

# **Marine Industry Revitalization** **Advisory Council**



## **2020 Annual end-of-year Report**

***Office of Presiding Officer Robert Calarco  
Suffolk County Legislator, 7<sup>th</sup> District***

## **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, in 2018 Resolution No. 341-2018 "Establishing a Suffolk County Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council" (aka MIRAC) was introduced by then Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory along 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 Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council contended with a wider range of issues, including new concerns rising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Advisory Council worked with the Association of Marine Industries to permit marinas and boaters to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic as New York State began to reopen and recover. In addition, the Advisory Council worked to secure federal funding from the CARES Act would be provided to those in the fishing and seafood industries that were heavily impacted during the economic crisis. In addition, work towards dredging and promoting career development efforts in Marine Engineering fields has continued through 2020 throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

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**Membership of the Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council**

<b><i>Organization / Designating Individual</i></b>	<b><i>Designee</i></b>
Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature	Presiding Officer Robert Calarco
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 J. Kehoe, Northport Village Trustee
Discover Long Island (Tourism Industry)	Kristen Jarnigan, President/CEO, Imran Ansari
Association of Marine Industries #1	Eric Kreuter, Vice President
Association of Marine Industries #2	Vincent Pesce, President
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation #1	Kimberly Lamiroult, Environmental 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, SUNY Suffolk Ammerman Campus CEO
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**

<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Education &amp; Workforce Development</b>	<b>Aquaculture &amp; Commercial Fishing</b>
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
<b>Vinny Pesce (AMI)</b>	<b>David Wicks (E.S. BOCES)</b>	<b>Tom Kehoe (Com. Fishing)</b>
Legislator Susan A. Berland	Legislator Susan A. Berland	Legislator Susan A. Berland
Legislator Al Krupski	Eric Kreuter (AMI)	Eric Johansson (LD 2, SUNY Maritime)
Vincent Biondo (SCSA)	Diane LaChapelle (D. of Labor)	Eric Kreuter (AMI)
Kim Lamiroult (NYSDEC)	Irene Rios (SCCC)	Kim Lamiroult (NYSDEC)
Danielle Stango-Torre (NYSDEC)	Debra Montaruli (W.S. BOCES)	Danielle Stango-Torre (NYSDEC)
Chris Pickerell (Cornell)	Eric Johansson (LD 2, SUNY Maritime)	Chris Pickerell (Cornell)
Bill Hillman (Dept. of Public Works)	Craig Horowitz (Dept. of Labor)	August Ruckdeschel (D. of Planning)
Michael Jensen (Dept. of Health)		

<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Offshore Wind &amp; Cabling (TEMP)</b>
Tourism, Jobs, Beaches, Promotion & Marketing, Environmental Planning.	Met to put together a letter on behalf of MIRAC for State / Federal officials re: offshore wind related issues.
<b>Kristen Jarnigan (Tourism)</b>	<b>Eric Johansson (LD 2, SUNY Maritime)</b>
Legislator Susan A. Berland	Tom Kehoe (Com. Fishing)
Legislator Bridget Fleming	Chris Pickerell (Cornell)
Tom Kehoe (Com. Fishing)	Presiding Officer Calarco*
Vinny Pesce (AMI)	
August Ruckdeschel (D. of Planning)	
Irene Rios (SCCC)	

Subcommittees meet in between meetings of the full Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council.

