

# LIS Task Force

## Natural Resources and Data Needs

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# Objectives

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- ∞ **Overview of Natural Resources and Data Needs**
  - What does the the law require?
  - What is needed and what is available?
  - What are the Gaps and how will these be satisfied?
- ∞ **Sound-wide, what factors are significant to the siting of infrastructure?**
- ∞ **What are the Project Specific requirements?**



# Outline for Today's Discussion

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- ⌚ What are the basic questions that need to be addressed?
- ⌚ What data is needed?
- ⌚ What data is available and is it suitable?
- ⌚ Are there any gaps in data?
- ⌚ How will the data gaps be satisfied?

# Basic Questions that need to be addressed

- ∞ What are the natural resources of Long Island Sound?
- ∞ What are the important features of the environment that affect the siting of transmission infrastructure within and across Long Island Sound?
- ∞ Irrespective of need, are there locations that cause less environment impact or more impact with respect to the siting of transmission infrastructure?
- ∞ What are the potential cumulative impacts?
- ∞ Does the environmental data support the corridor concept?
- ∞ Other Questions?

# What Data is needed?

∞ Use of Data (What questions will the data be used to answer?)

- Planning, Assessment or Permitting
- Constructability vs. Environmental Impact Assessment
- Project Specific vs. Sound-wide

# What Data is needed?

## ∞ Project specific questions to be answered

- Conflict with other uses of the environment including consistency with CZM Plan
- Effects on environmentally sensitive or protected areas
- Timing of Construction/Construction Methods
- Conflict with other infrastructure
- Mitigation (Restoration/Compensation)
- Monitoring (Permit compliance)

# What Data is needed?

## ∞ Geographic Coverage (What is the extent of the study area?)

- Connecticut
  - Coastlands
  - Estuaries
  - Nearshore Coastal Waters
  - Interstate Waters
- New York



# What Data is needed?

## ∞ Subject Matter Coverage (What are the features of interest?)

- Natural Resources
- Built Environment
- Economic Resources
- Utility Infrastructure
- Jurisdiction

# What Data is needed?

(Specific Features required by PA 02-95)

- ∞ coastal resources defined by section 22a-93 of the Connecticut Statutes, including coastal bluffs and escarpments, rocky shorefronts, beaches and dunes, migratory stopover areas, intertidal flats, tidal wetlands, freshwater wetlands and watercourses, estuarine embayments, coastal hazard areas, developed shorefront, islands, nearshore waters, offshore waters, shorelands, significant wildlife habitat, and shellfish concentration areas
- ∞ unusual and important submerged aquatic vegetation
- ∞ historically productive fishing grounds and fish habitat
- ∞ location, breeding and nesting areas for rare and endangered species
- ∞ points of public access and use.

# What Data is available?

- ∩ **CT Department of Environmental Protection**
- ∩ **CT Department of Agriculture**
- ∩ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)**
- ∩ **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
- ∩ **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- ∩ **Long Island Sound Study**
- ∩ **University of Connecticut (MAGIC)**
- ∩ **United States Geological Survey (USGS)**
- ∩ **Connecticut Siting Council**
- ∩ **Utilities**

# Is Data Available Suitable?

## ∞ Format

- Electronic (GIS) vs. Paper

## ∞ Data Quality (Is the data appropriate for the intended us?)

- Timeliness
- Scale (Spatial Resolution and Extent)
- Accuracy



# Going Forward

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- ∩ What are the gaps in the data?
- ∩ How will the data gaps be addressed?
  - Responsibility
  - Time Frame and Level of Effort
- ∩ Other Issues and Concerns



# Data Gaps

## ∞ Biological Resources

- **Near Shore Data (<10 meters)**
- **Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species**
- **Fisheries (Historically Productive Fishing Grounds, Fish Habitat)**
- **Shellfisheries/Aquaculture (Location of Leased Land, Lobster)**
- **Unusual and Important Submerged Aquatic Vegetation**
- **Colonial Waterbirds**
- **Other (Kelp, Sponge, Coldwater Coral)**
- **Other?**



# Data Gaps

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## Ω Built Environment

- **Public Use/Public Access** (other than State & Federal)
- **Other?**



# Project Specific Data

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## ∞ Environmental Resources

- **Coastal Habitat** (wetlands, waterfowl nesting, shellfish)
- **Marine Benthic Community**
- **Essential Fish Habitat**
- **Sediments**
- **Commercial Fisheries/Shellfisheries**



# Going Forward (Recap)

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- ∩ What are the gaps in the data?
- ∩ How will the data gaps be addressed?
  - Responsibility
  - Time Frame
- ∩ Other Issues and Concerns