Save the Sound®
A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

142 Temple Street, Suite 305
New Haven, CT 06510

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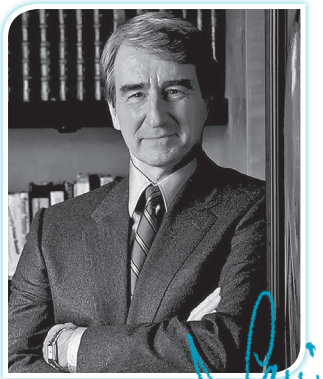
Will you choose to save Long Island Sound with me?



Sam Waterston

Making Long Island Sound safe for people and healthy for wildlife.

www.savethesound.org

Enclosed:

Save the Sound®

A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Dear Friend,

Will you choose a clean and healthy Sound that's better than it is today?

Or will you settle for water we're afraid to swim in?

I think – I hope – that you will choose to stand with Sam Waterston and me to protect and restore Long Island Sound.

If I'm right, please take one simple step right now. Please support Save the Sound with your gift of $35, $50, $100 or more.

The Sound gives us so much. From its wild, open waters and sandy shores, to its intimate small town harbors and bustling urban waterfronts, the Sound defines the character of the region we share.

But unless you choose wisely, you have a lot to lose, too.

Imagine summer without safe beaches for family swims.

Imagine not having abundant fresh local seafood.

Imagine paddling a kayak through lifeless, polluted waters.

Those are not idle threats. The Sound really needs your help right now. Frankly we're on a knife's edge, teetering between improvement and decline.

Nearly one in ten Americans lives within an hour's drive of Long Island Sound. Those folks, including you and me, add a lot of pollution to the Sound every day.

And the strain is showing.

(continued)

Thousands of acres of Long Island Sound are suffocating. Pollution from sewage treatment plants and contaminated runoff has created a low-oxygen "dead zone," a huge area of the Sound where fish and other creatures can't live.

Our once-pristine beaches, fishing grounds and shellfish beds are being shut down because of raw sewage and dangerous coliform bacteria.

In fact, annual beach closings on the Sound have more than doubled in the past decade compared to the previous ten years.

1,321

...days of beach closings on Long Island Sound caused by sewage pollution in just one year. (Connecticut and New York State)

And the majority of those closings are at New York beaches. That's where the worst pollution occurs. After years of advocacy and legal action by Save the Sound, Connecticut finally met its pollution reduction goals.

Now, New York needs to clean up its sewage treatment act. Pollution doesn't observe state lines. No matter where you live, pollution from leaky New York treatment plants put your safety and enjoyment of Long Island Sound at risk.

And that's where you come in. **I urgently need your help to turn the tide in 2014**. With your help we can build our presence in the western Sound to focus on beaches and critical sources of pollution in Westchester, Nassau and New York City.

Here are some of the other dramatic gains for the Sound we can win together:

- ✔ **End sewage contamination of the beaches where you swim** by insisting that all treatment plants meet legal standards.
- ✔ **Preserve and expand your freedom to enjoy the Sound** by defending our public waters and coastal lands from privatization and development.
- ✔ **Restore healthy fish stocks and local food from the Sound** by restoring chronic dead zones and rebuilding coastal ecosystems.

$9 MILLION

...annual dollar value of regional jobs and business activity generated by Long Island Sound.

- ✔ **Reduce local flooding and polluted runoff** with simple changes in the ways we handle rainwater from roads and roofs and innovative new technology.

You deserve a Long Island Sound that's safe to swim in and healthy for wildlife. As a Save the Sound member, you help make that happen.

We've already done so much because people like you joined Save the Sound.

Member support gave us the strength and staying power to win critical battles to protect and restore the Sound over the last 10 years.

- ✔ **We made sure Connecticut kept its Clean Water promise.** Our coalition of Save the Sound members, town officials, business executives and union members won billions in job-creating investments to treat wastewater over the past 25 years. Connecticut met its target ahead of schedule.

