



Long Island Sound Blue Plan
Policy Development

Agenda:

1. Blue Plan Overview
2. Significant Areas
3. Policy Development
4. Example Application
5. Discussion



What is the Blue Plan?

- A plan to guide new uses of CT's Sound waters and submerged lands
- Suite of policies grounded in spatial understanding of the Sound
- Inventory of Human Uses and Ecological Resources
- Not new Permitting or Regulatory Programs

Why do we need the Blue Plan?

- Multiple uses and increasing demands on LIS
- Insufficient mechanisms to manage Sound as a whole

Principal Goals:

- Identify and protect places of ecological significance
- Identify and protect places of traditional human use
- Reduce potential user conflicts

Organization

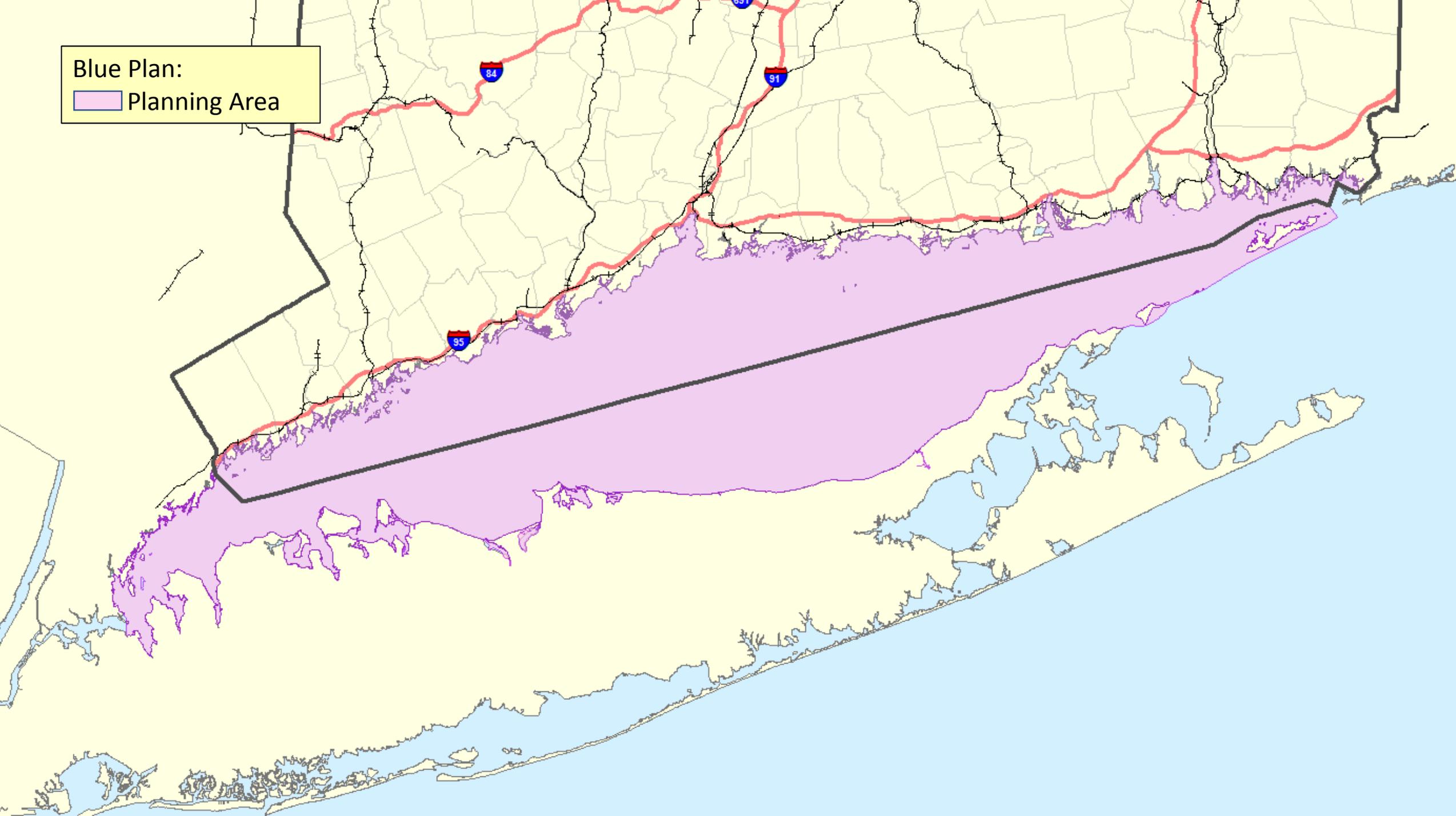
- Led by CT DEEP
- Guided by 16 member Advisory Committee
- Coordinated with NY as much as possible

Boundaries:

- Planning: MHWL
- Policy: Seaward of 10' depth contour

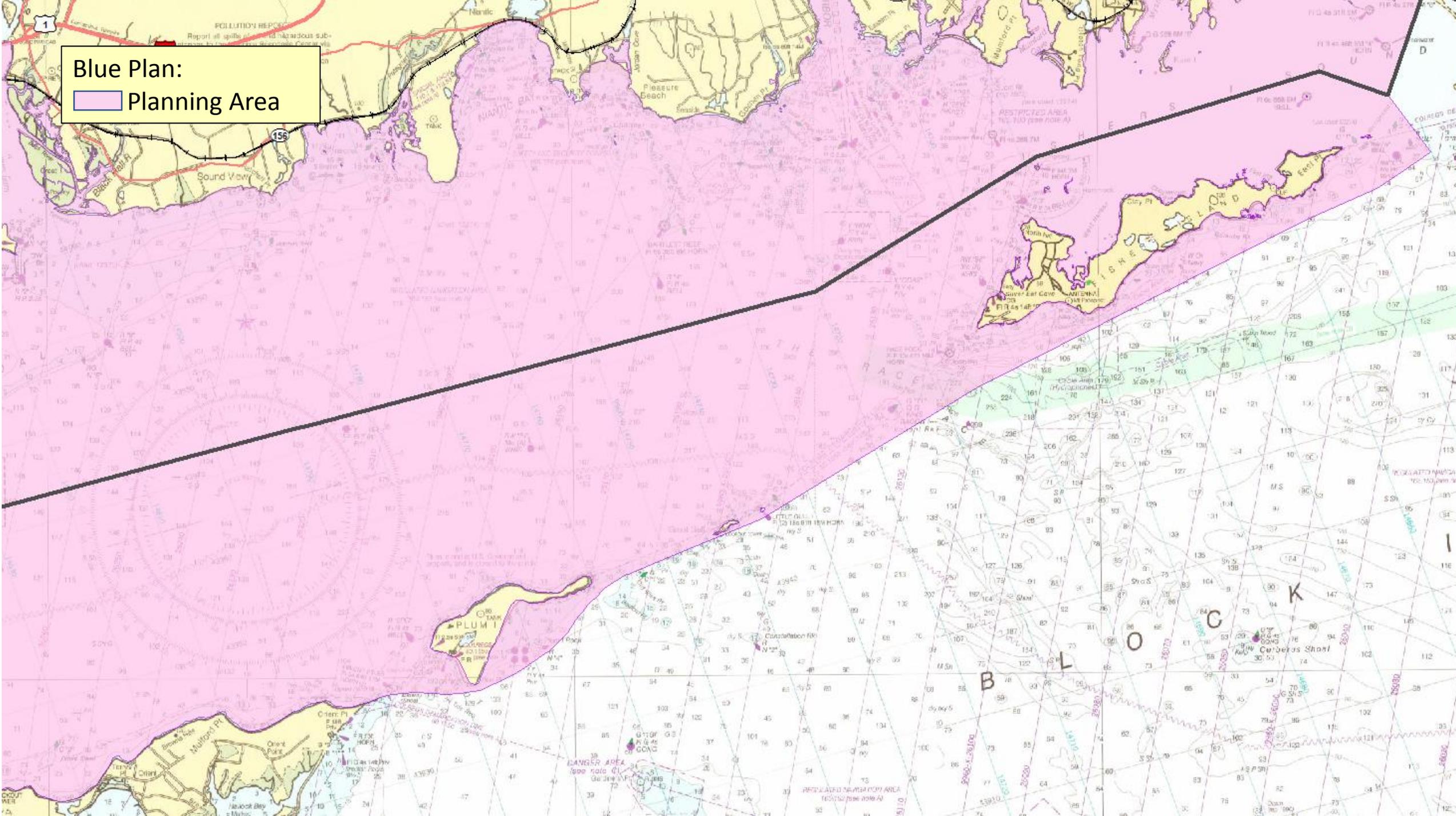
Blue Plan:

