

Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council

2019 Annual Progress Report

Mission & Goals

The Marine Industry is one of the pillars of Suffolk County's economy. According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, in 2015 the marine industry and ocean related jobs accounted for 33,000 jobs and \$983 million in wages in Suffolk County alone. Suffolk County has over 980 miles of shoreline and over 300 bodies of water, which ensures a deep economic and historic connection between Suffolk County and the Marine Industry. Given our location on Long Island and the clear benefits of the industry on Suffolk County's economy, the marine industry should be supported by government in order to improve market conditions and growth opportunities in our region. Local industry leaders have the knowledge and capabilities necessary to help Suffolk County become a more attractive location for marine businesses and activities, and can meet these goals together with government officials.

In order to meet these goals, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory introduced Resolution No. 341-2018 "Establishing a Suffolk County Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council" (MIRAC) last year, with co-sponsors Legislators Sarah Anker, Al Krupski, and William Lindsay III. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Legislature. The Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Committee held its first meeting in August 2018 bringing industry, education, and government leaders together to help protect, promote and grow Suffolk County's ocean economy.

This year, the Advisory Council reached out to the public to hear their concerns in two separate Public Hearings in Hauppauge and Riverhead. In addition, the full Advisory Council met 10 times this year. From the feedback heard during the Public Hearings, the Advisory Council made a number of recommendations for legislation which was put forward to the Suffolk County Legislature and established into law. Resolution 1116-2019 directs the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to update its 1985 dredging report to take into consideration additional items, such as boat slips, marinas and dredge spoil sites. Resolution 394-2019 implemented a new pilot program for a Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit, which permits shellfish vendors to use a single permit for recurring events, providing them with more opportunities to sell their product at summer events such as street fairs and farmer's markets.

Membership of the Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council

| <i>Organization / Designating Individual</i> | <i>Designee</i> |
|---|--|
| Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature | Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory |
| Presiding Officer's Designee | Legislator Susan A. Berland |
| Legislator, 1st Legislative District | Legislator Al Krupski |
| Legislator, 2nd Legislative District | Eric Johansson, SUNY Maritime |
| Suffolk County Dept. Of Economic Dev. & Planning | August Ruckdeschel |
| Suffolk County Dept. of Labor | Diane LaChapelle & Craig Horowitz |
| Commercial Fishing Industry | Thomas Kehoe, Northport Village Trustee |
| Discover Long Island (Tourism Industry) | Kristen Jarnigan, President/CEO |
| Association of Marine Industries #1 | Eric Kreuter, President |
| Association of Marine Industries #2 | Vincent Pesce, Vice President |
| NYS Department of Environmental Conservation #1 | Kimberly Lamiroult, Regional Permit Analyst. |
| NYS Department of Environmental Conservation #2 | Danielle Stango-Torre, Environmental Analyst |
| Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County | Christopher Pickerell |
| Suffolk County Community College | Irene Rios, Assistant Dean for Workforce Development |
| Western Suffolk BOCES | Debra Montaruli, School Principal |
| Eastern Suffolk BOCES | David Wicks, District Superintendent |
| Suffolk County Supervisors Association | Vincent Biondo |
| Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works | William Hillman |
| Suffolk County Department of Health Services | Michael Jensen |

The Advisory Committee meets monthly at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge.

