

**Long Island Sound Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee  
Inaugural Meeting  
January 29, 2016  
11:00AM – 12:30 PM  
The Sound School  
60 South Water Street, New Haven**

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Committee Attendance:**

**Robert Klee**, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Chair

**Sylvain De Guise**, Connecticut Sea Grant

[Gas and electric distribution industry representative appointed by Governor Malloy]

**Nathan Frohling**, The Nature Conservancy

**David Carey**, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture

**Christine Nelson**, Town of Old Saybrook Town Planner

**James Redeker [ABSENT]**, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

**Jason Bowsza**, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Reviczky's Designee

**Garrett Eucalitto**, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Secretary Barnes' Designee

**Melanie Bachman**, Connecticut Siting Council

[Conservation organization representative appointed by State Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney]

**William Gardella [ABSENT]**, General Manager and Dockmaster, Rex Marine Center, Norwalk

**Bruce Beebe**, Beebe Dock and Mooring Systems, Madison

[Commercial finfish industry representative appointed by Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey]

**Alicia Mozian**, Town of Westport Conservation Director

[Recreational fishing/hunting community representative appointed by House Minority Leader Themis Klarides]

**Other attendees:**

**Leah Schmalz**, Save the Sound

**David Sutherland**, The Nature Conservancy

**Tom Robben**, Connecticut Ornithological Association

**Katie Lund**, Northeast Regional Ocean Planning Body

**Eric Lundquist**, Office of Policy and Management

**Kristina Walsh**, Siting Council

**Rob LaFrance**, DEEP

**Jessie Stratton**, DEEP

**Betsey Wingfield**, DEEP

**Brian Thompson**, DEEP

**David Blatt**, DEEP

### **Welcome and introduction to the Blue Plan process**

*Robert Klee, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Protection (DEEP)*

Commissioner Klee welcomed the Advisory Committee members and discussed their collective responsibilities under the Blue Plan Act (PA 15-66): to coordinate a strategy to manage Long Island Sound, complete a resource and use inventory and to promote science-based protection of uses and resources by the 2019 deadline. Klee further highlighted the importance of LIS in both economic and environmental terms, and pointed out the need of new insight for future challenges—ocean planning is taking place at all scales, but existing efforts in LIS are not place-based, hence need for spatial planning. The Blue Plan represents the culmination of years of cooperative efforts, and many DEEP activities could benefit from it.

### **Advisory Committee Members**

The Advisory Committee members and other persons present introduced themselves and discussed what the Blue Plan means for them and the constituencies they represent. Among the concerns mentioned were the need for a coordinated, proactive approach, balancing use and conservation through research, outreach and education, linkage with State Plan of Conservation and Development, the importance of protecting aquaculture resources and industry, the potential of the Blue Plan to provide better information for planning based on sound science, the potential to avoid conflict between users of the Sound, and the value of plans in driving action.

### **Long Island Sound Marine Spatial Planning Working Group**

Sylvain De Guise and Nathan Frohling, the two Coordinators of the bi-state Long Island Sound Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Working Group, discussed the group's origins in a 2010 workshop and its subsequent activities as a coalition of academia and environmental organizations providing informal support and capacity to New York and Connecticut. Frohling presented a [PowerPoint](#). With some grant funding, the group undertook several projects, including two reports that were presented and distributed to the Committee. The Data & Information Report lists available geospatial information for LIS and discusses a method for making such data available through the New York Information Gateway. The Interim Framework Report is a background resource document that explains different aspects of MSP, including options for governance structures and elements of successful plans, and presents four scenarios for implementing MSP in Long Island Sound. Frohling pointed out that stakeholder engagement is an essential element of MSP, and stated that a report on stakeholder engagement options was forthcoming from the Working Group.

**DEEP's Existing Efforts in the Ocean Planning Context**

Brian Thompson presented a [PowerPoint](#) describing regional ocean planning efforts and DEEP's role in them, including the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and its data portal, the Northeast Regional Ocean Plan, the LIS seafloor mapping project, and the State's longstanding Coastal Management program. Katie Lund noted the good timing of the Blue Plan to correspond with regional ocean planning efforts.

**Administrative Follow-Up**

Commissioner Klee noted that the Committee would be forming an Inventory and Science subcommittee, as specified by statute, to be coordinated by Sylvain De Guise as the designee of UConn. Klee also announced the availability of a Blue Plan website, <http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan>, which contains a listserv sign-up and links to MSP documents and information. He distributed copies of his January 20, 2016 invitation to the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and State to participate in the Blue Plan process. Future meeting schedule/locations will be announced later.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no comments from the general public.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.**