Planning Area



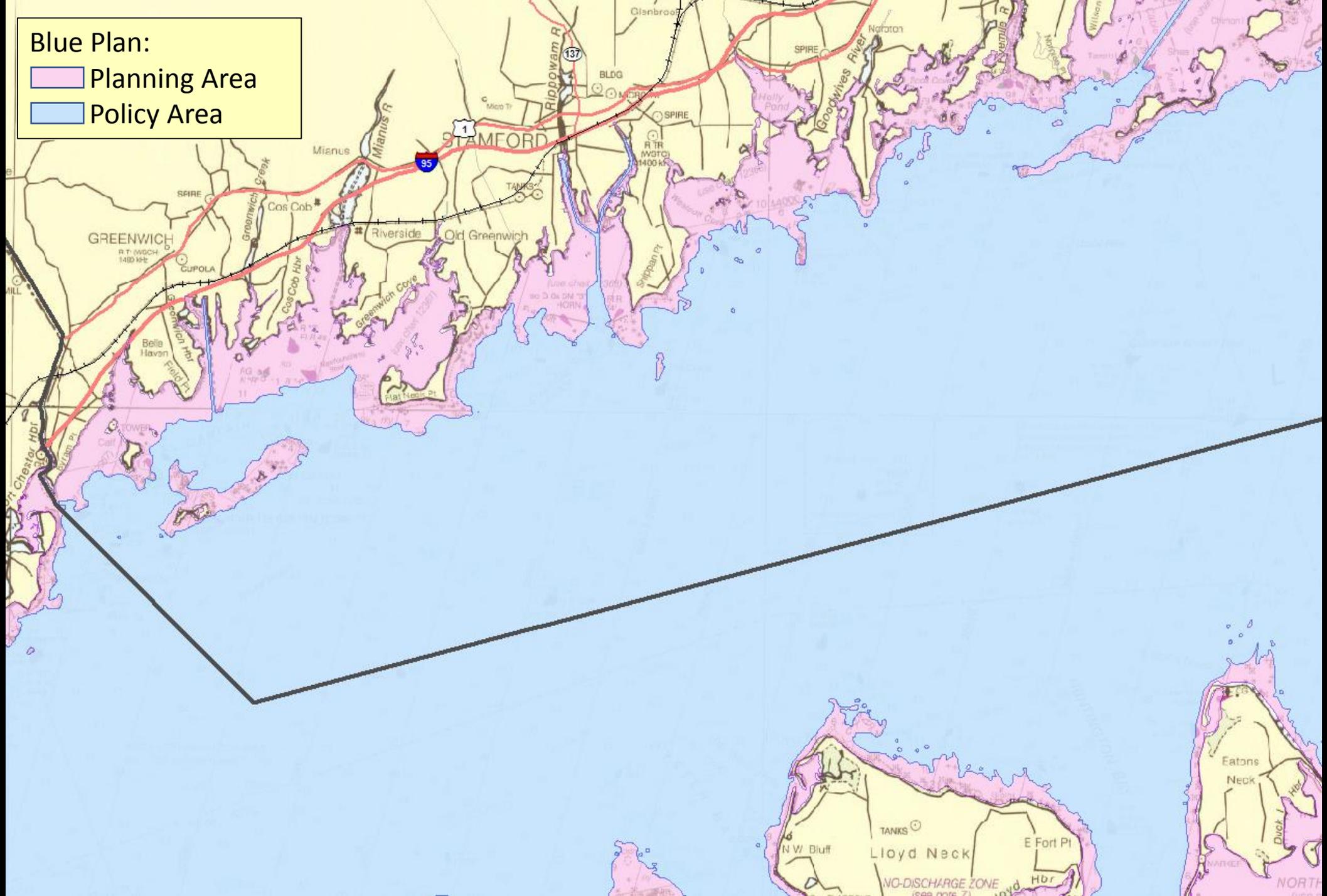
Blue Plan:

Planning Area

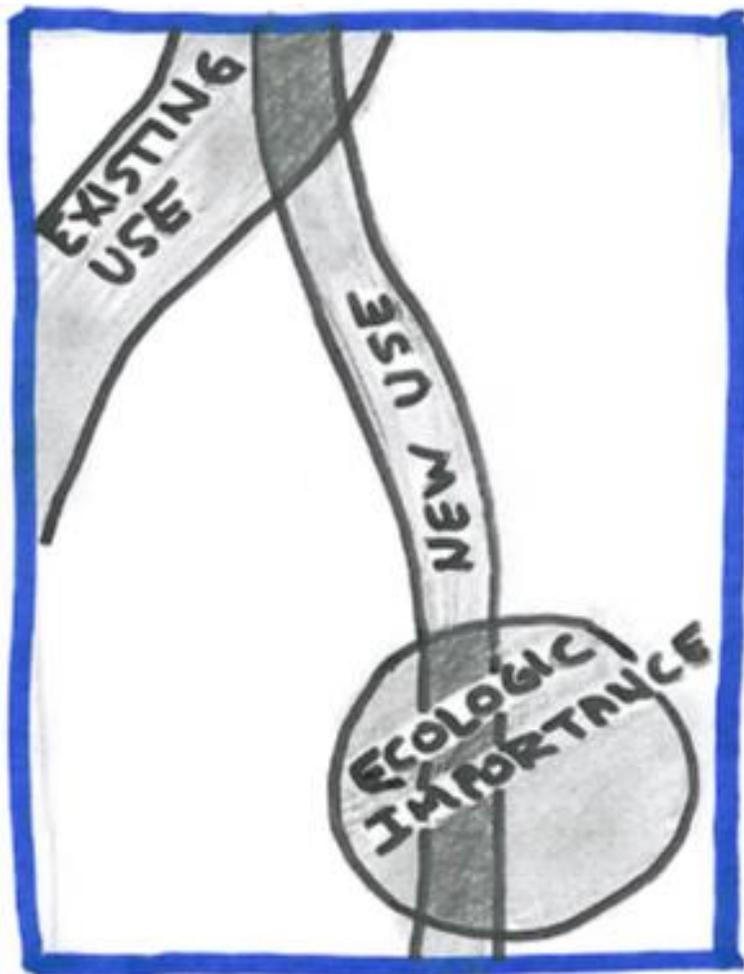


Blue Plan:

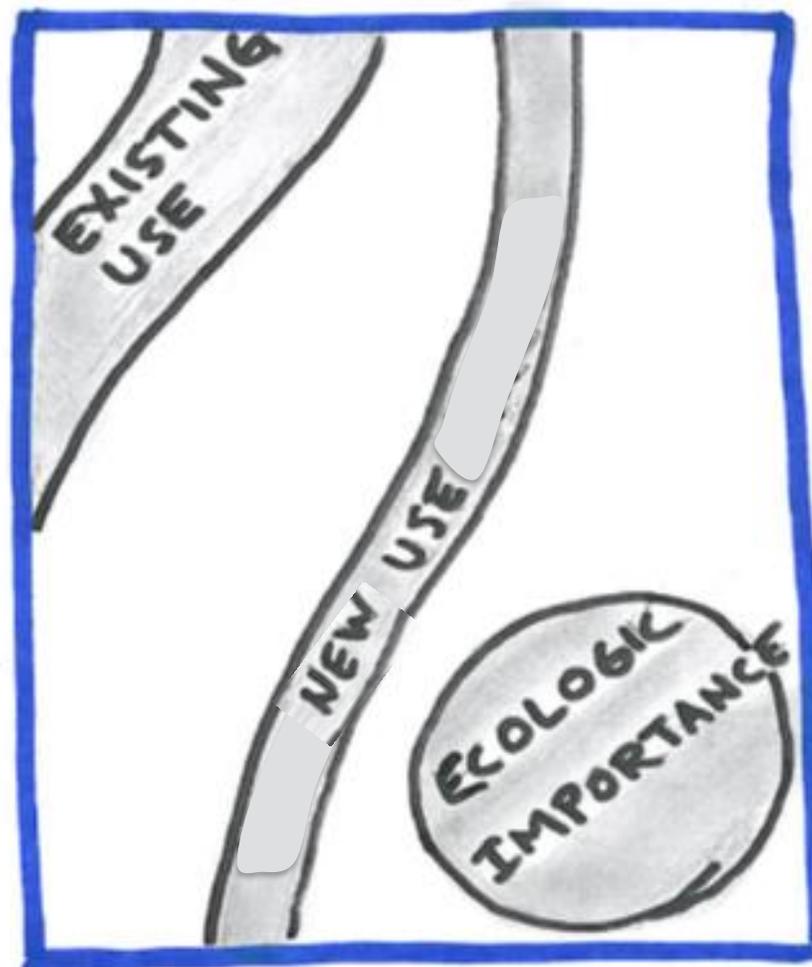
- Planning Area
- Policy Area



Possible Outcomes of Permitting Using Plan Policies:



New use **coincident** with identified special areas



New use **avoids** identified special areas



Blue Plan Process

Step One

Gather Data of
Ecological
Resources and
Human Uses

Inventory of
Long Island
Sound

Step Two

Use Inventory to
Find Important
Areas in LIS.

