

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Applying Science and Education to
Improve the Management of Estuaries

NOAA Office for Coastal Management



OFFICE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Over 1.3 Million Acres Protected

- Long-term research and monitoring
- Education
- Resource stewardship

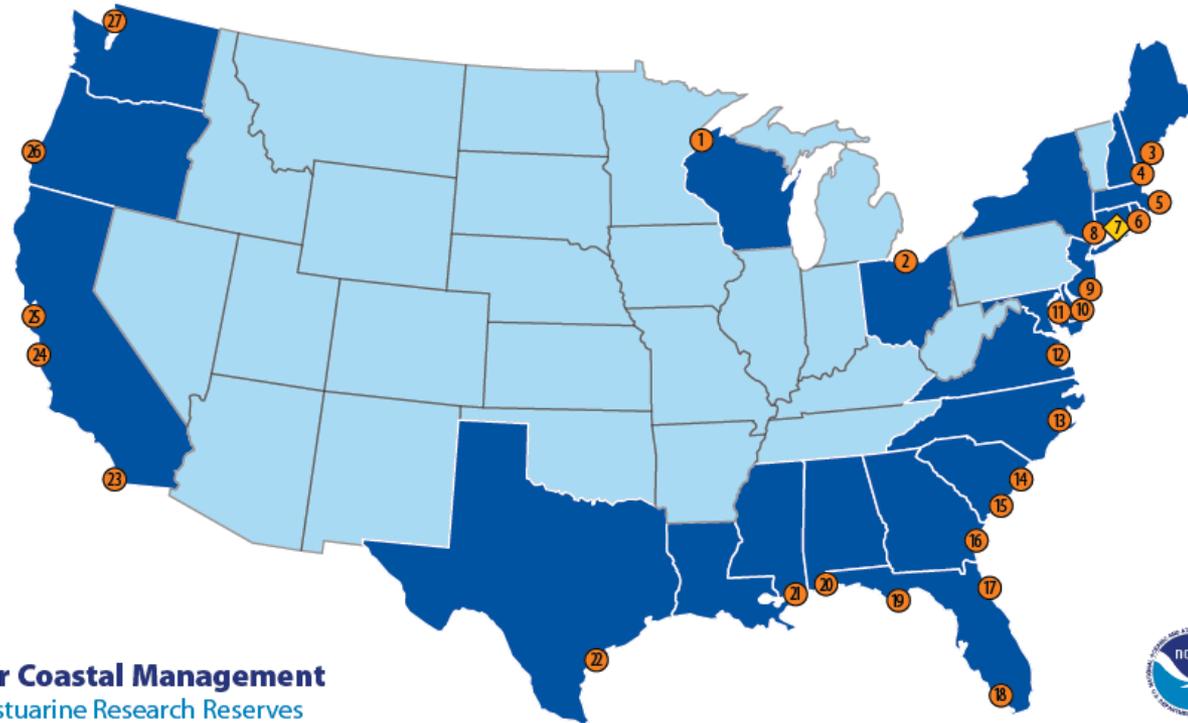
Vision: Resilient estuaries and coastal watersheds
where human and natural communities thrive



Mission: To practice and promote the stewardship of
coasts and estuaries through innovative research, education,
and training using a place-based system of protected areas



A Network of 28 Protected Places



Office for Coastal Management
National Estuarine Research Reserves



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Locally Relevant, Nationally Significant

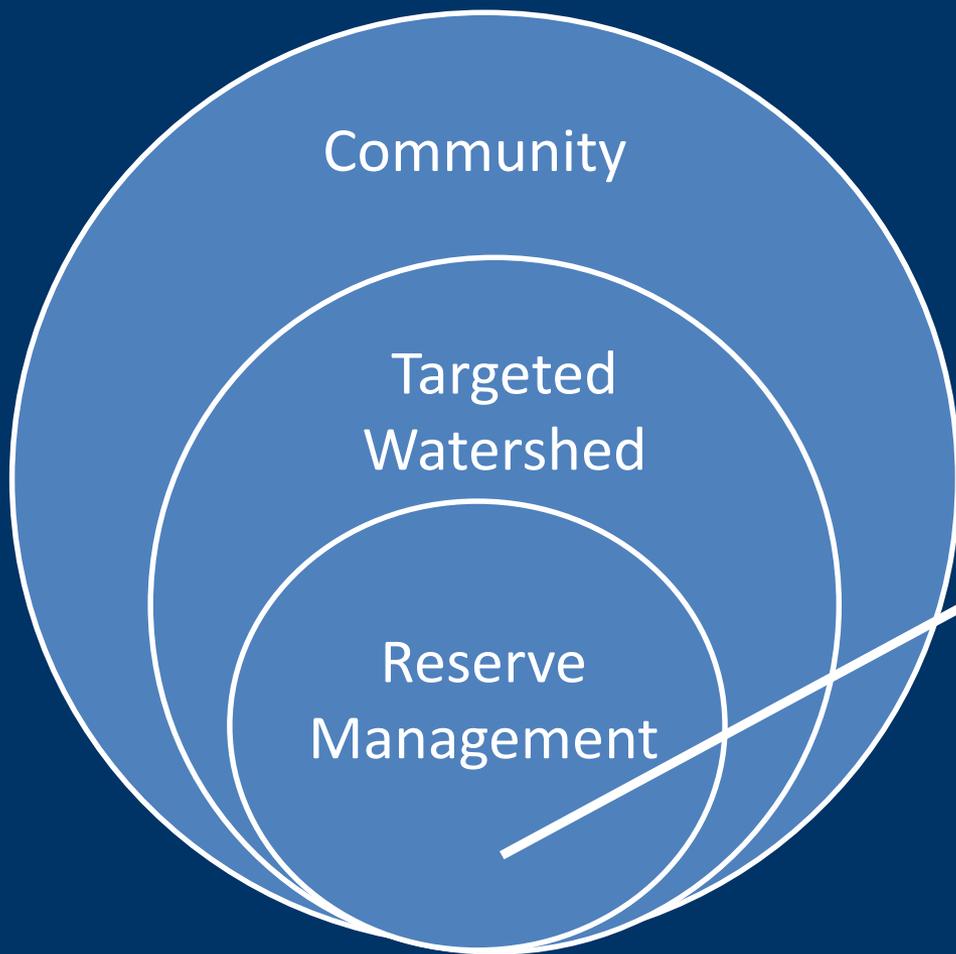
People

Science

Protected Places



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28



A State-Federal Partnership

State role:

- Land ownership and management
- Reserve staff members
- Program implementation
- Funding (30 percent match)

Federal role:

- National policy and program guidance
- Technical assistance
- Program coordination
- Funding (70 percent)



System-Wide and National Programs

- System-Wide Monitoring Program
- Coastal Training Program
- K-12 Estuarine Education Program
- National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative



System-Wide Monitoring Program

“Sentinels” for identifying and tracking short-term variability and long-term changes in the integrity and biodiversity of estuarine ecosystems

Abiotic monitoring

- Water quality
- Weather parameters

Ecological monitoring

- Habitat change
- Eutrophication

Land use changes



Coastal Training Program

- Decisions that positively impact coastal ecosystems, communities, and economies
- Relevant coastal zone topics
- National program benefits



K-12 Estuarine Education Program

“KEEP”ing Estuaries Healthy

Technology and Web-Based Learning

- Estuaries 101
- Data graph

Experiential Learning

- Field studies
- Classroom outreach
- Site-based

Teacher Programs

- Teachers on
the Estuary
- Site-based



Science Collaborative

Enhances the research reserves' ability to address critical coastal resource management problems

- Functions as an integral part of the reserve system
- Supports collaborative, place-based research
- Increases the system's capacity to transfer knowledge



Research Reserve System Appropriations – Recent

	FY14	FY15	FY16
Reserves – Operations, Research, and Facilities	\$21.3 million	\$21.3 million	\$23 million
Reserves –Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction	\$1.7 million	\$1.7 million	\$1.7 million
Total	\$23 million	\$23 million	\$24.7 million

Designation Process

Letter of Interest

Site Selection and Nomination

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
and Management Plan

Final Environmental Impact Statement
and Management Plan

Designation!

Kickoff and
Public Meeting

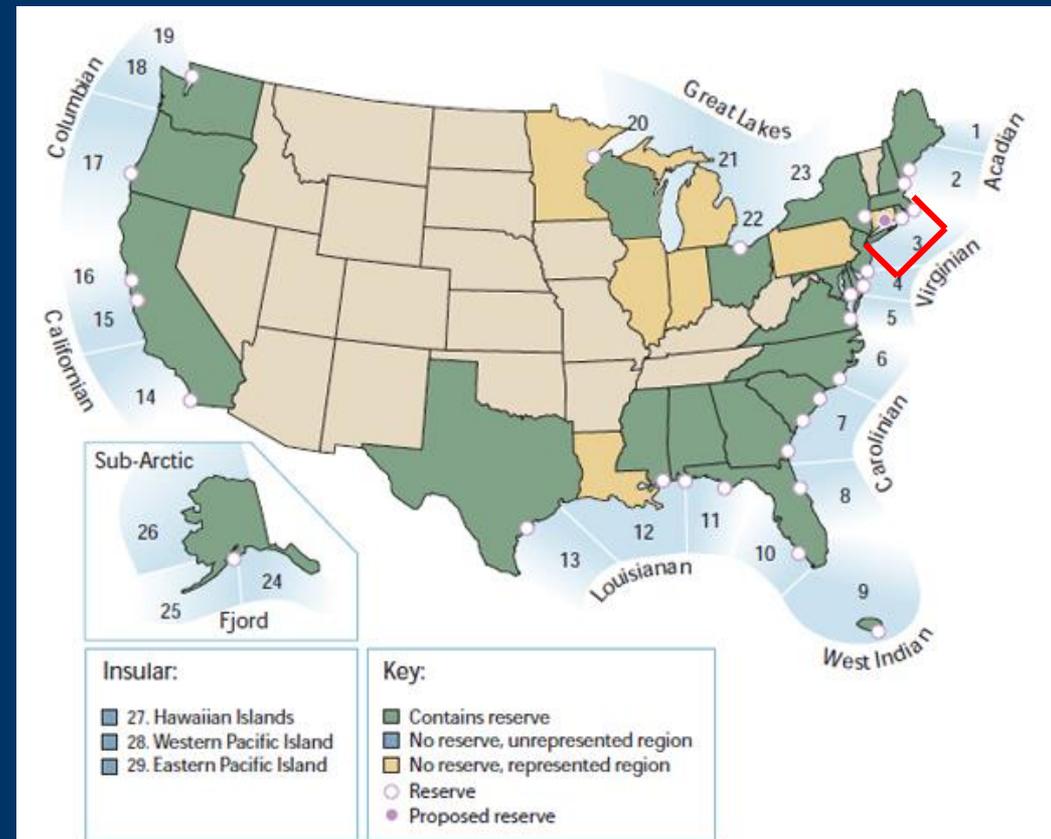
Public Comment
and Hearing

30-day Wait



Key Considerations for Connecticut

- Describe unique typology for the southern New England sub-bioregion
- Build local support for a research reserve
- Work with diverse stakeholders
- Keep an open mind



Questions?

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