue.

Open Houses (Contingent, As Needed) — The Advisory Committee may host an open house depending on the need or benefit to collect the thoughts of individuals from the general public with staff informally presenting particular data, maps, or questions about which there is a particularly complicated or sensitive aspect to address.

Public Comment at Advisory Committee Meetings (Whole, Periodic) — The Advisory Committee will provide time for public comment during each of its quarterly or special meetings. The Advisory Committee will occasionally hold its meetings in the evening to facilitate attendance by stakeholders.

Public Hearings (Whole, Periodic) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee will hold no fewer than three public hearings in different coastal communities of Connecticut during the Blue Plan development process — one east of the Connecticut River; one west of the Housatonic River; and one between the Connecticut River and the Housatonic River. The public hearings will follow formal protocol, including recording notes and testimony for public record. The Advisory Committee will consider staggering the geographically-based public hearings throughout the overall Blue Plan process in order to gather general public comment at different stages of the project rather than at one point in time. At least one public hearing is tentatively planned for each of the next three years (i.e., at least one hearing in each of 2017, 2018, and 2019); however, the timing of the hearings may be adjusted based on the information able to be presented to the public at a given time and on what makes the most sense for the public to comment on. *Please Note: “Public Hearings” differ from the “Regional Listening Sessions or Public Meetings” noted in the “Engagement with the Public in Large Groups” section below, with the latter being informal and the former being formally structured, implemented, and recorded for public record.*

Surveys (Contingent, As Needed) — Depending on need, the Advisory Committee may conduct surveys to query a sampling of parties, perhaps in conjunction with the basic listserv/email or a more robust listserv of specific categories of stakeholders, or perhaps simply as a continuation of the survey questionnaire already being used at Blue Plan public events.

Robust Website (Contingent, As Needed) — As the Advisory Committee begins to involve a broader range of stakeholders and members of the general public, the importance of the Blue Plan website will increase significantly. The Advisory Committee may expand the website in a more vibrant and interactive manner than the current basic website) based on an interest or need (political or technical) for more of a dialogue.

“This type of website could have videos providing quick, compelling updates on the Blue Plan. It could have surveys or use other tools to get input on maps, documents, or key questions during different phases of the Blue Plan process. It could have an interactive map showing existing data layers or compelling infographics that explain important perspectives or information. It could be easy to use on mobile phones or tablets as well as on computers.” (*Engagement Options Report*, pg. 18).

The Advisory Committee would have to seek out available capacity or expertise to produce and operate beyond those that exist presently, including potentially, in partnership with another entity.

In-depth Engagement with Small Groups

The Advisory Committee has chosen techniques for more *In-depth Engagement with Small Groups* of people to deliberate on key topics or at key points in the overall Blue Plan process.

Key Sectors (Partial, One-And-Done) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee will assess the roles and concerns about Long Island Sound of different key entities or stakeholder sectors. To do so, the Advisory Committee will conduct interviews or focus groups with people from particular sectors. The Advisory Committee does not expect a need for additional assessment after the initial work is complete.

Legislatively Identified Stakeholder Groups (Whole, Periodic) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee will schedule regular consultations with identified stakeholder groups.

Existing Sector Meetings (Whole, Periodic) — The Advisory Committee will reach out to sectors of stakeholders to determine feasibility of attending their periodically scheduled meetings to address the Blue Plan. This engagement technique offers ease of participation for these groups in the overall Blue Plan process and builds relationships to share and gather information.

Topic-Specific Focus Groups (Partial, Occasional) — While conventional focus groups will not play a large role in the overall Blue Plan process, the Advisory Committee may conduct sector- or topic-specific ad hoc focus groups on occasion as needed for input or feedback. Key actions that might require focus group input include:

- **Scoping Meetings:** Meetings scheduled with an ad hoc or unofficial group of individuals representing some or all of a sector (e.g., commercial fishing) to convey an understanding of the Blue Plan, address concerns of individuals in the ad hoc group or to gain input and information from those gathered.
- **Meetings with Experts or Stakeholders on Data & Information:** Meetings supporting the work plan of the Inventory and Science Subcommittee to gain feedback on currently available data and information to identify data gaps and sources to fill them.
- **Participatory Mapping:** High priority meetings to gather otherwise unavailable information about important places in the Sound, whether for human uses or ecological priorities. They involve recording in digital form the spatial places that participants describe as important for a given set of reasons. This is a high leverage vehicle for both stakeholder engagement and contributing to completing a strong “Resource and Use Inventory” for the Blue Plan.