Step Three

Form Policies and
Standards to
Protect Important
Areas in LIS.

Blue Plan



Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory

Report by the:
Long Island Sound Inventory and Science Subcommittee of the
Blue Plan Advisory Committee

2018

LONG ISLAND SOUND
BLUE PLAN
Sustainable Ecosystems - Compatible Uses

LIS Resource and Use Inventory

- 329 pages
- 27 chapters
- Ecology and Human Uses data and information



Figure 19-4: 2013 Pleasure Craft Sailing Vessel Density. Density of all pleasure craft and sailing vessel traffic in 2013 with AIS transponders in 100 meter grid cells. Access available via the New York Geographic Information Gateway (NY Geographic Information Gateway, 2017).

Figure 19-5 is helpful in distinguishing the types of use which is not shown in the density of use depicted by the recreational boating map further above. It appears that the activities map here focuses on particular points of interest whereas the density map above includes places of interest, transport and boating movement in general. Fishing is the most prominent use here but may show up this way in part as a function of being more site focused vs. sailing (presumably captured in "Other") is likely more focused on "movement." Also notable is the high concentrations of boater activity in Fisher's Island Sound, just east and west of the Connecticut River and the Western Sound in general.



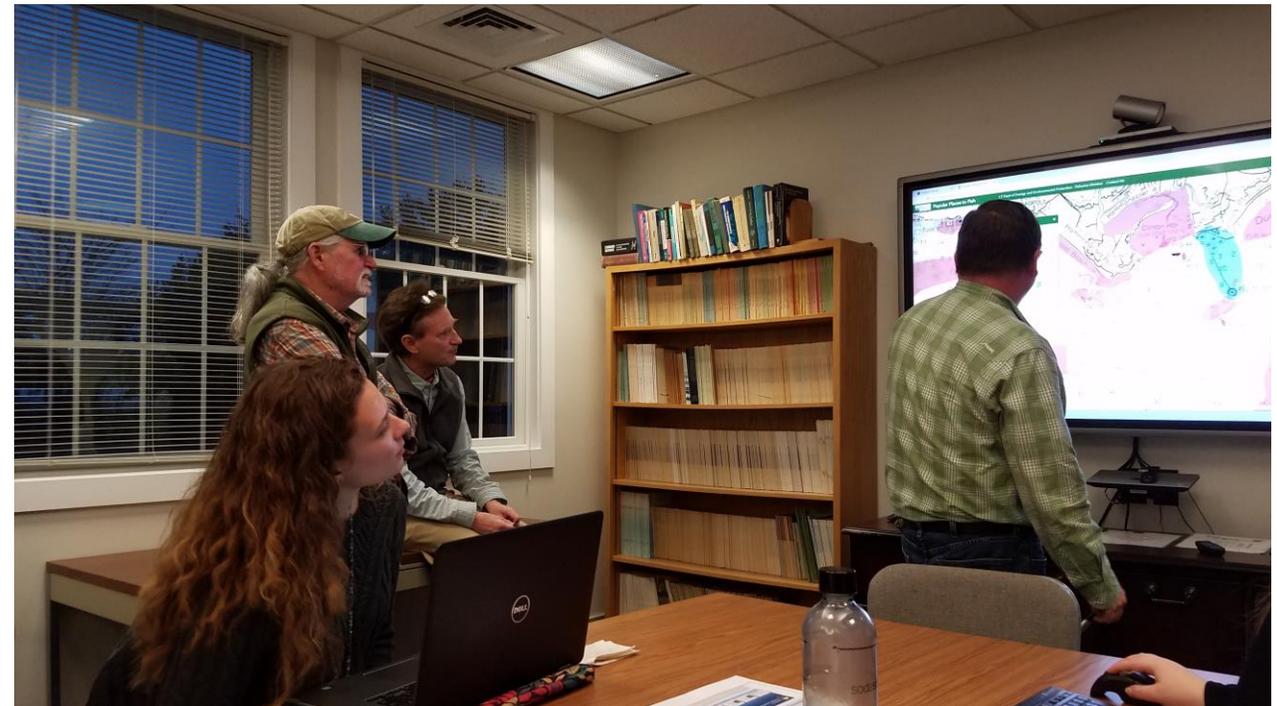
Figure 19-5: All Recreational Boater Activities. Locations where participants in the 2012 Northeast Recreational Boater Survey, engaged in various activities during their boating trips. Access available via the Northeast Ocean Data Portal (Northeast Ocean Data Portal, 2017).

Finding the Important Areas

- Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs)
- Significant Human Use Areas (SHUAs)
 - Over 50 data layers
- Descriptions matter to policy; maps are guidance



