

2027-2028 LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

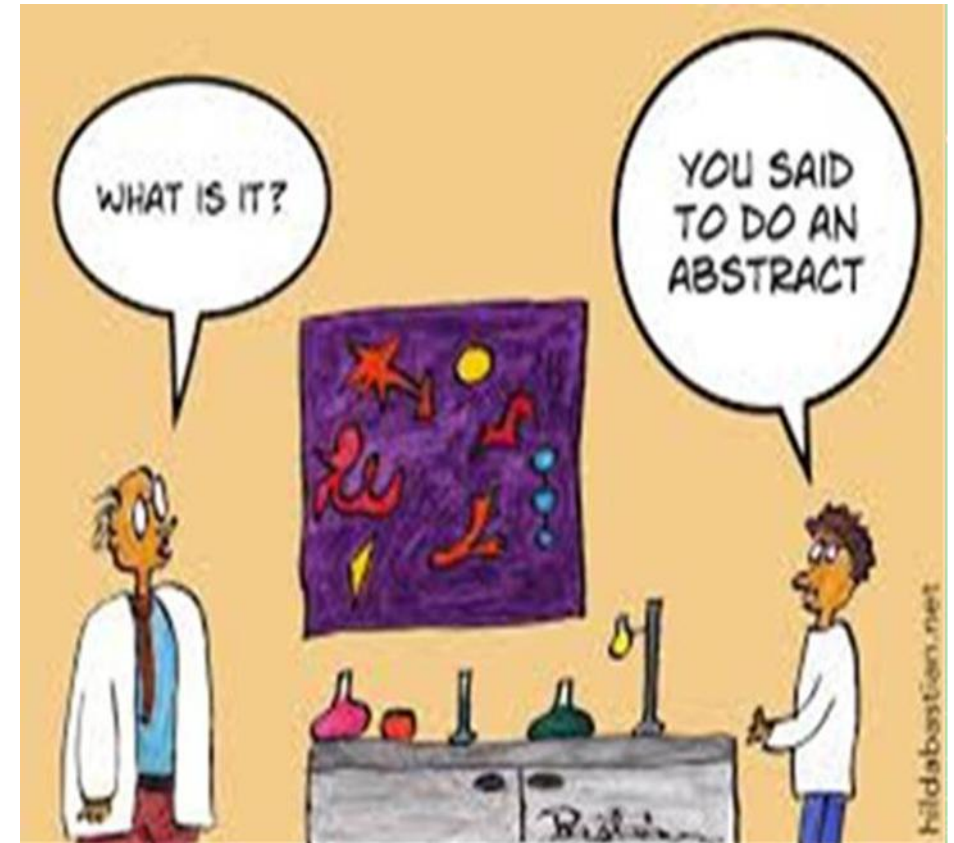


**LONG ISLAND SOUND
PARTNERSHIP**



Outline of Presentation

- Introductions
- Introduction to Sea Grant
- Introduction to the Long Island Sound Partnership
- 2027-2029 Call For proposals
 - Phases and components,
 - Components
 - Topic Areas
 - Applied research
 - Duration and Funding
 - Eligibility
 - Review of Submitted Pre-Proposals
- Submitting using eSeaGrant
- Schedules, timelines
- Useful Links
- Questions





- Established by Congress in 1966, modeled after the Land Grant Program
- Federal (NOAA, DOC) — state partnerships, based at one or more universities
- The Sea Grant network works to create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy
- Global agenda, but addressing problems at local and regional scale

SEA GRANT NETWORK

- 34 programs nationwide, in coastal, Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam
- Network draws on expertise of > 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators and students to help residents better understand, conserve and utilize America's coastal resources





In 1985, EPA, New York, and Connecticut formed the Long Island Sound Partnership, a bi-state partnership consisting of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.

In 1994, the LIS Partnership developed a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to protect and restore Long Island Sound. This plan was revised in 2015, and again in 2025, with ambitious goals and objectives to drive further progress through 2035.

VISION

Long Island Sound and its watershed have clean waters, healthy habitats, thriving wildlife, resilient coasts, and an engaged public.

MISSION

The Long Island Sound Partnership leads a collective effort to restore and care for the Sound and its watershed.



LIS Partnership 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Goals



1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds: Restore and maintain water quality in Long Island Sound and its watershed.
2. Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife: Restore and protect the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife in Long Island Sound and its ecosystems.
3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities: Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.
4. Informed and Engaged Public: Inspire and empower the public to appreciate, value, and protect Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

1 CLEAN WATERS AND HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Nutrients: Reduce nutrients across the watershed to restore and protect water quality and mitigate impacts on ecosystem health in Long Island Sound and its embayments.