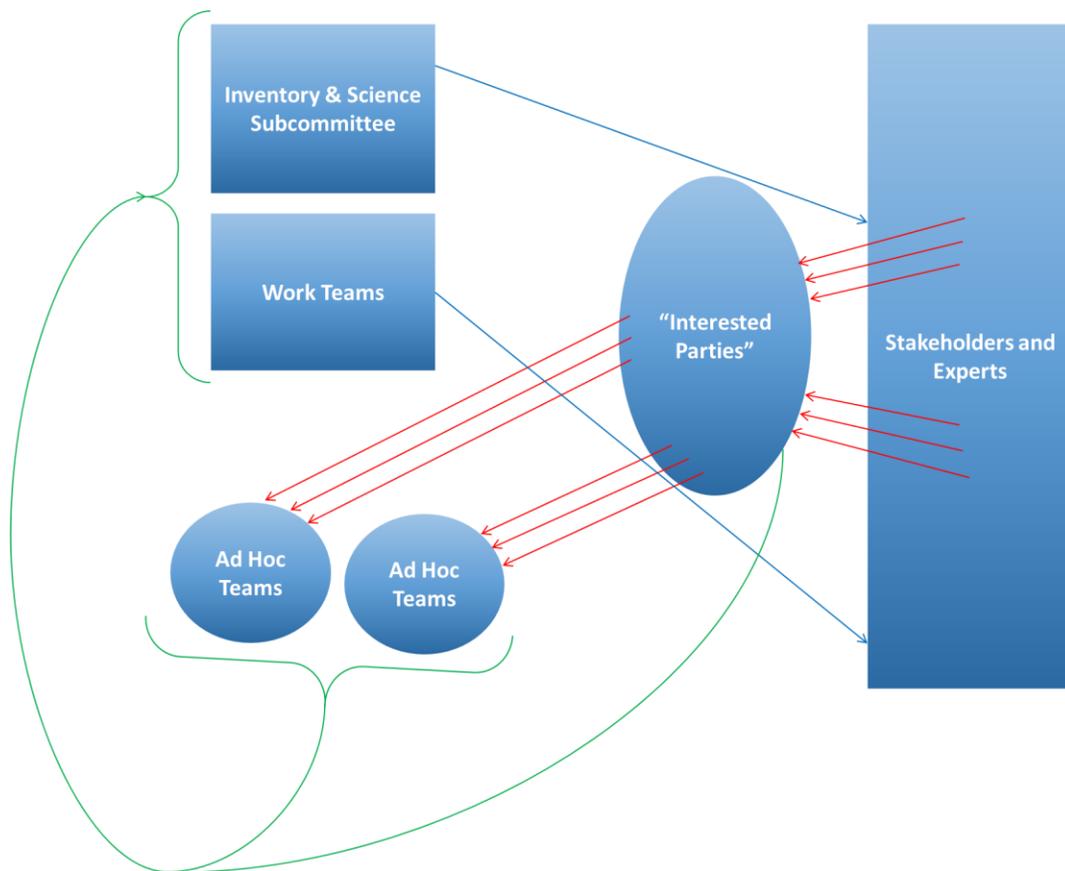
Multi-Stakeholder Consulting Group (Contingent, As Needed) — A group of interested parties may arise of its own accord if the need clearly arises for a wider set of stakeholders than provided by the Advisory Committee alone. It could potentially facilitate greater stakeholder access and input into the overall Blue Plan process.

Topic-Specific Working Groups (Whole, Periodic) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee will coordinate with existing (or create new) working groups to address particular topics, distinct from those addressed in the Focus Groups, to produce outputs.

