

**RESOLUTION NO. 450 -2018, ESTABLISHING A MARINE DEBRIS POLLUTION AWARENESS PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**

**WHEREAS**, water quality and protection are critical issues for Long Island, which is surrounded by Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean and sits atop a sole source aquifer which provides the region with drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, marine pollution damages water and environmental quality and threatens the marine life which help naturally balance the ecosystem by filtering water; and

**WHEREAS**, marine debris, defined as persistent solid materials that are disposed of or abandoned into marine environments, poses a particular problem, as it persists in marine habitats for long periods of time without degrading; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of marine debris, comprised of plastics and originating from sources on land, settles upon the sea floor and is concentrated in coastal waters and enclosed areas; and

**WHEREAS**, fish, birds and other marine species frequently become entangled in or ingest debris, causing illness, injury or death; and

**WHEREAS**, public education and awareness of the dangers associated with marine debris pollution are essential to changing individual and societal behaviors to reduce marine pollution and improve environment and water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk should enter into a partnership with the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University to provide critical education and outreach to the Long Island community about the dangers of marine debris pollution and ways to combat this insidious problem; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Office of Environmental Management in the Department of Economic Development and Planning is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to enter into a collaboration with the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University to establish a Marine Debris Pollution Awareness Program (“the Program”); and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the program shall develop and execute a public education campaign on issues involving marine debris pollution, including information on marine debris and methods to prevent marine pollution; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency

administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 5, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 18, 2018