Watershed Health: Improve the ecosystem health of Long Island Sound and its watershed through protection and positive land use practices.

Pathogens: Reduce pathogens and increase monitoring to protect water quality and human health, ensuring safe recreational and commercial use.

Toxic Contaminants: Research, monitor, assess, and support mitigation efforts on emerging and legacy toxic contaminants to reduce impacts on water and habitat quality in Long Island Sound.

Marine Debris: Achieve trash free waters by increasing clean-up efforts and preventing marine debris from entering Long Island Sound.

2 THRIVING HABITATS AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Coastal Habitat: Protect, enhance, and assess the extent and health of coastal habitats and their associated wildlife through restorative measures and monitoring to combat deterioration and loss.

Offshore Habitat: Protect and enhance the health of offshore habitats and their associated species.

Habitat Connectivity: Increase connectivity of coastal habitat to enhance biodiversity and support migratory pathways.

Open Space: Conserve open space through land acquisition while maintaining and enhancing the total area of protected land.

3 SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Informed Decision Makers: Increase the number of government officials, practitioners, and community leaders receiving training and support to increase their capacity to adapt to environmental challenges.

Community-Driven Resilience Planning:

Increase the number of municipalities that identify key resilience priorities through local or regional community-driven planning processes.

Resilience Initiative Implementation:

Implement initiatives to improve community resilience to flooding and other environmental challenges.

4 INFORMED AND ENGAGED PUBLIC

Public Access and Sense of Belonging: Increase and improve opportunities for everyone to access and appreciate Long Island Sound and the waters that flow into the Sound.

Education and Environmental Literacy:

Improve and expand the public's environmental knowledge of Long Island Sound and its watershed.

Fostering Stewardship and Sustainable

Behaviors: Increase public engagement in environmental practices that protect and conserve Long Island Sound and its watershed.

Funding Schedule

Funding Available for selected projects: Jan 2027-Dec 2028

-
- 2-year funding cycle
 - RFP development
 - January 15: 2026 RFP release
 - March 19 @ 5 pm: Pre-proposals due
 - July 17 @ 5 pm: Full proposals due
 - January 1, 2027: Year 1 funding starts for selected projects
 - January 1, 2028: Year 2 funding starts



2027-2028 LONG ISLAND SOUND RESEARCH PRE-PROPOSAL

1. **LAST NAMES OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** (e.g., Smith / Doe / Jones)
2. **BRIEF PROJECT TITLE** (not to exceed 275 characters):
3. **INVESTIGATOR(S) and ELIGIBILITY:** List **all** principal, co-principal, and associate investigators, including name, address, telephone, and email for each. *Also* indicate eligibility category for each (see Section 3 and specify A, B, C, or D).
4. **BUDGET:** Total of direct plus indirect costs (\$1,000,000 max over duration of the project; \$500K/year limit).
 - A. **Estimated Funding Request** \$ _____
 - B. **Anticipated Non-Federal Cost-Share Provided (50% required)** \$ _
 - C. **Expected Source(s) of Cost-Share:**
5. **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** Starting on a *new* page, use up to two pages MAX of text with the following a-e headings to describe your proposed project. Use all-around margins of at least 1" and a font size no less than #12 Calibri or equivalent. If the project description exceeds the 2-page limit, it will be rejected (not truncated).
 - a) **OBJECTIVES, HYPOTHESIS(ES), and APPROACH:** List the overall objectives of your proposed study, with a statement of the hypothesis(es) to be tested and explicitly link these hypotheses to the data collection and analytical methods proposed so it is clear how they will be tested. **Proposals without a specifically stated hypothesis will not be considered.** Include brief information about the approach to be used and whether there are links to other past, current, or proposed efforts.
 - b) **CCMP GOAL -> OBJECTIVE -> ACTION(S) ALIGNMENT:** Applicants **must EXPLICITLY** specify which **CCMP Goal, Objective, Action(s)** the project will address. A vague listing of or references to those priorities without an effective explanation of how the proposed work will specifically address the **Goal -> Objective -> Action(s)** will not be deemed sufficient. Proposals that incorporate cross-cutting connections are encouraged.
 - c) **RATIONALE:** Explain the rationale for, and significance of, the proposed project to Long Island Sound in addressing the CCMP. Specify whether and how the research supports the cross-cutting connections.
 - d) **USEFULNESS OF THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS TO MANAGEMENT:** Explain how the research and anticipated results are actionable and can be used to inform and advance the management of Long Island Sound and its resources. Clearly identify the actionable

Preliminary Proposal Requirements

- All preliminary proposals must be submitted using the proscribed format and categories
- No appendices, other attachments, or web links are permitted.
- Investigators should ensure that all information is provided and that pre-proposal components follow the specified format.