## **Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council Meetings:**

- **All meetings in 2020 were held via Zoom or by Conference Call.**

**April 10, 2020:** (Those present: Susan A. Berland, Tom Kehoe, August Ruckdeschel, Eric Kreuter, Vincent Biondo, Vincent Pesce, Bonnie Brady, Derek Stein, Robert Fonti, Nancy Jacobsen):

- The Advisory Council primarily about the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown on the industry.
  - Vinny Pesce of the Association of Marine Industry raised serious concerns about the business impact of the lockdown on marinas which prevented recreational boaters from getting into the water.
  - He noted marinas lost their primary source of income and that the shorter season will compound the issue as well, since fewer individuals putting their water into a shortened a summer season would mean marinas would lose revenues during their fall winterization.
  - Spoke to the need of marinas and recreational boating to be permitted in the first phase of reopening.
- Bonnie Brady and Tom Kehoe noted commercial fishermen are considered essential workers, and therefore were able to work, but unfortunately were still struggling since with many restaurants closed their primary markets in New York City were closed.
- Vinny Pesce and Tom Kehoe suggested MIRAC put together a letter to State officials including any recommendations from members or marine industry officials on how best to protect the marine industry and in order to ensure its viability as businesses started to open up in the following months.
- Concerns from the Association of Marine Industry were further brought forward to the County Executive's office to discuss further concerns regarding enforcement, what would be permitted to be open and supplying personal protective equipment (PPE). A follow up meeting with the County Executive's staff occurred over the phone on April 29, 2020.
- A letter from all-18 members of the Legislators was put together for Federal officials, including the President, New York State's Senate delegation, Suffolk County's three Congressional representatives, and Federal officials including the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.
  - This letter focused on the need for additional rounds of economic relief packages in order to support the fishing and seafood industry. Ultimately, New York State would be awarded \$6.7 million in federal funding directly to assist New York's marine fishing industry which was made available for application on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- An accompanying letter to State officials was also prepared following the Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council's meeting with County Executive Bellone's COVID-19 Business Recovery Team and sent out to State officials.

- This letter asked for support for reopening of marinas while opening with proper social distancing and sanitizing protocols.
- This letter further requested support for transient boat slips to be opened up in municipal and private marinas to allow boaters easier access to the water.
- Asked to permit marine infrastructure construction in order to ensure reopening of marinas to move forward in a timely fashion. Construction includes repair of docks, pilings and dredging.
- Concerns about permits were also raised. MIRAC requested that a grace-period be extended for marine industries whom traditionally pay upfront fees 30 to 60 days out but may be unable to do so.
- The Legislature asked for support and assistance providing PPE to marine industries.
- The letter finally asked for the facilitation of fishermen to be trained online in Hazard Analysis Critical Point Control (HACCP) procedures, permitting fishermen with a federal dealer's license to process their own fish for consumers when fish are caught offshore. In the wake of this crisis, the \$250 NYS shipper/dealers permit fee should be waived for those who wish to filet and sell fish caught inshore directly to consumers and to expedite creation of State-funded facilities.

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**August 13, 2020:** *(Those present: Robert Calarco, Susan A. Berland, Al Krupski, Chris Pickerell, Kimberly Lamirault, Diane LaChapelle, Michael Jensen, Eric Johansson, Tom Kehoe, August Ruckdeschel, Eric Kreuter, Vincent Biondo, Derek Stein, Robert Fonti, Clay Adam Wade, Lora Gellerstein):*

- Eric Kreuter noted that COVID had a heavy impact on the marine industry at first. Marinas were closed for a month before marinas were allowed to open around April 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a surge of people newly interested in boating since people had to cancel their vacations due to the lockdown.
- Boat sales have been exceptional since reopening.
- Marine Trades Association had worked to stay on top of COVID issues and keep employees he safe. Eric Kreuter stated he was unaware of any employees contracting COVID at that time.
- The industry anticipated another strong year in 2021.
- Tom Kehoe stated East End commercial fishing initially struggled to launch. With restaurants closed a significant portion of their catch was lost.
- Initial conversations were held with the County Executive towards bringing local fish into supermarkets but it is not an easy process. He seconded his thought that a not-for-profit group of commercial fishermen on Long Island would be helpful.
- Chris Pickerell stated shellfish farmers were hit hard at first. Cornell was able to get a PPP loan for their oyster growing efforts.