Photo by Peter Auster

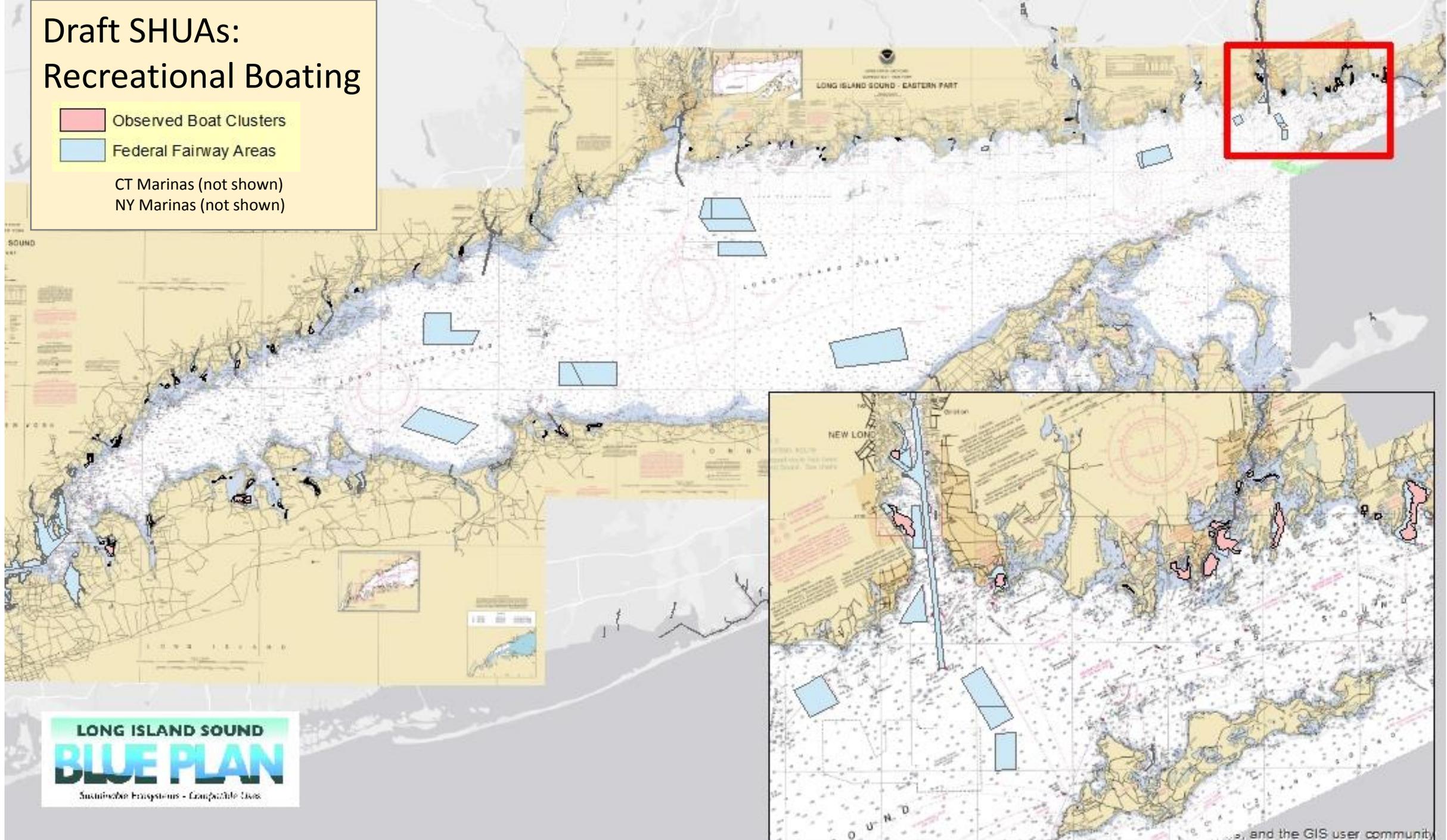


Draft SHUAs: Recreational Boating

 Observed Boat Clusters

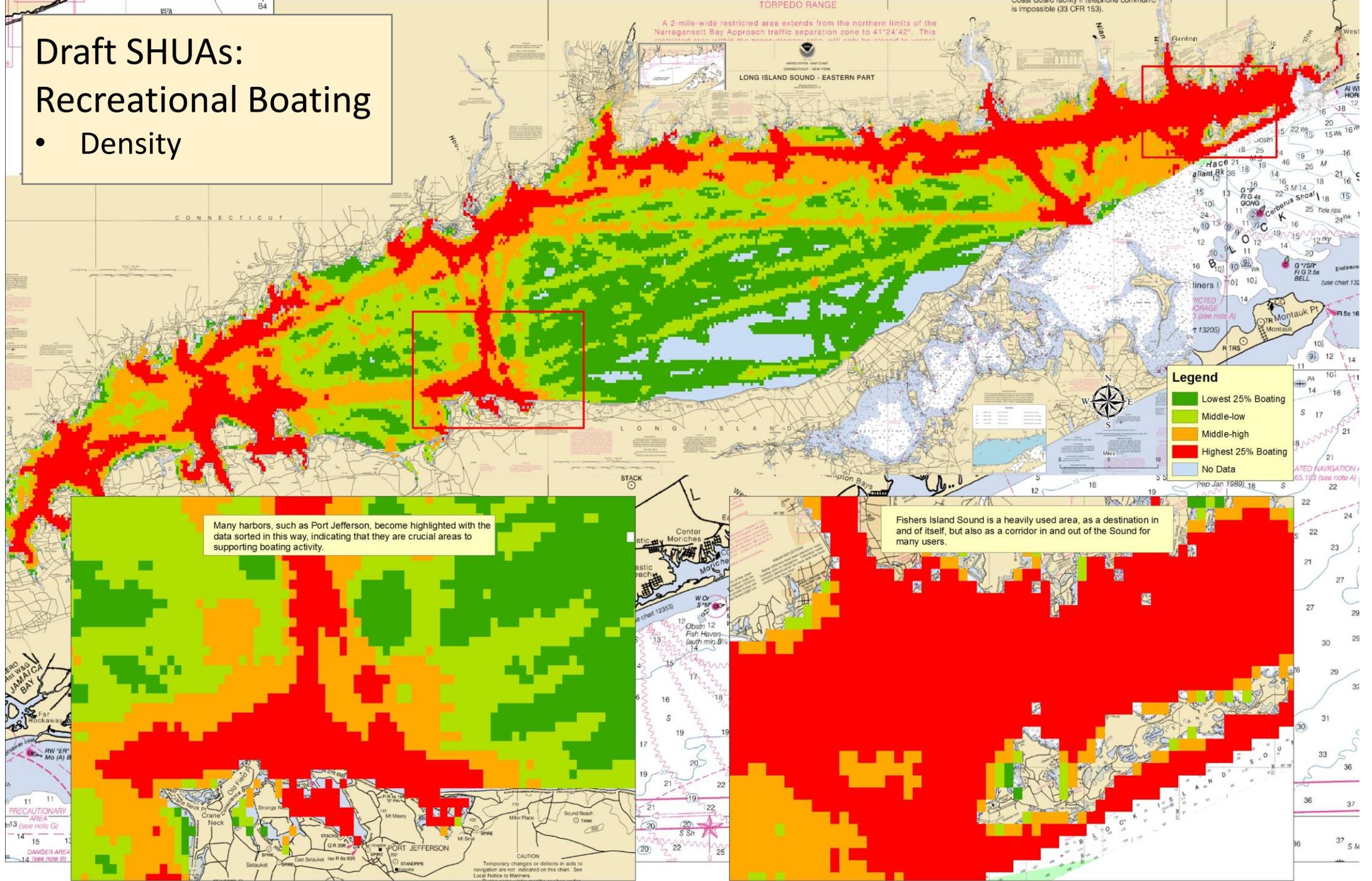
 Federal Fairway Areas

CT Marinas (not shown)
NY Marinas (not shown)



Draft SHUAs: Recreational Boating

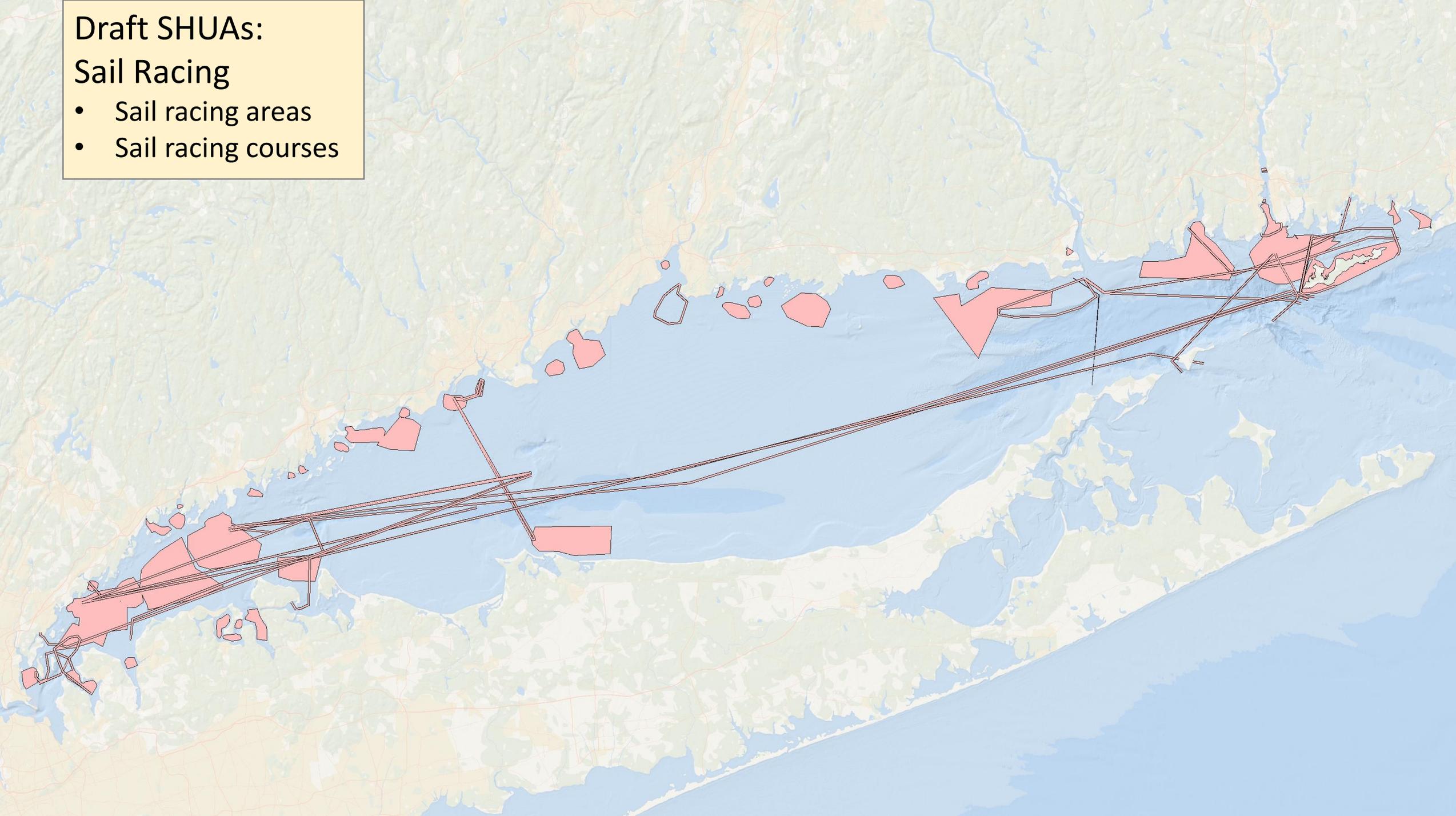
- Density



Draft SHUAs:

Sail Racing

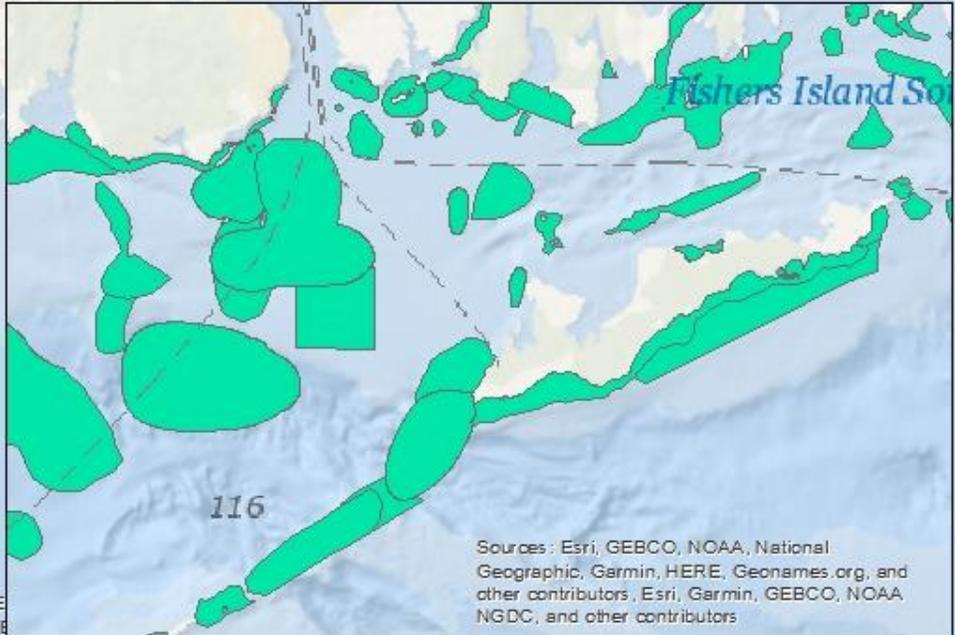
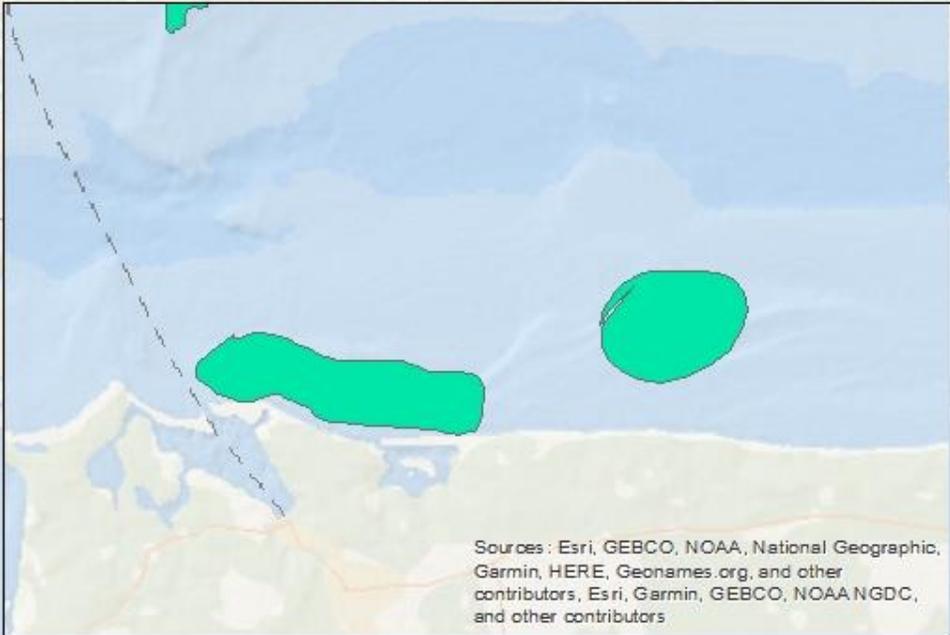
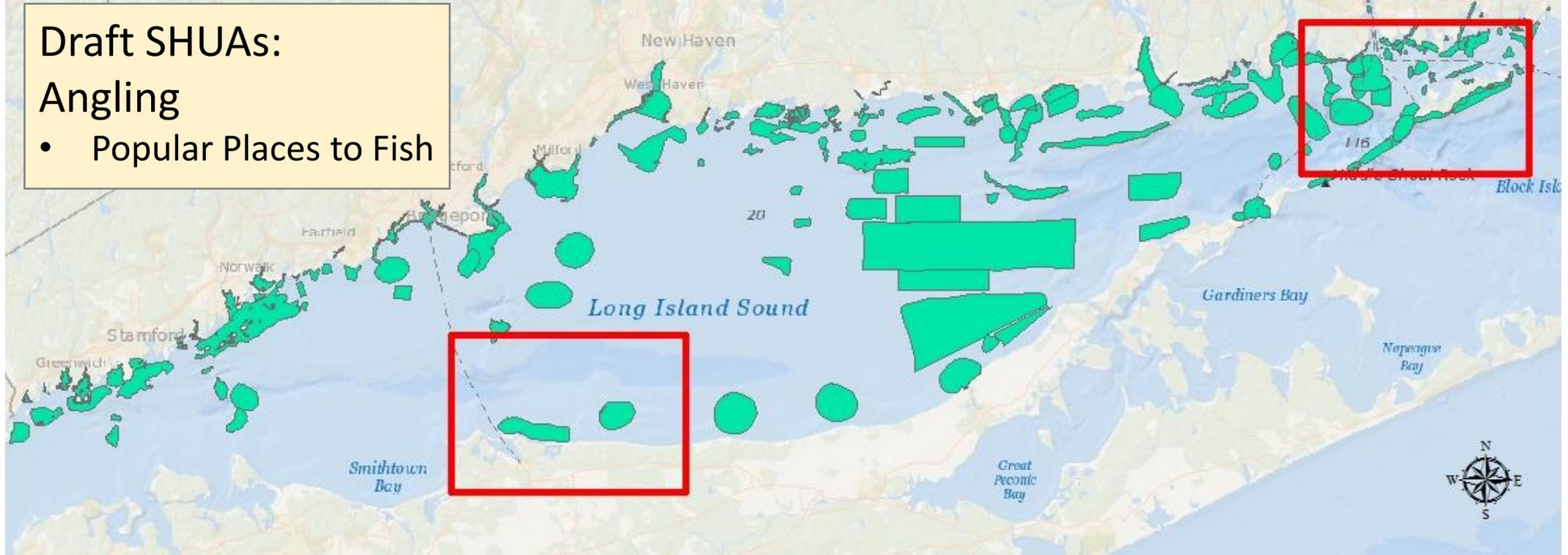
- Sail racing areas
- Sail racing courses



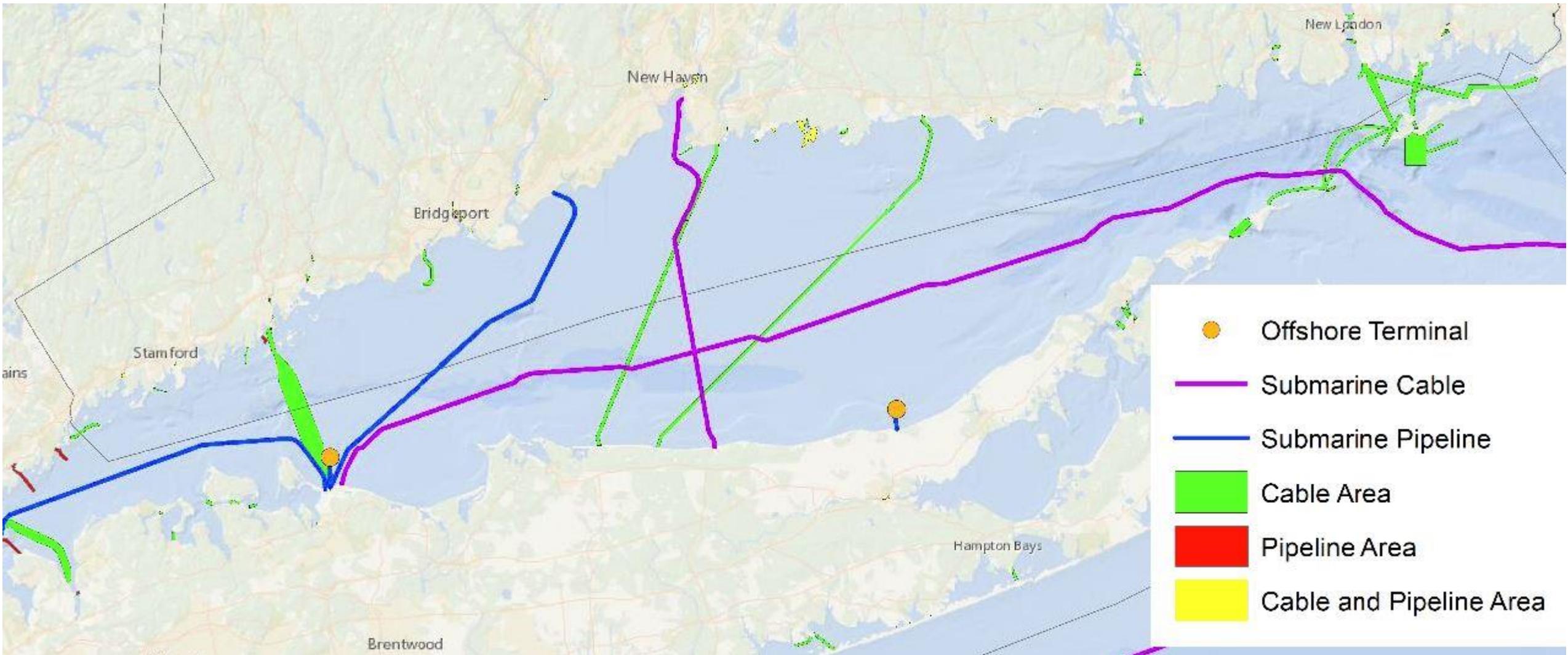
Draft SHUAs:

Angling

- Popular Places to Fish



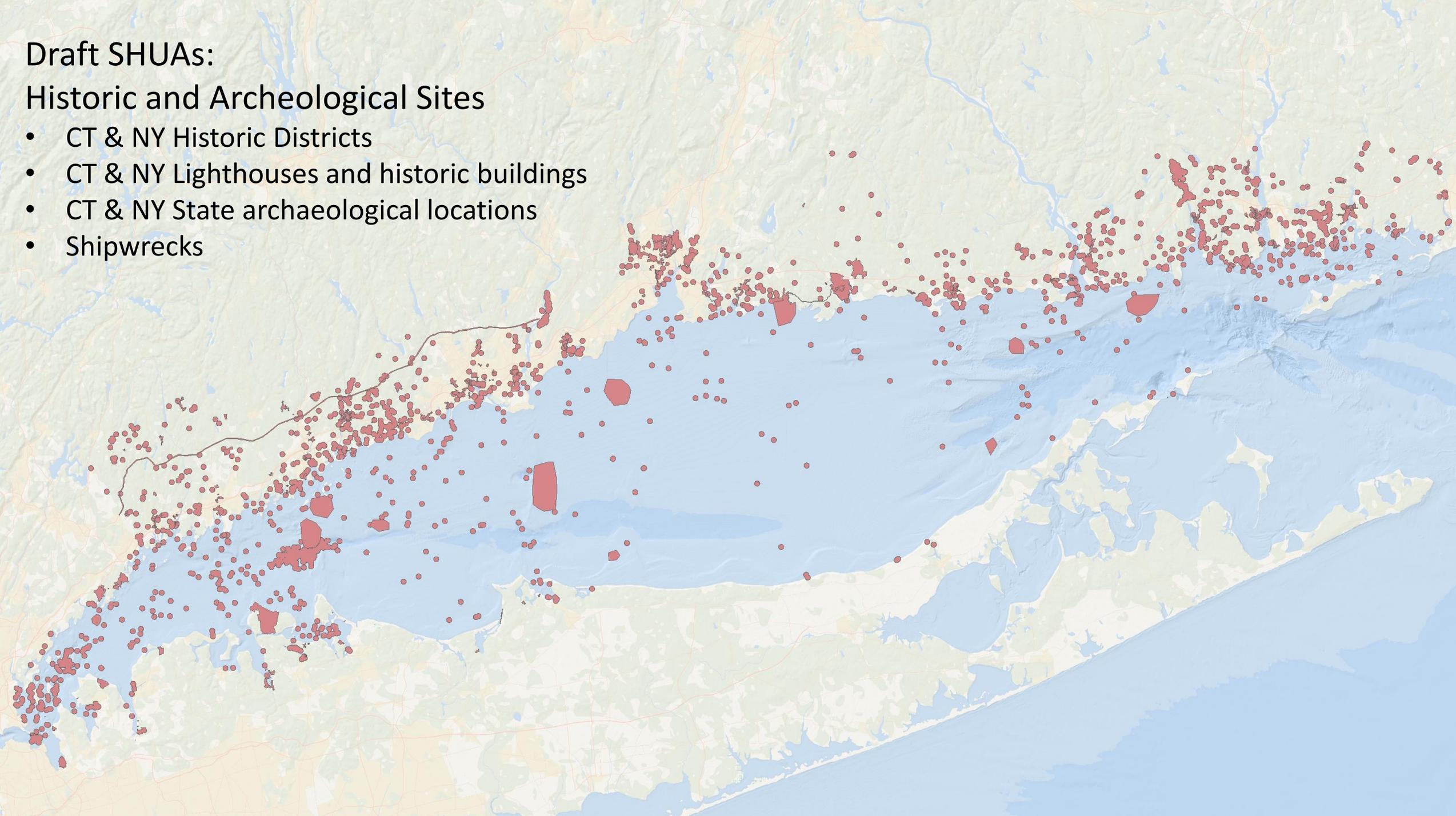
Draft SHUA: Cables and Pipelines



Draft SHUAs:

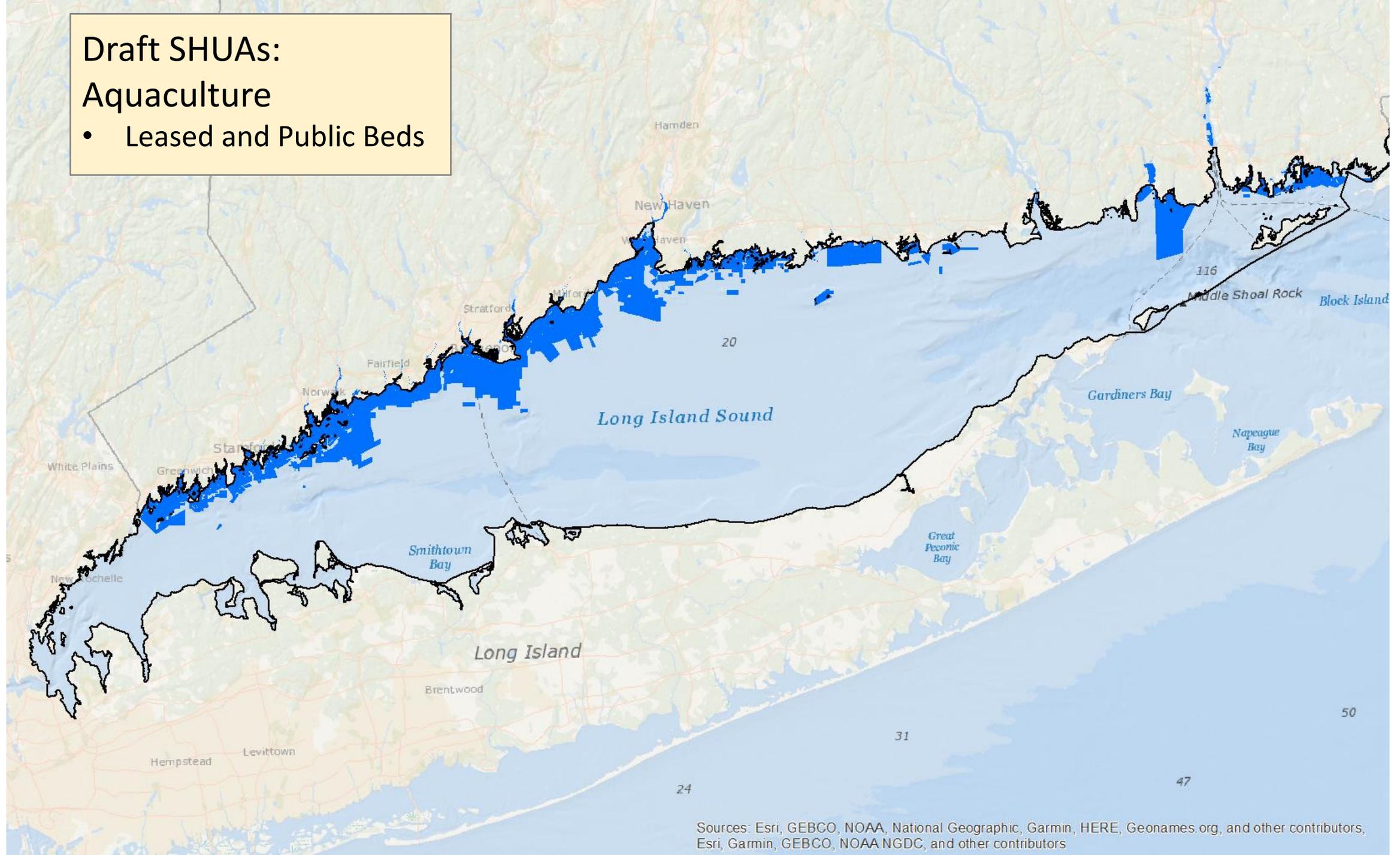
Historic and Archeological Sites

- CT & NY Historic Districts
- CT & NY Lighthouses and historic buildings
- CT & NY State archaeological locations
- Shipwrecks