Sub-Committee Membership & Breakdown

| Sub-Committee | Environmental | Education & Workforce Development | Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing | Economic Development |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Areas of Interest | Dredging, Science, Water Quality, Coastal Resiliency, Marine Ecosystem | Education, Marine Tech & Repair, Environmental Testing, Dredging Technology, Aquaculture. | NYS Permitting Process, Water Quality/Nitrogen, Aquaculture, Wind Farm Impact, Shellfish Cultivation | Tourism, Jobs, Beaches, Promotion & Marketing, Environmental Planning. |
| Chair | Vinny Pesce (AMI) | David Wicks (E.S. BOCES) | Tom Kehoe (Com. Fishing) | Kristen Jarnigan (Tourism) |
| Members | Legislator Susan A. Berland | Legislator Susan A. Berland | Legislator Susan A. Berland | Legislator Susan A. Berland |
| | Legislator Al Krupski | Eric Kreuter (AMI) | Legislator Bridget Fleming | Legislator Bridget Fleming |
| | Vincent Biondo (SCSA) | Diane LaChapelle (D. of Labor) | Eric Kreuter (AMI) | Tom Kehoe (Com. Fishing) |
| | Kim Lamiroult (NYSDEC) | Dr. Shaun McKay (SCCC) | Kim Lamiroult (NYSDEC) | Vinny Pesce (AMI) |
| | Danielle Stango-Torre (NYSDEC) | Debra Montaruli (W.S. BOCES) | Danielle Stango-Torre (NYSDEC) | August Ruckdeschel (D. of Planning) |
| | Chris Pickerell (Cornell) | Lisa Calla (SCCC) | Chris Pickerell (Cornell) | Lisa Calla (SCCC) |
| | Bill Hillman (Dept. of Public Works) | | August Ruckdeschel (D. of Planning) | <i>Irene Rios (SCCC)</i> |
| | Michael Jensen (Dept. of Health) | | <i>Ted Koukonas (SCCC)</i> | |
| Staff Assistant | Bob Fonti | Nancy Jacobsen | Derek Stein | Christina DeLisi |

Subcommittees meet in between meetings, generally bimonthly.

Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee

Overview:

Over the past year, the Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee focused on the development of new initiatives in order to protect and develop innovative ideas in order to assist Suffolk County's fishing industry. The Sub-Committee met with Chuck Westfall from the Long Island Oyster Growers' Association and was able to ultimately put together Resolution 394-2019 which established a pilot program with a Temporary Annual Event Permit for shellfish growers to sell their products at recurring annual events using only one permit. Previously, shellfish providers had to obtain permits only on a day-to-day basis, placing a burden on their ability to sell oysters and seafood at recurring summer events. Among the initiatives brought forward to the Sub-Committee included plans to develop new courses at Suffolk County Community College that would focus on aquaculture, using Community Preservation Funds to protect existing maritime industries, creating internship opportunities at local shellfish hatcheries, and establishing a new non-profit organization that could help market local fisheries and seafood. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Northport Village Trustee and commercial fisherman Tom Kehoe, the Sub-Committee is comprised of local Legislators, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and representatives from Cornell Co-operative, the Association of Marine Industries, the Suffolk County Department of Planning and Suffolk County Community College.

Meeting Minutes:

May 22, 2019: [Those present: Thomas Kehoe, Lisa Calla, August Ruckdeschel, Derek Stein & Marissa Lehner]

- Lisa Calla spoke about meeting with Suffolk County Community College for new courses, and would update Tom Kehoe on a meeting date and a plan to follow up with the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Review Program.
- August Ruckdeschel mentioned that he met with New York State Agri-Markets about LIOGA's proposal to create a centralized processing and distribution center at Captree NY State Park.
 - Derek Stein added that he had followed up with Senator Monica Martinez's office as well as Wayne Horsley.
- August Ruckdeschel noted that Assemblyman Fred Thiele was looking into expanding the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) to cover aquaculture and commercial fishing infrastructure as well.
- Tom Kehoe mentioned that he has established a new initiative "I Love New York Seafood" focused on promoting locally grown seafood.

- He stated that the organization will be modeled off of Discover Long Island and will eventually be staffed with a Board of Directors representing different areas of the fishing industry.
 - Derek Stein asked if George Hoffman's proposal about creating a Suffolk County "Blue Plan" modeled after Connecticut would be feasible.
 - August Ruckdeschel noted the plan came from a \$2 million grant to the State and he had difficulties acquiring data. He felt the plan would therefore be largely duplicative.
 - August Ruckdeschel noted that Agri-Market certification varies by town.
 - Brookhaven Town has already applied for Agri-Markets certification for shellfish farmers.
 - He noted that the lease program initially was based on property and land usage, but is now based on taxes.
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September 18th, 2019: *[Those present: Thomas Kehoe, Christopher Pickerell, Eric Kreuter, Eric Johansson, & Derek Stein]*