- Shellfish farmers were looking at a number of proposals, including selling oysters to National Marine Fisheries so that they may be used for preservation due to the lack of a commercial market.
- Chris Pickerell noted he received a call from Jim Gilmore saying there was \$6.7 million in federal relief funds allocated for commercial fishing and aquaculture that would be made available.
- August Ruckdeschel added the Department of Economic Development and Planning is continuing their work on the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program's 10 year review.
- Chris Pickerell noted the Food Policy Council held a meeting with Dr. Stephen Tettelbach (of CCE) regarding the status of Peconic Bay Scallops, which continued to show low populations, Dr. Tettelbach's team thought the die-off was due, in part, to high temperatures and possibly low oxygen levels combined with the presence of a parasite. He noted 50% of the total population was lost.
- Tom Kehoe stated the commercial fishing industry felt it has been ignored by the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management regarding the proposed offshore wind farms off of Montauk and wish to have a seat at the table. Chris Pickerell noted Cornell is in discussions with Orsted to do some research.
- Eric Johansson stated the shipping industry was able to weather the initial pandemic well and offered to share a recent presentation he did with the OSPARS Commission regarding offshore wind projects in New York.
- Eric Kreuter stated the marine workforce is generally in the same position as it was last year, but trainings are largely on hold as colleges look to reopen in different ways. Classes with Western Suffolk BOCES had been set up but they were shut down with COVID and it was unclear how that would move forward. Conversations and programs and collaborations with SCCC, Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Kingsborough Community College were also put on hold.
- David Wicks noted schools are largely in a holding pattern, as they continue to figure out their reopening schedules. He noted students could come in physically one day, but districts would need to coordinate schedules in order to permit it.
  - Eric Johansson added SUNY Maritime is opening on September 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Merchant Marine Academy had already been open for a few weeks and that they uniquely provide a SSCW training enabling students to work in the offshore wind industry.
  - Chris Pickerell was working on creating some basic guides for individuals looking to enter the oyster and shellfish aquaculture program.
- Eric Johansson explained he had information on a cabling issue impacting the offshore wind farm project and that cabling route proposals have significant challenges and could potentially run through sensitive areas.
  - He noted that going through the narrows into New York Harbor may not be feasible, but the best overall option would be to build a new power facility along

the South Shore of Long Island in order to avoid undue damage to the shipping industry.

- Presiding Officer Calarco suggested creating a separate subcommittee on cabling and offshore wind to address these concerns. Tom Kehoe, Eric Johansson and Chris Pickerell agreed to serve on the sub-committee and a motion was made by Tom Kehoe, seconded by Chris Pickerell and was then approved.
- Presiding Officer Calarco asked if there was any further discussion about the SCALP 10-year review. Chris Pickerell replied the Advisory Council should support the program and lease to owners providing to the local economy.
  - Presiding Officer Calarco replied he had been on a call which noted many different concerns are at play for the map.
  - Legislator Krupski noted the 1,000-foot exclusion line was rather arbitrary, but some Towns conduct aquaculture within the 1,000-foot line. He and Assemblyman Fred Thiele both agreed it could be reduced to 500 feet and still maintain navigational safety.
  - August Ruckdeschel stated recommendations will be filed with the legislature for consideration in the fall, but there is one more meeting of the SCALP 10-year review on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**October 8, 2020:** *(Those present: Robert Calarco, Susan A. Berland, Chris Pickerell, Kimberly Lamirault, Diane LaChapelle, Michael Jensen, William Hillman, Eric Johansson, Tom Kehoe, August Ruckdeschel, Eric Kreuter, Vincent Biondo, Derek Stein, Robert Fonti, Christina DeLisi, John Stype, Lora Gellerstein):*