Draft SHUAs: Aquaculture

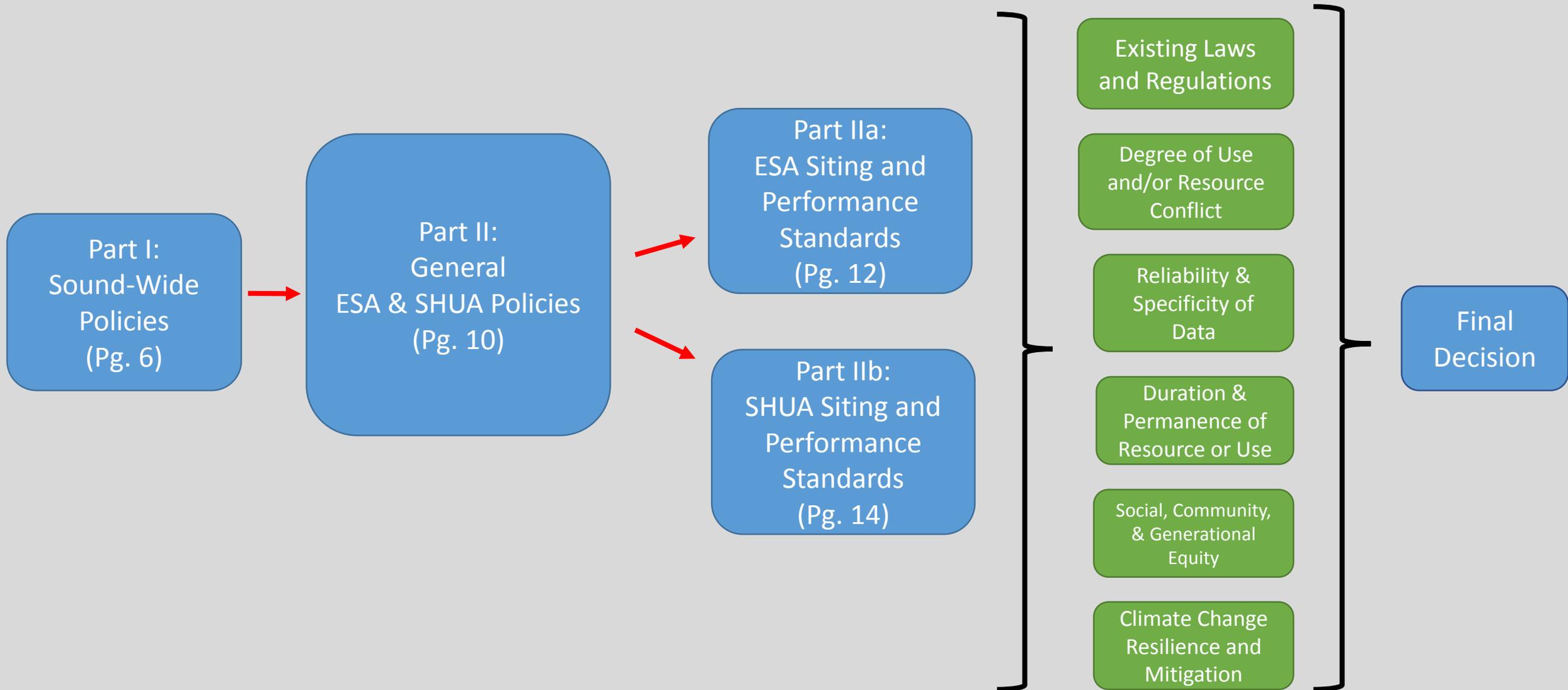
- Leased and Public Beds



Policy Organization and Process

Blue Plan Policies

Blue Plan Lenses (Pg. 19)



Policy Part One: Soundwide Policy



Protect Natural Resources



Protect Traditional
Human Uses



Reduce Future Conflict

Policy Part Two: SHUA and ESA

- “New activities in the Blue Plan policy area of Long Island Sound shall maintain, preserve, or enhance the values of an ESA and/or SHUA.”
- SHUA and ESA maps are guidance
- Siting and Performance Standards for each special area. For example:

Significant Use Area Categories	Air and Surface (AS)	Water Column (WC)	Benthos & Substrate (BS)
4.5 Marinas, Boat Launches, and Yacht Clubs	No fixed or floating structures that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.	No activity that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.	No activity that would interfere with authorized facilities and associated boating activities, including access to and maintenance of navigational channels and marina infrastructure.

Policy Lenses: Guiding decision-making

Existing Laws and
Regulations

Reliability &
Specificity of Data

Social,
Community, &
Generational
Equity

Degree of Use
and/or Resource
Conflict

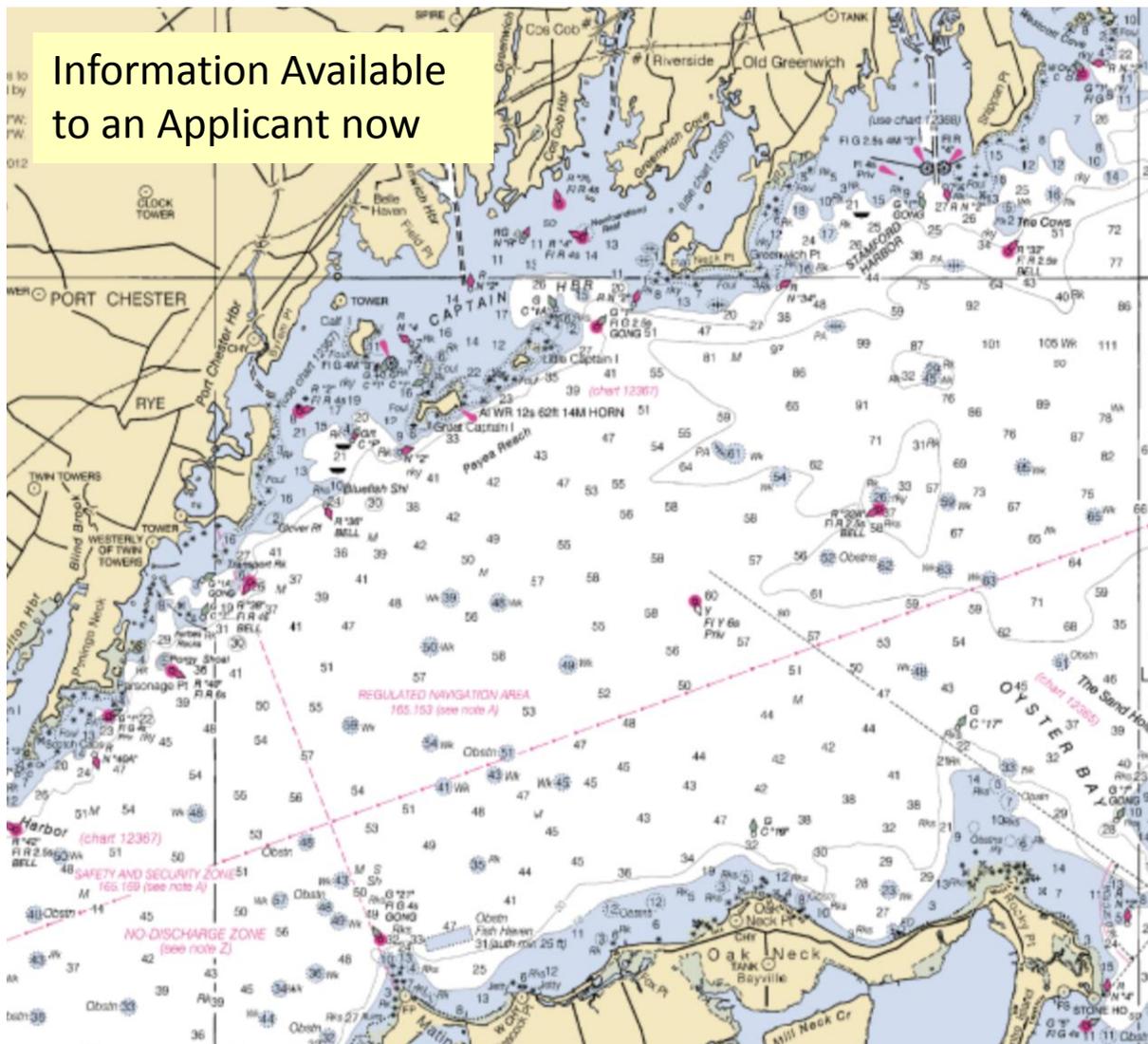
Duration &
Permanence of
Resource or Use