There could be a number of topics for which it makes sense to consult with a specific group of people over a few sessions. Technical working groups can supplement expertise provided by Advisory Committee members and consultants and include scientific and technical experts as well as key stakeholders, helping to both generate content and provide feedback. They could be formed on specific marine spatial planning topics like recreation, habitat, fisheries, or marine transportation. Because they formally become a working group, they have the time to learn together and explore complex topics that can't be discussed thoroughly in a single-session meeting. (*Engagement Options Report*, pg. 20).

The Advisory Committee, leveraging the capacity of the Inventory and Science Subcommittee and the Human Use, Ecological Characterization and Data and Mapping Work Teams, will pursue the Topic-Specific Working Group engagement technique with “Interested Parties,” a set

of ecological experts and human use stakeholders that have expressed interest in contributing to the Blue Plan process outside of more formal membership in a Work Team (which have regular meetings and tasks). As depicted in the below flowchart, “Interested Parties” are self-selected from a larger group of ecological experts and human use stakeholders that the Inventory and Science Subcommittee and Work Teams reach out to. “Interested Parties” can be a source of establishing topic-specific, ad hoc working groups for specific needs (e.g., identifying “ecologically significant areas” for the Resource and Use Inventory, outlining the Blue Plan structure and policy, informing further stakeholder engagement), based on the interest and availability of each ecological expert and human use stakeholder. Output from these ad hoc teams will further inform the work of the Inventory and Science Subcommittee and the Work Teams.



“Interested Parties” Process Diagram (above). The Inventory and Science Subcommittee and the Work Teams reach out to a large group of ecological experts and human use stakeholders to gauge interest and availability in contributing to the Blue Plan process (blue arrows). The experts and stakeholders, based on personal interest and availability, self-select to being an “Interested Party”. As needs arise and interests align, these coordinated efforts in ad hoc teams serve as a means to overcome finite resources to address specific issues related to developing the Resource and Use Inventory and the Blue Plan (red arrows). Output from these ad hoc teams and other “Interested Parties” inform the work of the Inventory and Science Subcommittee and the Work Teams (green arrows).

Engagement with the Public in Large Groups

These larger meetings are designed for *Engagement with the Public in Large Groups* in a more extensive, deliberate way than public hearings (e.g. where people have their three minutes at the microphone but no opportunity for discussion), sometimes working in small groups or having open discussion all together to elicit ideas and input from participants.

Daylong stakeholder forums (not applicable) — Described in the *Engagement Options Report*, the Advisory Committee does not consider this technique as likely to be implemented.

Regional Listening Sessions and Public Meetings (Whole, Periodic) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation, the Advisory Committee will employ this technique fully and frequently along the coastal geography to boost inclusiveness in the planning process. The Advisory Committee will report on the status of the overall Blue Plan process and “listen”— pro-actively garnering participation via questions, comments or discussion — to solicit some level of input from the general public (e.g., introduce the overall Blue Plan process and solicit input on the draft Vision and Goals). The Committee will make a strong effort to engage large public groups from New York State and on Long Island in particular to the extent that available capacity and interest from New York State agencies allow.

Blue Plan Law

Section 25-157t of the Connecticut General Statutes is the portion of the Blue Plan law that requires the State to develop the Inventory and Blue Plan through a transparent and inclusive process that seeks widespread participation of the public and stakeholders and encourages public participation in decision-making.

Public Hearings (Whole, Periodic) — Hold no fewer than 3 public hearings in different coastal municipalities of the state to receive comments and submissions from the public and interested persons; one public hearing east of the CT River (Waterford/New London/Groton), one west of the Housatonic River (Norwalk/Westport/Fairfield), and one between the CT River and the Housatonic River (Branford/Guilford/Madison).

Coordination with Planning Entities (Contingent, As needed) — Coordinate to the maximum extent feasible with local planning entities, regional planning entities, Federal planning entities, Long Island Sound Study, the National Ocean Policy’s New England Regional Planning Body, and the CT/NY Bi-State Marine Spatial Plan Working Group.

Coordination With Adjacent States (Partial, Occasional) — Coordinate, develop, and implement to the maximum extent feasible with the New York State.