- Chris Pickerell noted the Offshore Wind & Cabling Sub-committee had met and put together an extensive 3-4-page letter on the topic for State and Federal officials, but it was advised to shrink the letter down a little more, so the letter would be sent out next week.
  - The Sub-committee would meet after the meeting briefly.
- Eric Johansson asked if members of the Task Force were familiar with the recent deal between the Town of East Hampton and what it's impact on the residents of Wainscott and Suffolk County was. Derek Stein noted under the deal, \$29 million would go to the Town of East Hampton for environmental protective measures, roadways and any rehabilitation from installation of cables and runs for 25 years, with the Town receiving two upfront payments of \$1.5 million and then \$850,000 (+2% annual) for the remaining years. Presiding Officer Calarco voiced that it may be passed down to residents' rate plan, similar to what happened with the Caithness Power Plant.
- Chris Pickerell added his staff is working on putting a proposal together for a research project regarding cabling, as this may be only the first cabling connection along the South Shore.

- Presiding Officer Calarco noted the SCALP 10-year review was finishing up their work.
  - August Ruckdeschel explained the new proposal included improving the permit process, and expanding the board in order to make it more representative by including representatives of the shellfish aquaculture industry and recreational boating.
  - A SCALP GIS map had been prepared which shows layers for many different subjects, including navigation routes and floating gear.
  - The last CEQ meeting regarding the SCALP 10 Year Review was scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> and after that Legislation will be brought forward to renew the program with these amendments.
  - Presiding Officer Calarco suggested putting together a small subcommittee to create a letter in support of the program and the resolution when it is brought forward to Public Hearing.
- Craig Horowitz stated the Department of Labor has partnerships with Western and Eastern Suffolk BOCES and are adjusting their schedules and looking to have classes for individuals looking to train in marine engine repair. He asked if Eric Kreuter would be open to having trainings done either virtually or in person. Eric Kreuter replied he would be open to that.
- Eric Kreuter noted they currently are hosting their program at Kingsborough Community College even though they are not running in-person trainings out of BOCES. They have 9 apprentices in the program, 5 of whom are from Suffolk County. He felt the more relationships in Suffolk County the better the program will be in the future.
- Irene Rios was attending the meeting as the representative of SCCC and suggested having other staff from the College sit in on these meetings, as Eric Kreuter noted Kingsborough doesn't have an articulation agreement with SCCC. Irene Rios felt SCCC could help fill these opportunities.
  - Presiding Officer Calarco noted SCCC is looking to build out an auto repair center so it may be possible to train students on outboard engines at that facility.
  - Irene Rios noted SCCC was one of the few Community Colleges doing extraordinarily well during the pandemic in terms of enrollment and they are looking to develop an offshore wind program as well.
  - Eric Johansson noted SUNY Maritime already offers bachelorette programs in Marine Tech, including full certification and assisted engineer certification and offered to participate in future meetings with SCCC.
  - Irene Rios said she would look to invite Paul Beaudin and Lou Petrizzo into future MIRAC meetings or as part of the Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, whom would meet a couple weeks later with Eric Johansson, Eric Kreuter and the Department of Labor.
- Vinny Pesce noted the Environmental Sub-committee had met to discuss dredging and thanked the Presiding Officer for his support of a dredging capital project. Presiding

Officer Calarco asked Derek Stein to set up a meeting of the Environmental Subcommittee which would ultimately take place a few weeks later to discuss dredging projects, staffing and the potential for alternative sources of funding beyond capital projects.

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## **Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council**

### **2021 meeting schedule:**

#### **All meetings would be held at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom until further notice:**

Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and  
Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **Draft bi-monthly Sub-Committee meeting windows:**

February 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>,  
April 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>,  
June 23 to June 30<sup>th</sup>,  
August 16, to August 20<sup>th</sup>,  
October 18 to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and  
December 8 to December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 helped establish a pilot program with a Temporary Annual Event Permit for shellfish growers to sell their products at recurring annual events using only one permit. As a pilot project, fees were waived for the first two years of the program. Previously, shellfish providers had to obtain permits on an event-by-event basis, placing a burden on their ability to sell shellfish 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, advocating for the use of East End Town Community Preservation Funds to preserve existing maritime industries (since passed by the state legislature and signed by the Governor), creating internship opportunities at local shellfish hatcheries and businesses, and establishing a new non-profit organization that could help market local fisheries and seafood.