Climate Change
Resilience and
Mitigation

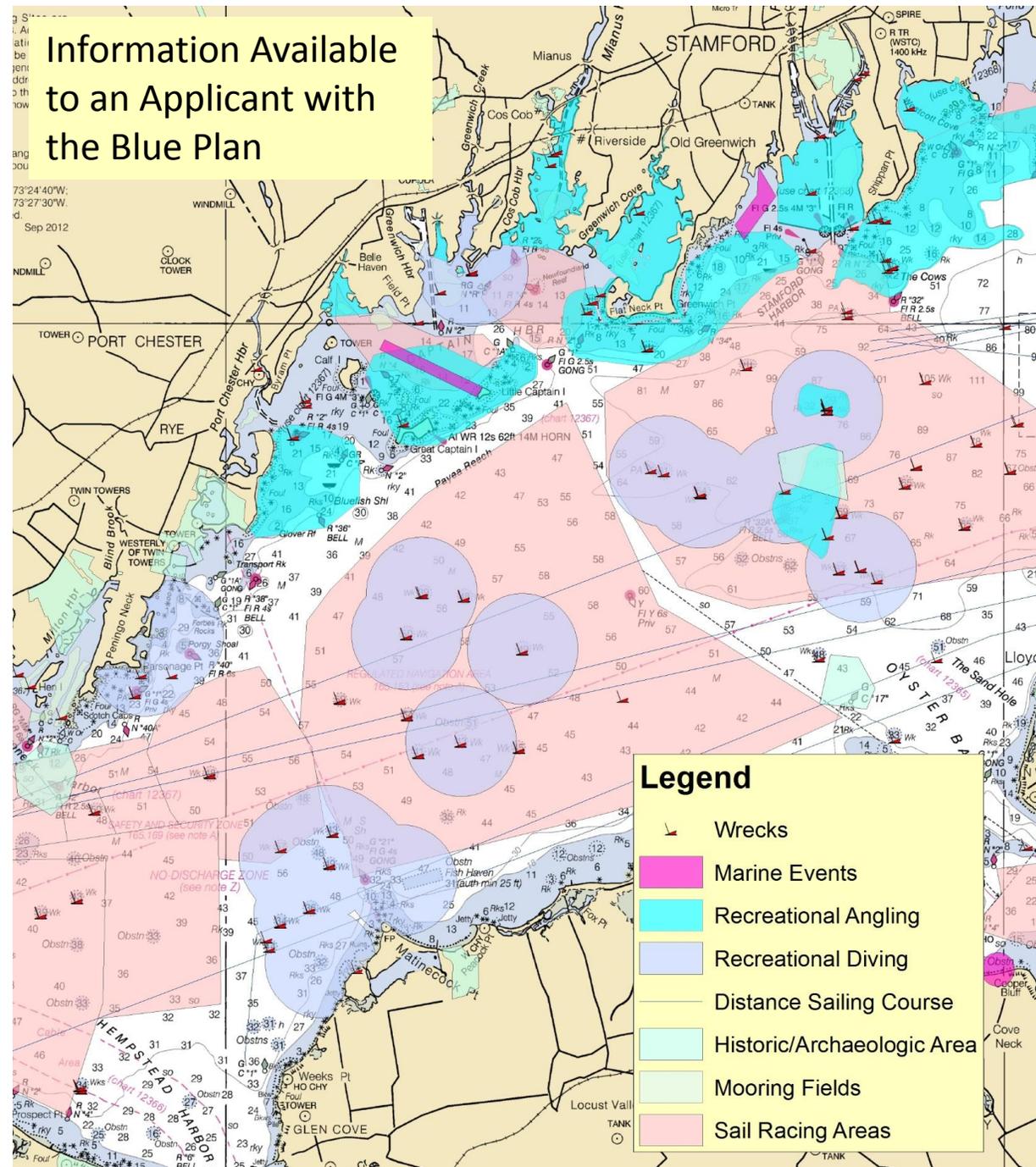
Example Application:

“Where should I put my seaweed farm?”

Information Available to an Applicant now



Information Available to an Applicant with the Blue Plan



Example Application: "Where should I put my seaweed farm?"

Part I:
Sound-Wide
Policies



Part II:
General
ESA & SHUA
Policies

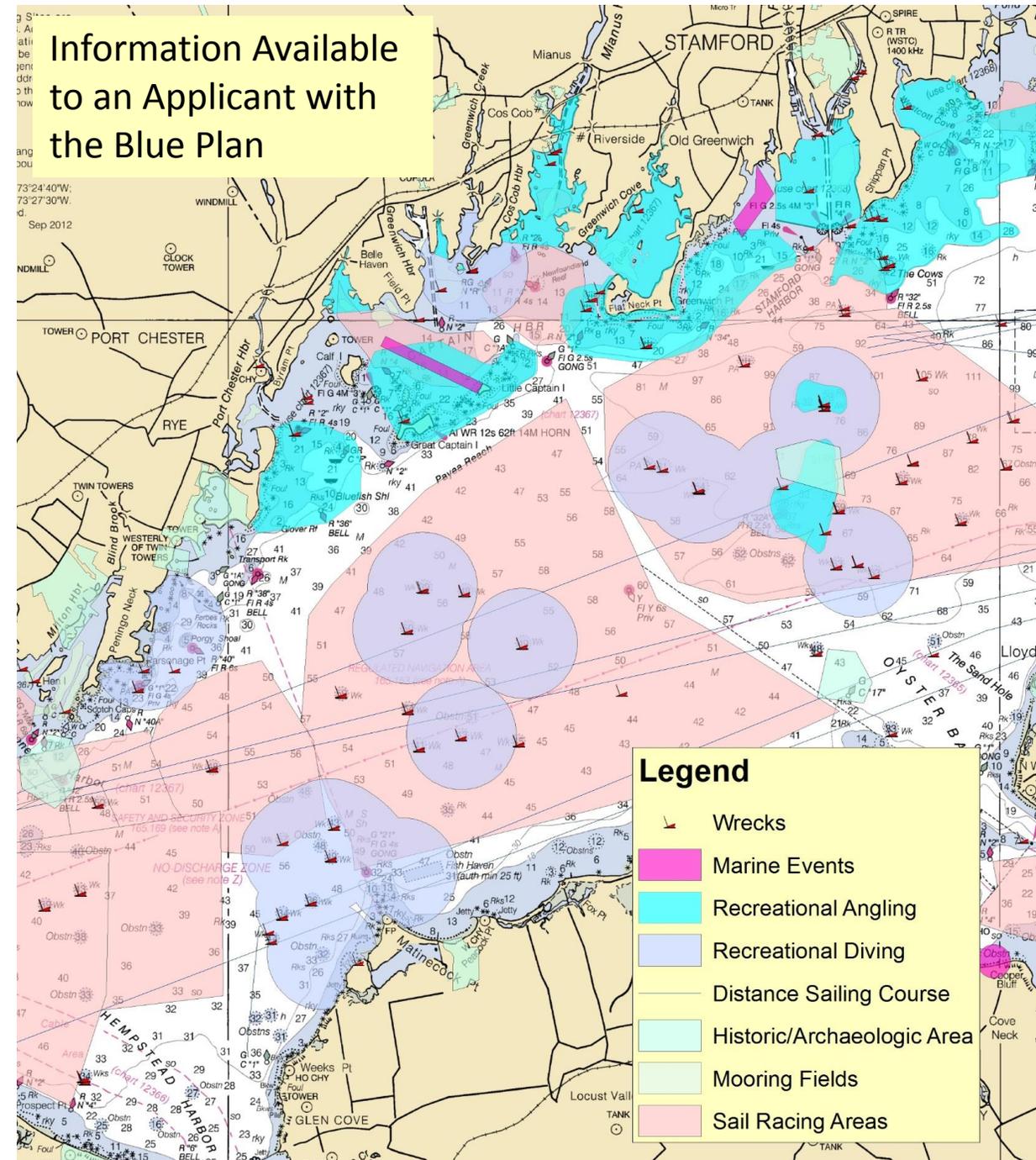


Part IIa:
ESA Siting and
Performance
Standards



Part IIb:
SHUA Siting
and
Performance
Standards

Information Available
to an Applicant with
the Blue Plan



Take Home Messages

- Policies are DRAFT; you can help improve them!
- Policy document: read completely

Blue Plan overall:

- Policies protect habitats and existing uses
- Greater clarity and information for existing permitting processes
- Plan helps users, project proponents, and interested public

We want to hear from you!

DEEP.BluePlanLIS@ct.gov

or

CT DEEP/LWRD Blue Plan Comments

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Hartford, CT 06106

Please visit the Blue Plan website at

www.ct.gov/deep/LISBluePlan



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