- Eric Johansson asked if there were any large harbors on Long Island that are currently active.
 - Chris Pickerell mentioned that the proposal for a deep-water port in Shoreham has largely collapsed.
 - Tom Kehoe noted Northport and Huntington had been used for commercial shipping but that is no longer the case.
- Eric Johansson noted that his experience is largely based around logistics. He noted that there is a need to ship goods to market from Long Island and suggested that waterways would be one option.
 - Tom Kehoe noted there is a major issue with the lack of fish processing sites in Suffolk County.
- Thomas Kehoe noted that it is easier for a landowner on the waterfront to sell property to a hotel or apartment developer since in most instances are able to change zoning.
 - It was suggested that preservation of waterfront industries could be accomplished by zoning.
 - It was noted that waterfront zones have been done in some communities, including Southampton.
- Thomas Kehoe followed up from the Subcommittee's tour of the SPAT facility in Southold in early September.

- He noted that most of the individuals at the facility are volunteers, but that they would be able to accomplish much more with additional volunteers and interns from schools and colleges.
 - Lisa Calla with the SCCC indicated she would work with the College and SPAT to create a work-study program were students would be able to receive credits working at the SPAT site.
 - Securing a funding stream for fishermen as part of any offshore wind farm proposal was also suggested. It was noted that current plans for the laying of electrical lines had changed.
 - Chris Pickerell noted that the latest plan called for lines to be connected between the offshore wind site east of Montauk and Port Jefferson on the Long Island Sound.
 - Discussion concerned whether or not commercial fishing boats would be able to travel between wind turbines.
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Economic Development Sub-Committee.

Overview:

The Economic Development Sub-Committee is focused on a wide range of issues including the development of maritime tourism, infrastructure, waterfront development, marketing, and research projects. Over the past year, much discussion has centered on the potential growth offered by waterfront revitalization projects in Suffolk County's downtowns. The Sub-committee invited Eric Alexander from the Long Island Association to attend one of the full Advisory Council meetings in order to discuss the impact and success stories of waterfront revitalization projects on Long Island. Additionally, the Sub-Committee has begun work to put together a research project in collaboration with SUNY Maritime College that will dive into detail on Suffolk County's Waterfronts and Downtown areas for the purpose of determining what industries already exist along these waterfronts as well as to determine which areas of the County should waterfront development focus on. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Kristen Jarnigan, President of Discover Long Island, which represents the tourism industry on the Advisory Council. The Sub-Committee is also represented by Suffolk County Community College, Eric Johansson of SUNY Maritime, August Ruckdeschel of the Suffolk County Department of Planning, the Association of Marine Industries, Legislators, and Tom Kehoe on behalf of the commercial fishing industry.

Meeting Minutes:

June 24, 2019: [Those present: Kristen Jarnigan, August Ruckdeschel, Katherine Peterson and Christina DeLisi]

- There was discussion regarding Downtown Revitalization Grants.
 - Kristen suggested bringing in Regina Zara or Eric Alexander to speak about Downtown Revitalization. Ultimately, Eric Alexander from the Vision Long Island was invited to speak at the next full MIRAC Meeting.
 - August explained that there is no such possibility for Marinas as they are not located in downtowns.
 - Economic Growth would be a good area to explore and have models where marine growth, mixed use and sewer infrastructure is possible such as Riverhead/Riverside and Mastic Beach that can add to the economic growth of an area.
- Kristen and August agreed that there is a need for a research project by students at Suffolk Community College, Molloy College, New York Institute of Technology or Farmingdale State College on a Working Waterfront Analysis.
- Kristen noted that the Bed Tax Renewal is up in 2020 so Discover Long Island will work on this effort.

