

A Reserve for Connecticut.... Benefits the Nation

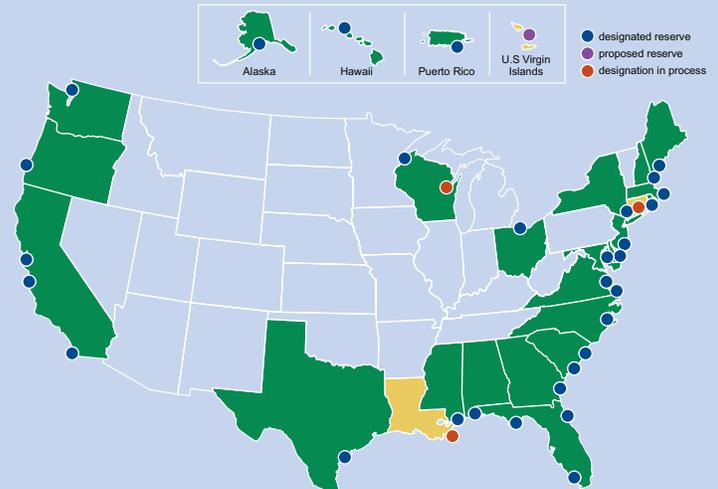
A Connecticut Reserve will make Congressional investment in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System more powerful, while serving the needs of Connecticut communities. As our 30th designated Reserve, the Connecticut site will enhance our System's ability to deliver essential science, education, and technical assistance to support coastal industries—including fisheries, seafood, and eco-tourism—and help protect people and infrastructure from sea level rise and flooding. It will provide education and training for a new generation of coastal professionals, add to our net conservation of estuary habitats, and contribute to our understanding of how best to protect and manage water quality. There are three additional sites that are in the designation process or have been proposed.

A Connecticut Reserve will...

- Support the management of **fisheries and other coastal resources** through estuarine research and monitoring in a variety of near and offshore underwater habitats with access to extensive bathymetry and benthic mapping data.
- Enhance our capacity to **manage the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge** on people, habitats, and infrastructure—in particular marsh migration and the benefits of natural shorelines in cold climates.
- Deepen our knowledge of how estuary habitats and species have changed in response to centuries of development so **communities are better prepared to adapt** to the changes to come.
- Increase national understanding of the **connection between oysters, eelgrass, and water quality**.
- Contribute to, and share, regional management strategies for a **healthy and productive Long Island Sound** and the regional economy it supports.
- Provide a unique **understanding of big river systems** and their influence on Long Island Sound. The Connecticut River is the only major river in the Northeast without a major port at its mouth, and the Thames River is a commercially driven working waterfront.
- Provide access to critical habitats for **hundreds of species of migratory birds and commercial and recreational fish**, including smallmouth and largemouth bass and the endangered Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon.
- Build on **strong partnerships** with Connecticut Sea Grant, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the University of Connecticut, and ongoing grant-funded work.



NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM



- ACE Basin (SC)
- Apalachicola (FL)
- Chesapeake Bay (MD)
- Chesapeake Bay (VA)
- **Connecticut, in process**
- Delaware
- Elkhorn Slough (CA)
- Grand Bay (MS)
- Great Bay (NH)
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas (FL)
- He'eia (HI)
- Hudson River (NY)
- Jacques Cousteau (NJ)
- Jobos Bay (PR)
- Kachemak Bay (AK)
- **Lake Michigan (WI), in process**
- **Louisiana, in process**
- Mission-Aransas (TX)
- Narragansett Bay (RI)
- North Carolina
- North Inlet-Winyah Bay (SC)
- Lake Superior (WI)
- Old Woman Creek (OH)
- Padilla Bay (WA)
- Rookery Bay (FL)
- San Francisco Bay (CA)
- Sapelo Island (GA)
- South Slough (OR)
- Tijuana River (CA)
- **US Virgin Islands, proposed**
- Waquoit Bay (MA)
- Weeks Bay (AL)
- Wells (ME)



MORE INFORMATION

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