Consultation With Industry Sectors (Whole, As needed) — Before the draft Inventory and Blue Plan are available for public comment, the Advisory Committee must consult with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, representatives of the telecommunications industry, representatives of waterfront businesses, representatives of the state’s two federally recognized Indian tribes (the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes), and representatives of the tourism or recreation industry.

Consultation With New York (Whole, As needed) — To the extent feasible, consult with the applicable New York State agencies, advisory counterparts, and the CT-NY Bi-state MSPWG to devise a mutually agreeable process for developing the Inventory and Blue Plan.

The Blue Plan law also requires the State to engage stakeholders in adoption and implementation of the Inventory and Blue Plan.

Public Comment (Whole, Periodic) — Upon completion of the draft Resource and Use Inventory and the Blue Plan, the Commissioner of DEEP will make such draft available for public review and comment for at least 90 days and will publish notice in the Environmental Monitor and the Connecticut Law Journal and posted on the Internet web site of the DEEP and Office of Policy and Management.

Review of Inventory and Blue Plan (Whole, Periodic) — The Commissioner will provide for the review and update of adopted Inventory and Blue Plan at least once every five years and, within available capacity or expertise, hold at least one public hearing each year to receive comments and submissions from the public on such Inventory and Blue Plan.

Implementation

Summary of Chosen Techniques

The following summarizes the role and frequency of each of the possible techniques the Advisory Committee has chosen for the SEP.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS	Role in SEP	Frequency
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS	Partial	One-and-done
<i>Engagement Techniques</i>		
LISTSERV	Whole	Continual
WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS	Whole	Continual
BASIC WEBSITE	Whole	Continual
CONTACT INFO	Whole	Occasional
INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT	Whole	Occasional
OPEN HOUSES	Contingent	As needed
PUBLIC COMMENT BPAC MEETINGS	Whole	Periodic
PUBLIC HEARINGS	Whole	Periodic
SURVEYS	Contingent	As needed
ROBUST WEBSITE	Contingent	As needed
KEY SECTORS	Partial	One-and-done
ID'D STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	Whole	Periodic
EXISTING GROUP MEETINGS	Whole	Periodic
TOPIC-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS MEETINGS	Partial	Occasional
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTING GROUP	Contingent	As needed
TOPIC-SPECIFIC WORKING GROUPS	Whole	Periodic
DAY-LONG STAKEHOLDER FORUMS	n/a	n/a
REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS	Whole	Periodic
<i>Minimum Requirements: Blue Plan Act</i>		
PUBLIC HEARINGS	Whole	Periodic
PLANNING ENTITY COORDINATION	Contingent	As needed
ADJACENT STATE COORDINATION	Partial	Occasional
INDUSTRY SECTOR CONSULTATION	Whole	As needed
PUBLIC COMMENT	Whole	Periodic
REVIEW OF INVENTORY AND PLAN	Whole	Periodic

Schedule and Milestones

The Advisory Committee will adhere to a schedule for implementing engagement actions throughout each component of the overall Blue Plan process:

ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS	2017			2018			2019		
	Resource & Use Inventory - Phase I	Policy & Blue Plan Development	General Stakeholder Engagement	Resource & Use Inventory - Phase II & III	Policy & Blue Plan Development	General Stakeholder Engagement	Resource & Use Inventory - Phase II & III	Policy & Blue Plan Development	General Stakeholder Engagement
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS	X		X						
Engagement Techniques									
LISTSERV	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS	X			X	X		X	X	
BASIC WEBSITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CONTACT INFO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
OPEN HOUSES	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
PUBLIC COMMENT BPAC MEETINGS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PUBLIC HEARINGS			X			X	X	X	X
SURVEYS	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ROBUST WEBSITE	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
KEY SECTORS			X						
ID'D STAKEHOLDER GROUPS			X			X			X
EXISTING GROUP MEETINGS	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
TOPIC-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUP MTGS	X			X	X		X	X	
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTING GROUP	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
TOPIC-SPECIFIC WORKING GROUPS	X			X	X		X	X	
DAY-LONG STAKEHOLDER FORUMS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REG'L SESSIONS AND PUBLIC MTGS			X			X			X
Minimum Requirements: Blue Plan Act									
PUBLIC HEARINGS			X			X			X
PLANNING ENTITY COORDINATION	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ADJACENT STATE COORDINATION	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
INDUSTRY SECTOR CONSULTATION	X	X		X	X		X	X	
PUBLIC COMMENT									X
REVIEW OF INVENTORY AND PLAN									X