September 17, 2019: [Those present: Kristen Jarnigan, Eric Alexander, August Ruckdeschel, Irene Rios, Derek Stein, Katherine Peterson]

- Kristen Jarnigan noted that Eric Alexander from the Long Island Association will speak to the Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council the following day (September 18, 2019).
 - She hopes his expertise will help the council identify areas where waterfront development and the preservation of waterfront industries are possible.
 - Eric Johannsson believed that logistics are the biggest issues:
 - He states that the Hunts Point Market is the largest food distribution center in the County with about 15,000 trucks passing through daily.
 - He is working to relieve congestion by having these shipments moved by boat rather than by truck.
 - Eric Johannsson stated that the main logistical issues have to do with the supply chain as Long Island only has food and supplies for “a couple days.”
 - Eric Johannsson suggested that the Advisory Council look into studying the imports and exports on Long Island. He specifically suggested that a demand analysis could allow Suffolk County to gain a better understating of the truck routes and final destinations of truck shipments.
 - Irene Rios said that Suffolk Community College is starting a Marine Biology Degree Program at its Eastern Campus thanks to new grants.
 - She also spoke about the possibility of creating a Shellfish Aquaculture Program for Suffolk Community College.
 - Kristen Jarnigan stated that she reached out to the President of Molloy College to ask if a study detailing waterfronts of Suffolk County, which would determine what type of development would be suitable, would be feasible.
 - She recently began a collaboration with Discover Long Island and Local IDAs with the goal of helping market to businesses looking to move and/or invest in Long Island, focusing on food manufacturing, aerospace and pharmaceuticals.
 - Discover Long Island has recently redesigned its website and is working on adding a new webpage for businesses as well as a page for beaches & ocean fun.
 - There is also a new page for Aquaculture/Agriculture which features an interactive map based on the Choose Long Island map that shows farms and oyster growers on Long Island.
 - She would also like the new page to connect fishermen and restaurants in the future.
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November 6th, 2019: [Those present: Kristen Jarnigan, August Ruckdeschel, Irene Rios, Imran Ansari, Christina DeLisi & Katherine Peterson]

Kristen Jarnigan provided printed copies of the Aquaculture pages on Discover Long Island's website, including Crowdriff which is a visual content marketing tool that grants Discover Long Island the rights to user-generated content (e.g. Instagram posts with specific relevant hashtags).

- Kristen Jarnigan wanted to build upon this campaign and possibly include oyster farmers as members.
 - August Ruckdeschel mentioned the 2015 Suffolk County Comprehensive Plan 2035 Framework which focuses on economic development, environmental protection, housing diversity, transportation, energy and public safety.
 - This plan should be given to SUNY Maritime when they work on their downtown/waterfront study.
 - August Ruckdeschel also brought up the fact that the draft of the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan, which provides suggested routes and assists non-motorized water sports, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and rowing in order to make them more accessible.
 - The draft of the plan is available from the Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning Department and the final copy will be completed in the Spring of 2020.
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Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee

Overview:

The Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee focuses on opportunities to development a robust marine engineering, fishing, boating, and waterfront workforce through new education programs at local colleges, high schools, and vocational programs. The Sub-Committee has focused this year on conducting outreach to high school and college age students about career opportunities in the marine industrial field. The Suffolk County Department of Labor has held three career days with representatives from local schools and the Marine Industry to get more individuals interested in this often understaffed industry. The other main focus of the Sub-Committee has been to work with local colleges to develop more cohesive marine industrial programs for students. This has included the creation of a new Marine Technology program at Kingsborough Community College as well as new courses at Suffolk County Community College and BOCES. The Sub-Committee is chaired by David Wicks, District Superintendent for Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Other members include representatives from Western Suffolk BOCES, Diane LaChapelle and Craig Horowitz from the Suffolk County Department of Labor, AMI, and Irene Rios from Suffolk County Community College.

Meeting Minutes:

February 1, 2019: (Those present: Lisa Jusino Calla, Craig Horowitz, Nancy Jacobsen, Eric Kreuter, Diane LaChapelle, David Wicks):

- The Department of Labor (DOL) and Eric Kreuter have communicated regarding a DOL job event
 - It is difficult to get everyone on board regarding what the needs of the industry are (sales versus repair). Eric will provide a list of the industry needs that has been collected.
- The group will discuss a possible high school information event at the next meeting.
- David Wicks will put Craig Horowitz in touch with Leah Arnold regarding funding for Adult Education programs.