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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 including specifically the recreational fishing industry, infrastructure, waterfront development and revitalization, 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. Due in large part to COVID-19, this sub-committee was unable to meet in 2020.

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## **Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee**

### **Overview:**

The Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee focuses on opportunities to develop 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 met a couple of times over the past year, and discussed establishing an articulation agreement between Suffolk County Community College, SUNY Maritime and Kingsborough Community College. Irene Rios of Suffolk County Community College worked to set up a meeting with SCCC staff to discuss future plans in order to expand the marine technology and engineering program at the school moving forward.

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## **Environmental Sub-Committee**

### **Overview**

The Environmental Sub-Committee's initial focus was on the subject of dredging for the purposes of increased tidal flushing and navigation, where appropriate. The bulk of the effort focused on how to better plan, pay for, permit, and ultimately, facilitate this work. In support of this, the Sub-Committee has tried to identify novel funding source for Suffolk County's dredge program. 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.

## **Offshore Wind & Cabling Sub-Committee**

### **Overview**

This Sub-committee was convened following the August 13, 2020 Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council meeting. Subcommittee was convened to specifically address concerns raised by Eric Johansson regarding the complicated topics surrounding the offshore wind project proposed East of Montauk and which was looking to connect to a LIPA substation through an underwater cable. Subcommittee drafted a letter to the Town of East Hampton, State and Federal officials, to address concerns regarding the underwater cable and other logistical issues impacting the shipping industry that may result from the underwater cables. Letters were sent to the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management, the Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey, The Federal Maritime Commission, the Town of East Hampton, and Governor Andrew Cuomo's office.

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## **Sub-Committee Initiatives and Focuses for 2021.**

### **Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee**

- Continue support and advocacy for local fishermen, baymen and aquaculturalists as they continue to recovery from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Ensure fisheries are able to receive funding from the CARES Act through the Department of Environmental Conservation.
  - Between 2019-to-2023, the United States has appropriated \$235 million towards agricultural trade, promotion and facilitation. New York's 2020 Budget included \$33.2 million in local assistance funding to grow New York's agriculture industry and \$5.8 million of that funding was earmarked specifically for agricultural development programs. There is no real equivalent federal or state spending for the promotion of seafood consumption. A dedicated marketing campaign is needed to highlight New York locally-landed seafood in New York and other regional seafood markets. Support local oyster growers and efforts to expand oyster aquaculture in the bays surrounding Suffolk County through enthusiastic support for programs such as the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program. Shellfish farmers, like land farmers, rely on a variety of growing methods and technologies and the program should be flexible enough to accommodate changing methods of growing shellfish and remediating Peconic Bay water quality.
  - Support fishing industry related projects that wish to acquire funding from the State's Community Preservation Fund, which is newly permitted under State law.
  - COVID-19 exposed dangerous breaks in the sea-to-table commercial fish food chain. Processing facilities do not exist in Suffolk County, and, as restaurant business disappeared at the height of the crisis, commercial fishermen were unable to market direct-to-consumer, nor were they able to provide an affordable processed fish product to local food banks and pantries desperate for local proteins. This intermediate processing gap in the local food supply chain presents an immediate and long-term challenge to the economic viability of our essential commercial fishing industry. Incentives must be created, and locations identified, to support intermediate commercial fish processing.
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### **Economic Development Sub-Committee**