Available Capacity and Expertise

Consistent with the Blue Plan process in general, no special funds have been made available by the State or other public sources to pursue stakeholder engagement. Instead, it has been understood that this important task will need to be accomplished with available existing capacity of CT DEEP and other parties who have and will contribute to getting the job done. Because of this fundamental limitation, there is a need to approach stakeholder engagement with an eye on capacity and a willingness to prioritize actions.

The following represent the various forms of capacity that are currently available or known to be reasonably likely candidates for the future.

Active Partners

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) — DEEP's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse offers capacity from its Land and Water Resources Division for the Inventory from its Coastal Resources staff experts and the Blue Plan from its Land & Water Planning staff experts. These groups will be a significant foundation for stakeholder engagement.

Advisory Committee Member Organizations — In addition to DEEP, Connecticut Sea Grant, and TNC, the Advisory Committee will have support from the Connecticut Departments of Transportation and Agriculture, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Siting Council. Two coastal municipalities will lend staff available capacity or expertise. Counsel will be sought from a conservation organization that specializes in coastal issues. Expertise, experience and contacts with Interested Parties will come from other Advisory Committee members: the marine trades industry, the gas and electric distribution industries, the commercial finfish industry, the recreational fishing and hunting community, a representative of a nonprofit conservation organization with expertise in marine assessments and planning, as appointed by the Governor, the shellfish industry or an organization familiar with commercial or recreational aquaculture.

- **Sea Grant College Program** — Connecticut Sea Grant, based at UConn Avery Point in Groton, and New York Sea Grant, based at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island, are two of 33 programs in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program. The programs offer capacity, especially to the Inventory and Science portion of the overall Blue Plan process, through their support of relevant research, and conduct of education, outreach and technology transfer programs related to marine resources and the priority concerns of coastal constituents.
- **The Nature Conservancy** — Identified as a nonprofit conservation organization with expertise in marine assessments and planning, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Connecticut and in New York reaches across state boundaries through its Long Island Sound Program. This program offers capacity in collaborating with partner programs that have connections to the Sound, to advance science and to revitalize and protect a healthy, resilient Sound for marine life and the communities who depend on it for their livelihood and well-being.

Special Partners

Because of this fundamental limitation, the Advisory Committee will approach stakeholder engagement with an eye on priority in action as recommended by its Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee, which consists of individuals from its members, from its active partners and from special partners with capacity for outreach and public relations for the duration of the overall Blue Plan process. The SEC is a bi-state subcommittee whose charge includes engaging stakeholders familiar with natural resources of Long Island Sound regardless of affiliation in Connecticut or New York.

CT DEEP and other parties will collaborate with others within their current capacity and expertise to implement this SEP, including previous and ongoing efforts of the following entities:

CT-NY Bi-State Long Island Sound Marine Spatial Planning Working Group (Working Group) — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation the Advisory Committee will coordinate with the National Ocean Policy’s Northeast Regional Planning Body and its Working Group. The Working Group stems from the ad hoc group of agencies, NGOs and stakeholders that helped create the enabling conditions for the Blue Plan and contributed the foundational *Engagement Options Report* on stakeholder engagement. Although its role is less clear going forward, it remains a hub for engaging with a larger group of Interested Parties in the Blue Plan and may be able to offer capacity or expertise to implementing the SEP.

Long Island Sound Study — In keeping with the Blue Plan legislation the Advisory Committee will coordinate with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS). The Environmental Protection Agency and the states of New York and Connecticut formed the LISS as a bi-state partnership of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.