June 3, 2019: (Those present: Craig Horowitz, Nancy Jacobsen, Diane LaChapelle, Debra Montaruli and David Wicks):

- David Wicks will ask Leah Arnold to have someone reach out to Debra Montaruli, regarding whether Eastern Suffolk BOCES can/should enter into a similar agreement with Kingsborough College.

- The DOL is considering a follow-up career exploration event before the fall of 2019. Craig Horowitz and Diane LaChapelle will confirm the date and let both BOCES know, so that someone from BOCES can attend the event.
- Diane LaChapelle shared that there was a discussion about making a stronger effort to communicate the needs of the industry with high school students.
 - There is now a need to identify a point person to reach out to high schools
 - There should also be the development of a marine educators sub-group

August 14, 2019: (Those present: Diane LaChapelle, Eric Kreuter, and David Wicks):

- There were follow-up discussions regarding efforts to reach out to High Schools
 - Eric Kreuter suggested reaching out to guidance counselors first.
 - David Wicks said he would follow up with Western Suffolk BOCES regarding access to counselors in regular meetings.
- There will be the establishment of regular meeting times; the creation of a conference call-in number for future meetings will be discussed.
- David Wicks reported on his experience on the MIRAC SPAT Tour.

September 9, 2019: (Those present: Craig Horowitz, Diane LaChapelle, Eric Kreuter, Debra Montaruli, and David Wicks)

- There was no update regarding the Department of Labor Exploration Event Dates.
- David Wicks shared information about presenting to guidance counselors in Suffolk County when it comes to reaching out to High Schools.

November 6, 2019: (Those present: Nancy Jacobsen, Eric Kreuter, Debra Montaruli, and David Wicks):

- There were no further updates regarding a future Career Exploration event. Eric Kreuter reported that an attendee from the first Career Exploration event had recently enrolled in the Kingsborough College Apprenticeship Program.
 - David will ask Diane LaChapelle and Craig Horowitz for an update on future Career Exploration events when the Minutes are forwarded to the group.
- Setting dates for future meetings.

December 2, 2019: (Those present: Diane LaChapelle, Nancy Jacobsen, and David Wicks):

- The group discussed the Department of Labor Career Exploration Event Dates

- At the event, there will be an Education and Training Counselor available to discuss enrollment and funding options.
 - Subcommittee members are asked to share the information as appropriate.
 - The group discussed the efforts to reach out to high schools and David Wicks shared information about a presentation he and Eric Kreuter will give to a group of guidance counselors regarding marine industry career pathways.
 - The group discussed the report that was presented at the November 14, 2019 MIRAC General Meeting.
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Environmental Sub-Committee

Overview

The Environmental Sub-Committee focuses on dredging, permitting and water quality issues within Suffolk County. The Sub-Committee has worked to find a potential permanent funding source for Suffolk County's dredge program with the goal of ensuring that more channels and waterways are properly dredged as well as to find solutions to common issues that are part of the dredge permitting process. Resolution 1116-2019 which directs the Department of Public Works to create a new dredging report was proposed by the Sub-Committee as a way of determining the number of boats in Suffolk County, waterways in need of dredging, the number of boat slips in the County and more with the goal of having a updated dredging report with more detail that could help to identify areas of greatest concern as well as providing a framework for a recurring revenue source for dredging projects in Suffolk County. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Vinny Pesce, Vice President of the Association of Marine Industries. Other members include

Meeting Minutes:

September 11, 2019: *[Those present: Bill Hillman, Vinny Pesce, Vinny Biondo, Danielle Stango-Torre, Kimberly Lamiroult, Michael Jensen, Derek Stein & Al Krupski]:*

- Bill Hillman stated that in his discussions with Thomas Crowley who owns Oakdale Yacht, it had been suggested that using a tax on slipways would be viable in order to fund dredging projects.
 - Thomas Crowley estimated that the dredging of the Connetquot River would cost between \$2-4 million.
 - Bill Hillman's concern is that the money could be used in the General Fund and not be used for dredging itself.
- Bob Fonti suggested that an increase on the hotel/motel \$0.25 tax or directing a portion of existing funds would be viable.
 - Derek Stein noted that this action would require approval from the State.
- Bob Fonti stated that Huntington put in a license agreement in order to receive funding from sales tax and a revenue share.
 - Vinny Pesce responded that he imagines a ramp permit fee would be acceptable to boaters in AMI, so long as the money is reserved for dredging.
- Bill Hillman noted that the Connetquot River Dredge Project currently lacks a dredge spoils disposal site.
 - Two sites are being examined now; one at Heckscher State Park and one at the Marine Bureau of the Suffolk County Police Department.