Topic Areas

The purpose of this Call is to support actionable research that produces and integrates information that fills identified gaps in our understanding and extends the ability of managers and other end users to make informed decisions and/or take appropriate management actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate anthropogenic stressors and enhance the health and sustainability of the Sound.

Topic areas must address one or more of the four goals of the 2025 LIS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which is available at <https://lispartnership.org/2025/06/2025-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan-ccmp/>.



Applied Research

Projects must **engage end users** from the beginning and throughout the project.

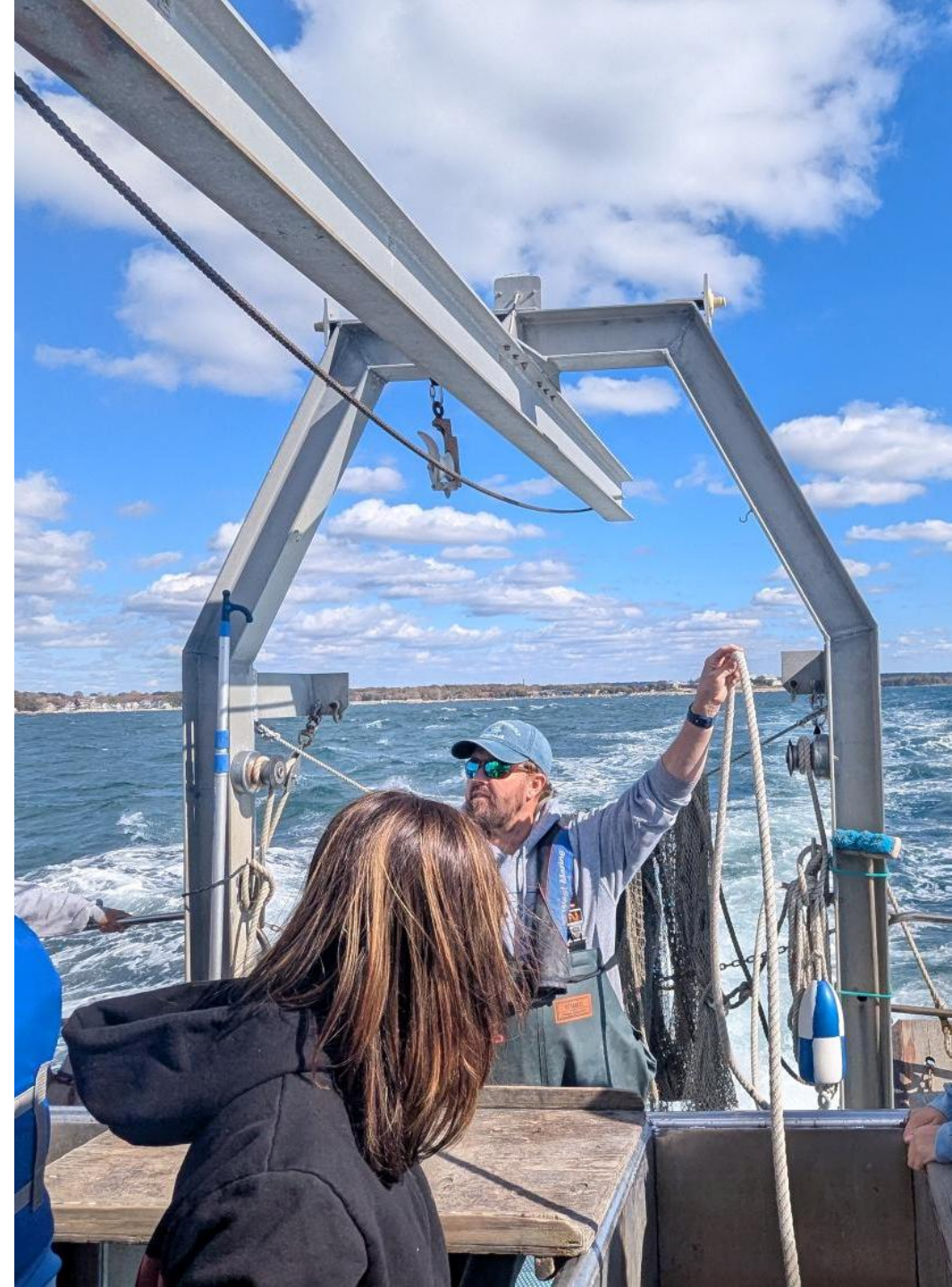
End users are individuals or groups of individuals in a position to apply the resulting information/ tools in a way that benefits the ecological, social, or economic integrity of LIS and/or surrounding watershed(s) and communities.