- Promote recovering Long Island waterfront and marine-adjacent businesses, including recreational fishing charters.
  - Restart work on conducting a waterfront study examining existing land-use of waterfronts in Suffolk County's downtown areas. The waterfront study could be conducted through the Suffolk IDA.
  - Promote Long Island fishermen and support recovery efforts through marketing and promotion of their products.
  - Communicate with the State Legislature regarding proposed changes to the Luxury Tax involving the current cap on State luxury tax on boat purchases. Currently the sales tax charged is capped at \$235,000.
  - In addition, the Sub-Committee should meet with the State regarding proposed changes to the Usage Tax applied to yachts and other boats particularly on the East End.
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### **Education & Workforce Development Sub-Committee**

- Develop an articulation agreement between Suffolk County Community College, SUNY Maritime and Kingsborough Community College wherein the schools would be able to develop a wider reaching marine tech program for Suffolk County students.
  - Encourage and support efforts by the Department of Labor regarding marine and boat engineering related training programs as people look to return to the workforce as the COVID-19 pandemic eventually subsides.
  - Develop a certified marine tech program at Suffolk County Community College, perhaps based out of the College's new Vehicle technician building.
  - Continue work with BOCES to promote marine tech and engineering programs as a viable career path at the High School level.
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## **Environmental Sub-Committee**

- Continue work developing comprehensive reforms regarding the funding of dredging in Suffolk County in order to save long term costs and to conduct a larger amount of dredging in-house within the Department of Public Works.
  - Complete the updated dredging report, and present the report's findings to the Advisory Council and the full Legislature.
  - Determine viability of having a dedicated dredge equipment storage site in Peconic Bay, and any potential locations and cost.
  - Work to develop a framework for registering kayaks in Suffolk County as part of a boat safety program. Potentially any fees generated therein could be used to support marine safety related projects and dredging in Suffolk County.
  - Receive a cost estimate for the installation of kayak racks in County Parks, which could be installed boat in parks currently with boat slips as well as Suffolk County's Campgrounds.
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## **Offshore Wind & Cabling Sub-Committee**

- Subcommittee was convened to specifically address concerns raised by Eric Johansson regarding the complicated topics surrounding the offshore wind project proposed East of Montauk and which was looking to connect to a LIPA substation through an underwater cable.
  - Subcommittee drafted a letter to the Town of East Hampton, State and Federal officials, to address concerns regarding the underwater cable and other logistical issues impacting the shipping industry that may result from the underwater cables.
  - Letters were sent to the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management, the Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey, The Federal Maritime Commission, the Town of East Hampton, and Governor Andrew Cuomo's office.
  - Continue to work towards securing funding from offshore wind projects would be allocated to make up for losses in the commercial fishing industry.
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**Suffolk County Department of Public Works:**

**Dredging Projects in 2020-2021:**

1) Center Bay Canal, Islip (Complete, July)	10) Little Creek, Southold (Completed, December)
2) Fresh Pond, Southampton (Complete, August)	11) Tuthill Cove Upland Disposal Area Construction, Brookhaven (Completed, December)
3) Deep Hole Creek, Southold (Complete, August)	12) West Creek, Southold (Began pumping)
4) Halls Creek, Southold (Complete, August)	13) Tuthill Cove, Brookhaven (Began pumping) Capital Program Project, 65,000 CY.
5) Wickham Creek, Southold (Complete, August)	14) Mt. Sinai Harbor, Brookhaven (Began pumping) Capital Program Project 80,000 CY.
6) East Creek, Riverhead (Complete, August)	15) James Creek, Southold (Not yet started)
7) Accabonac Harbor, East Hampton (Complete, October) 21,000 CYs dredged.	16) Hawks Creek, Riverhead (Not yet started)
8) Cold Spring Pond, Southampton (Complete, November-December) 21,600 CYs dredged	17) Coecles Harbor, Shelter Island (Mechanical, not yet started)
9) North Sea Harbor, Southampton (Complete, November-December) 19,700 CYs dredged	19) Bayview/Ketcham Creek Upland Disposal Area Reconstruction, Babylon (Not yet started)

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.