- The State DEC is currently unaware of the proposal, and no testing has been done at the site, although the material will have to be moved.
- Legislator Al Krupski suggested a special district could be established in order to provide a steady funding source.
 - He noted Southold and Southampton already have Special Erosion Control Districts which operate similarly. He suggested that the Advisory Council reach out to Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman.
 - Derek Stein noted that Florida's Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway Fund is built through special districts in a number of counties.
- After reviewing the 1985 Suffolk County Department of Public Works' Dredging Report, it was decided to update the dredging report in order to provide a more accurate list of current locations being dredged as well as the number of boat slips and public access waterways in Suffolk County in order to provide a foundation for which future funding for dredging can be directed.
- Introductory Resolution 1935-2019 directed the Department of Economic Development and Planning to update the County's Dredge Report which shall include current information on the number of boats in Suffolk County, the number of boat slips and moorings in Suffolk County, and a list of every creek, channel, canal or other dredgeable water body in Suffolk County, regardless of whether it is presently dredged by the County. In addition, the report will also identify future spoils sites that could be used for the storage of dredged materials. The Resolution passed at the General Meeting on November 16th, 2019.
- One proposal that was suggested by the Subcommittee was to place a fee on storage of kayaks or canoes similar to the Town of Huntington which would provide a funding source for dredging programs in Suffolk County.
- The Sub-Committee recognized the need to reform the permitting process in particular for dredge spoils, although the Committee highlighted some developments such as the creation of a new New York State DEC permit allowing for dredged spoils to be used for the backfill of a bulkhead.

Sub-Committee Initiatives and Focuses for 2020.

Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee

- Look to build off of the success and progress made by the Choose Long Island Program by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning towards promoting local fish markets and fisheries.
- Work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to investigate the sudden decline of scallop populations in the Peconic Estuary.
- Continue development towards a non-profit Trade Association which will be used to promote and support Long Island commercial fishermen and baymen.
- Determine if funding in support of the commercial fishing industry could be provided from the developers of the New York State Offshore Wind Farm as part of reparations for increased costs.

Economic Development Sub-Committee

- Continue collaboration with Discover Long Island and Suffolk County in order to promote and encourage restaurants and consumers to purchase more locally caught fish.
- Continue efforts into creating a comprehensive waterfront industrial study in collaboration with SUNY Maritime. This report will provide a detailed examination of waterfront downtown areas in Suffolk County and identify possible areas for waterfront industrial development.
- Work to promote and develop more programs for recreational fishermen and if a wider array of activities could be promoted, including providing more opportunities for fishermen to bring their local catches to market.
- Meet with towns and local authorities to discuss possible zoning changes which would make waterfront and marina access easier, while promoting business in these marine districts.

Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee

- Put together a presentation for high schoolers regarding opportunities in the Marine Industry.

- Continue outreach efforts to high school guidance counselors, teachers, and students about educational and career opportunities in the marine industrial field.
- Continue working towards developing Marine Tech Programs at local schools and universities.
- Continue ongoing promotion of new Marine Tech Programs and employment opportunities through the Department of Labor's continuing Career Exploration Days.
- Collaborate with regional universities and existing Marine Tech and Maritime education programs, such as those present at SUNY Maritime and Kingsborough Community College.
- Encourage more internship programs with local fishermen and members of the Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program, including at the SPAT site in Southold, in collaboration with proposals made by the Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee.

Environmental Sub-Committee

- Ask the DEC to consider reusing dredged materials for coastal wetland replenishment, as currently done in Rhode Island and Maine, removing the cost of shipping or disposing of dredged spoils.
- Make a proposal to establish a funding mechanism for testing of dredged material beyond existing grant programs, potentially through a voluntary fee on boaters, which would go directly to dredging.
- Work to promote the new General Permit for dredging from New York State, which allows dredged material to be reused on site for bulkheads.