Could include municipal, state or federal government, private, or non-governmental decision/policy makers, including landowners, resource managers, land use planners, businesses (such as fisheries or aquaculture), and educators at all levels.

Your pre-proposal must identify the likely end users that would benefit from this research and identify the **actionable information, tools, or outputs** to be produced by the research, and how they will be delivered for actionable/ applied use.

Submissions that merely state that the information generated has value to managers, without adequate elaboration, will not be competitive.

Applicants should consider involving the end users/beneficiaries early in the process. Colleagues in federal, state or local government agencies, NGOs and/or Sea Grant extension professionals may be able to assist in identifying potential end users.





Duration and Funding

- At this time and subject to federal funding, the program anticipates awarding approximately \$5,500,000 to cover the entire duration of all selected projects.
- Projects can be either one- or two-year projects.
- Proposals of any amount are welcome up to a maximum funding level of \$1,000,000 (\$500,000/year cap) and this must include all direct plus indirect costs.
- Proposals over \$250,000/year must utilize interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems, involve interdisciplinary collaborative research teams, and produce outputs with the potential for high impact, and this should be clearly described in the proposals.
- Match Requirements: This funding Call requires that proposals include at least a 50% non-federal funds match to their requested award, i.e., \$1 in non-federal match for every \$2 of federal funds requested. More details will be provided in the full proposal guidance.

Eligibility

Pre-proposals from the following eligible categories will be considered for funding:

- A. Faculty at universities and colleges,
- B. Researchers at not-for-profit institutions,
- C. Researchers who are personnel of state or local agencies, and
- D. Researchers at for-profit institutions or companies.

Eligibility is not limited to individuals from NY or CT, but projects must be related to Long Island Sound.

Applicants' (PIs, co-PIs and collaborators) primary affiliation must be at a U.S. institution.

Federal employees and institutions are not eligible to receive compensation, equipment, or budgeted items of any sort, but federal employees can serve as co-PIs, or associate investigators.

NYSG and CTSG staff cannot serve as principal investigators (PIs), co-PIs, or associate investigators, and are not eligible to receive funding.

Students cannot serve as principal investigators (PIs), co-PIs, or associate investigators.

Members of the LIS Partnership Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) may serve as PIs or co-PIs and may receive funding under this initiative, provided they meet the other criteria above.



Review of Submitted Pre-Proposals

All pre-proposals that meet all specified requirements will be screened by a panel established by CTSG and NYSG that will include scientific peers from unaffiliated institutions and representatives from CTSG, NYSG, EPA, NYSDEC, and CTDEEP.

The Panel will use the following criteria, scoring, and weighting in rating pre-proposals:

- A. Engagement of end users, and usefulness of the anticipated results, as described in the submission, to inform and advance management of LIS and its resources (40%)
- B. Rationale and alignment to the CCMP (30%)
- C. Likelihood that the project will be successful in fulfilling its objectives, including hypotheses, soundness of the proposed approach, and qualifications of the PIs (30%).

Uploading your Submission on e-seagrant

- Please double-check your Pre-proposal Submission file before uploading it to eSea Grant at <http://www.nyseagrant.org/eseagrant> to make sure it is a PC-readable pdf and that it is your final version. You will need to register a user account at the eSea Grant website before you can upload your preproposal. It is recommended to register your eSea Grant account early before submitting your preproposal.