NY Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and NY Department of State (DOS) — DEC staff will participate on the Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee and will participate more actively when NY greenlights its agencies to do so. DOS staff may have a more active role in connecting with Interested Parties through their role with the NY Geographic Information Gateway when NY greenlights its agencies to do so.

Special Resources

Unconventional capacity or expertise is already committed and further may be built-in from special resources to secure grants, volunteer assistance, greater academic institutional involvement or other forms of capacity, such as the Yale Environmental Protection Clinic, the 2016 Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant, funding from the Moore Foundation and others.

Green Fire Productions — Green Fire Productions is an outreach asset as an event co-host. Green Fire has capacity for social marketing campaigns around its video documentaries and other communication tools, which help frame the discussion by educating and inspiring stakeholders.

Working Groups of Interested Parties — The Advisory Committee’s opening analysis of key entities or industry sectors will contribute to the roster of Interested Parties—ecological experts or human use stakeholders. Their contributions to and feedback about data and information needed for completing the ecological and human use characterizations of the Sound will be the foundation of the Inventory and the beginning the Blue Plan itself. These Working Groups will assist the Work Teams to collect data and information and participate in eventual policy and planning.

The following examines each of the chosen stakeholder actions and identifies likely and potential sources of capacity based on the sources identified above:

ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS	<i>Partners and Resources</i>
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS	DEEP, DEC, Active partners, Special resources
<i>Engagement Techniques</i>	
LISTSERV	DEEP
WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active partners, Special resources, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
BASIC WEBSITE	DEEP
CONTACT INFO	DEEP
INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
OPEN HOUSES	DEEP, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
PUBLIC COMMENT BPAC MEETINGS	DEEP
PUBLIC HEARINGS	DEEP, SEC, Active partners
SURVEYS	DEEP, DEC, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
ROBUST WEBSITE	DEEP, Active partners, Special resources
KEY SECTORS	DEEP, DEC, Active partners, Special resources
ID'D STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	DEEP, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams
EXISTING GROUP MEETINGS	DEEP, DEC, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
TOPIC-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS MEETINGS	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTING GROUP	Active partners, Working Group
TOPIC-SPECIFIC WORKING GROUP	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, etc.
DAY-LONG STAKEHOLDER FORUMS	DEEP, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams
REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS	DEEP, DEC, Active partners, Special resources, SEC, Ad Hoc teams, Event co-hosts, Green Fire Productions, etc.
<i>Minimum Requirements: Blue Plan Act</i>	
PUBLIC HEARINGS	DEEP
PLANNING ENTITY COORDINATION	DEEP, DEC, DOS
ADJACENT STATE COORDINATION	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active Partners, Special Resources
INDUSTRY SECTOR CONSULTATION	DEEP, DEC, DOS, Active Partners, Special Resources
PUBLIC COMMENT	DEEP
REVIEW OF INVENTORY AND PLAN	DEEP

Engaging Stakeholders from New York

The Blue Plan legislation makes it clear that every reasonable effort will be made to engage NY State to facilitate a bi-state outcome for the Blue Plan. It is also clear that the extent, nature and timing of NY State agency involvement in Long Island Sound marine spatial planning will be determined by NY State. So why is stakeholder engagement about the Blue Plan critical in NY with or without clear NY State agency involvement in the Blue Plan? The simple answer is that the overall Blue Plan process will look at the ecological and human use characteristics for all the Sound and will endeavor to create results (in data, information, policy and plan) that treats the Sound as the whole resource that it is. With or without official NY involvement, the information and wisdom that the Blue Plan offers can benefit all parties in a myriad of ways — not just the official processes of the State of CT. It is critical to have the insights, information and participation of New York stakeholders in producing that outcome. It is also critical for those same stakeholders to know they've had an opportunity to participate so the results are ones they can see themselves in and have greater trust in. Finally, it is more likely that the State of New York will be receptive to the results of the process if both NY agencies and NY stakeholders have been an integral part in creating those results.