Suffolk County Department of Public Works:

Dredging Projects in 2019-2020:

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) Fresh Pond, Southampton (Complete) | 11) Little Creek, Southold (Anticipated completion December 21 st .) |
| 2) Cedar Beach Harbor Inlet, Southold (Complete) | 12) Hawks Creek, Riverhead (following Little Creek) |
| 3) Corey Creek, Southold (Complete) | 13) East Creek, Riverhead (after Hawks Creek, anticipated commencement on January 1 st) |
| 4) Noyack Creek, Southampton (Complete) | 14) Coecles Harbor, Shelter Island (anticipated commencement on January 1 st) |
| 5) North Sea Harbor, Southampton (Complete) | 15) Islip Lagoons, Islip (Complete) |
| 6) Sebonac Creek, Southampton (Complete) | 16) Shinnecock Inlet East Cut (WOSI), Southampton (Complete) |
| 7) West Neck Harbor, Shelter Island (Complete) | 17) Boylan Lane Canal, Brookhaven. (anticipated commencement on January 2nd) |
| 8) Dickerson Creek, Shelter Island (Complete) | 18) Three Mile Harbor, East Hampton |
| 9) Mill Creek Budds Pond, Southold (Complete) | 19) WOSI, Southampton; sand-sourcing, washover and emergency dune repairs. |
| 10) Jockey Creek Spur, Southold (Completed) | |

List compiled by Scott Hilary, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

Inclusion of the report on dredging projects completed by the Department of Public Works is required as part of Resolution No. 341-2018.

Public Hearings

The Marine Industry Revitalization Council held two Public Hearings in February 2019:

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Rose Caracappa Auditorium, William H. Rogers Building, William J. Lindsay County Complex, Hauppauge; and

Thursday February 7, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Maxine Postal Auditorium, Riverhead / Riverside County Complex.

Both Public Hearings featured numerous speakers who spoke about a wide range of issues:

The first hearing in Hauppauge featured speakers focused on dredging in Amityville, Northport, and Bay Shore.

- Chuck Westfall of the Long Island Oyster Growers Association proposed placing a storage unit at Captree State Park for fishermen to offload their catch which could then be stored on site while it awaits delivery.
- Bonnie Brady of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association spoke about the proposed Offshore Wind Farms and the need for increased promotion of locally sourced fish.
- Gina Lieneck and others spoke about the need to provide boaters with education in order to prevent accidents on the water.
- Edward Carr of Huntington Town proposed redeveloping the Vanderbilt Museum's Seaplane Hangar into an aquaculture center.
- William Kiarluk proposed that the Advisory Council look to follow the model of the Stony Brook Harbor Task Force.

The second Public Hearing in Riverhead also featured a number of speakers focused on the need for dredging in Shelter Island, Greenport Harbor and Shinnecock Inlet.

- Craig Strong of the Town of Brookhaven Environmental Department spoke about dredging in Brookhaven Town as well as the Town's efforts to place aquaculture farmers in New York State agricultural districts.
- Barley Dunne of the East Hampton Shellfish Hatchery spoke about the utilization of floating gears in the Aquaculture Lease Program as well the need to expand the program.

- David Daly and Steven Schnee of LIOGA both called for changes to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services permitting process in order to feasibly allow shellfish farmers to serve during festivals or street fairs.
- Sean Gilligan spoke about dredging at Sterling Harbor's entrance due to more frequent winter storms.
- Ann Welker supported the need for more septic systems.
- Gary Cobb pointed out that a number of fishing sites in East Hampton are under threat of being bought out and redeveloped away from waterfront industries.
- Bryan DeLuca called for the construction of more storm drains to handle run-off in order to reduce the amount of bacteria in Long Island waters.

Next Steps

With the completion of the County's updated dredging report, work will then begin on determining the best possible solution to funding dredging projects in Suffolk County through some kind of permanent, recurring structure.