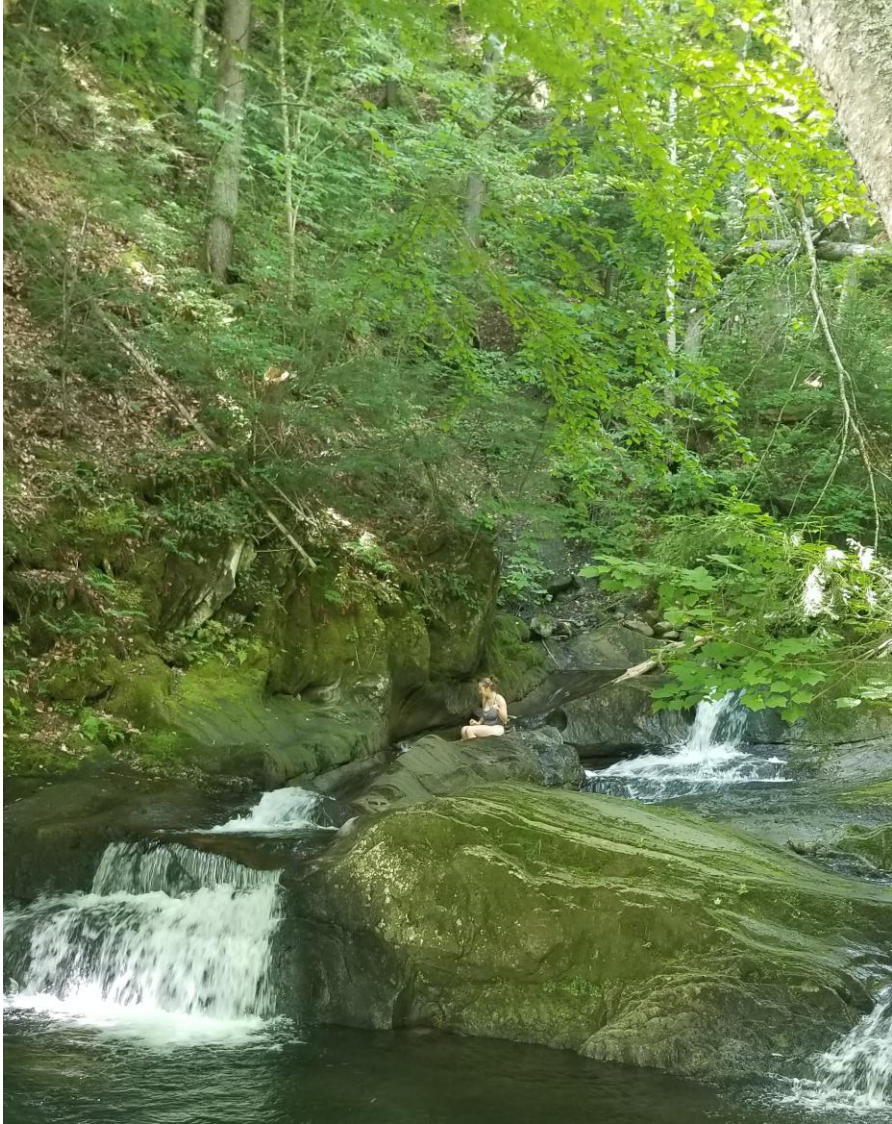
1. Schedule

- January 15, 2026 – Sea Grant announces Call for Pre-proposals
- January 23, 1 pm – Informational webinar
<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/94394423396?pwd=ovQ5Gua34M92CdNoKbAXBU1c6by8l7.1>
- January 29, 11 am – Informational webinar
<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/95100355006?pwd=2EaAB9A8lztIhbSqli66ftuhj6fnuX.1&jst=3>
- March 19 – Pre-proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. EDT via
<http://www.nyseagrant.org/eseagrant>
- May 14* – Sea Grant notifies lead investigators about whether a full proposal is encouraged
- May 29 & June 15* – Sea Grant distributes to all lead investigators a summary of Pre-proposal Review Panel results for their submission
- July 17 – Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. EDT via
<http://www.nyseagrant.org/eseagrant>
- October 16* – Sea Grant notifies lead investigators about decisions
- November 2* – Provide peer reviews and a summary of Full Proposal Review Panel results
- January 1, 2027 – Year 1 funding starts**; the completion, submission and approval of a QAPP is required. No data collection can be conducted by PIs until a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been approved.
- January 1, 2028 – Year 2 funding starts** if a QAPP has been submitted and approved and Year 1 progress is satisfactory.

*Dates are approximate and may vary slightly.

**Contingent on availability of funding.





USEFUL LINKS:

- Submission website: <http://www.nyseagrant.org/eseagrant>
- Long Island Sound Partnership: <https://lispartnership.org/>
- CCMP: <https://lispartnership.org/2025/06/2025-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan-ccmp/>
- NY Sea Grant: [NYSeaGrant.org](https://nyseagrant.org/)
- CT Sea Grant: <https://seagrant.uconn.edu/>

QUESTIONS?

Dr. Syma A. Ebbin
Research Coordinator
Connecticut Sea Grant College
Program
University of Connecticut
1080 Shennecossett Rd.
Groton, CT 06340-6048
Tel. (860) 405-9278
Email: syma.ebbin@uconn.edu

Mr. Lane Smith
Research Coordinator
New York Sea Grant, IDC Bldg., Suite
221
500 Innovation Drive
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5001
Tel. (630) 632-6905
Email: lane.smith@stonybrook.edu