At the time of writing this SEP, NY State agencies (DEC and DOS) are not able to sponsor a public Blue Plan event or be an official part of one. The Blue Plan Stakeholder Engagement Sub-committee (a bi-state body) believes that NY public events are critical but also believe that NY agencies are necessary or at least preferable to hosting? such events. At this point, this plan suggests NY stakeholder engagement focus on other actions that can be taken until the involvement of NY agencies in public events is more clearly discerned. This plan further recommends that by the fall of 2017, if there is no change in status re the NY agencies, that consideration be given to organizing a NY public event for information purposes with or without the NY agencies if the NY agencies are not opposed to other parties organizing and conducting such an event.

Generally, all the techniques that have been chosen in this plan are recommended for NY state- there is not a separate NY State set of recommendations. Having said that, given the current delay in holding public meetings, it is recommended that the focus of stakeholder engagement in New York be to proactively reach out to key user group sectors, conservation interests and New York- based scientific experts. It is also recommended that outreach be conducted with representative municipalities on Long Island's north shore. At a minimum, the outreach to all these parties would be to convey what the Blue Plan is so they are aware and included. Further involvement would be welcome at the discretion of those contacted.

To accomplish the above, it is recommended that the New York members of the Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee (and others as need be) review the extensive list of NY stakeholders to identify a short list of entities/parties for the proactive outreach suggested. The exact form of the outreach would follow one or more of the techniques chosen in this plan.

Generally, the Advisory Committee considers all the techniques in this SEP as appropriate for NY State; however, there will be some variation as to whether each technique proposed in the SEP has the same role or frequency, as it pertains to New York stakeholder engagement:

ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS	<i>Engaging Stakeholders From New York</i>
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS	Include both CT & NY
Engagement Techniques	
LISTSERV	Include both CT & NY
WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS	Include both CT & NY
BASIC WEBSITE	CT DEEP based but can serve both NY & CT
CONTACT INFO	Include both CT & NY
INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT	Include both CT & NY
OPEN HOUSES	Include both CT & NY
PUBLIC COMMENT BPAC MEETINGS	Consider holding a BPAC meeting in NY
PUBLIC HEARINGS	CT statutory requirement; recommend holding one or more additional meetings in NY to officially register NY input as part of the SEP understanding that this is not an official action of the State of NY, rather a sincere attempt by CT to regard the input of parties and interests from New York.
SURVEYS	Include both CT & NY
ROBUST WEBSITE	Include both CT & NY
KEY SECTORS	Include both CT & NY
ID'D STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	Include both CT & NY
EXISTING GROUP MEETINGS	Include both CT & NY
TOPIC-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS MTGS	Include both CT & NY: This may be a more prominent action to pursue on behalf of the pro-active outreach to NY stakeholders described above.
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTING GROUP	Include both CT & NY
TOPIC-SPECIFIC WORKING GROUPS	Include both CT & NY
DAY-LONG STAKEHOLDER FORUMS	Not expected to be a technique used but if it is, include both CT & NY
REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS	Hold on these pending NY State agency involvement/co-sponsorship, but consider pursuing informational public meetings through other appropriate parties at or after fall 2017 if the NY agencies are agreeable.
Minimum Requirements: Blue Plan Act	
PUBLIC HEARINGS	CT DEEP based but can serve both NY & CT
PLANNING ENTITY COORDINATION	Include both CT & NY
ADJACENT STATE COORDINATION	Include both CT & NY
INDUSTRY SECTOR CONSULTATION	Include both CT & NY
PUBLIC COMMENT	CT DEEP based but can serve both NY & CT
REVIEW OF INVENTORY AND PLAN	CT DEEP based but can serve both NY & CT

Reporting, Review and Revision

This SEP outlines the means by which the Advisory Committee can best engage stakeholders throughout the overall Blue Plan process of creating the Resource and Use Inventory and Long Island Sound Blue Plan. The Stakeholder Engagement Committee anticipates that dynamic stakeholder engagement will reveal opportunities to supplement the variety of techniques prescribed. The Advisory Committee will periodically review and may recommend that the SEP be revised, but the purpose remains to be a guide in how stakeholders may be engaged.

Generally, the Advisory Committee may report at its quarterly meetings on progress in implementing the SEP as adopted, as well as any need for revision of the SEP. Revisions will be made via the use of addenda or appendices.