- ✔ **We beat back plans to damage the Sound for profit**. It took us five years to defeat Shell and TransCanada over their Broadwater project. We battled for ten years before saving a rare 1,000-acre coastal forest from developers. Only support from folks like you made these victories possible.

- ✔ **We repaired damage to the Sound's natural habitats.** We've restored tidal flows to hundreds of acres of coastal salt marsh. We've reopened ancient breeding waters to declining species of fish like blueback herring and alewives. Together, we can restore the Sound's natural ability to defend itself from pollution and support abundant wildlife.

We've even cleaned up your favorite beaches with our annual Coastal Cleanups! But only member support makes this progress possible.

(over)

Now, you have a choice. Just by joining Save the Sound today, you can take a quick and simple step to help create a healthy, clean Long Island Sound for ourselves and for future generations.

16,000

...total pounds of trash and debris removed from 55 miles of coastal lands and waters by 2,500 Save the Sound volunteers in the last year.

That's the vision of Long Island Sound's future that Sam Waterston and I hope you'll choose today.

Or, you can leave the Sound's future to chance. Leave it for others to decide.

You really could lose Long Island Sound.

But only if you choose to. You have a better choice. Save the Sound. Please join Save the Sound today.

Thank you,

Donald S. Strait
President

P.S. Other people made choices that saved Long Island Sound for you and me today. Now it's our turn. Without a living Sound, our future is diminished, too. **Please join Save the Sound today!**

P.P.S. Please read the enclose note from actor Sam Waterston. Then stand with Sam and me by becoming a Save the Sound member today. Choose the future you really want for Long Island Sound!

Join our Green Team Monthly Giving Society

Spread your first member gift over a year! It's more affordable for you and even more cost-effective for us. Visit our Green Team web page:
http://ctenvironment.org/get-involved/monthly-giving.cfm

FROM THE DESK OF
SAM WATERSTON

Dear Friend,

I've chosen the future I want for Long Island Sound. Now, I'm asking you to make the right choice by becoming a member of Save the Sound today.

This is a fight for nature you can win. Together, you and I can make all of Long Island Sound safe for people and healthy for wildlife. Here's why I'm hopeful.

Many crucial battles for the Sound have already been won. We've fended off destructive development. We've made progress on pollution. And we've begun to repair and restore the Sound's rich breeding grounds for oysters and other fish. But we need to keep moving ahead.

The Sound is wonderfully resilient. If we don't push it too far, if we give it a chance to revive, sea life will return in abundance. And the Sound will repay us with delicious, healthy oysters, bluefish, flounder, bass and shad.

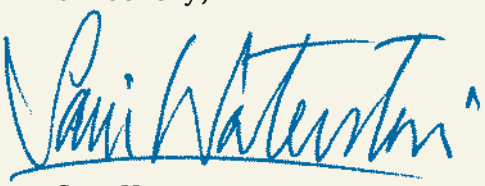
And most of all, people like you and me won't settle for less. And when enough people demand a better future, the Sound gets cleaner.

I think you want a better future. I think you, like me, want a clean and healthy Sound as a legacy for your children and grandchildren.

If I'm right, then it's just a question of what you can do about it. You are holding the easiest and quickest way to choose a healthy Long Island Sound in your hands at this very moment. Just respond to this letter.

I'll be very proud to have you standing with me as a new Save the Sound member.

Sincerely,



Sam Waterston

P.S. A clean and healthy Long Island Sound is a great future to choose. Save the Sound membership is a great way to help make it come true. Please stand with me today!

About Save the Sound

Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, is dedicated to making Long Island Sound safe for people and healthy for wildlife through advocacy, education and research.

Save the Sound helps people spot local pollution sources and demand action. We bring thousands of people out to clean up beaches. We build fish ladders and restore coastal habitat. We fight to protect public access and enjoyment of undisturbed coastal lands. And we successfully defend Long Island Sound by confronting polluters and those who would harm the Sound for private gain.

Our dedication to Long Island Sound began in 1972, when citizens created the Long Island Sound Taskforce. In 2004, we officially became a part of Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

Get on board. We rely on the generous support of people like you. We hope you'll join us.

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www.savethesound.org

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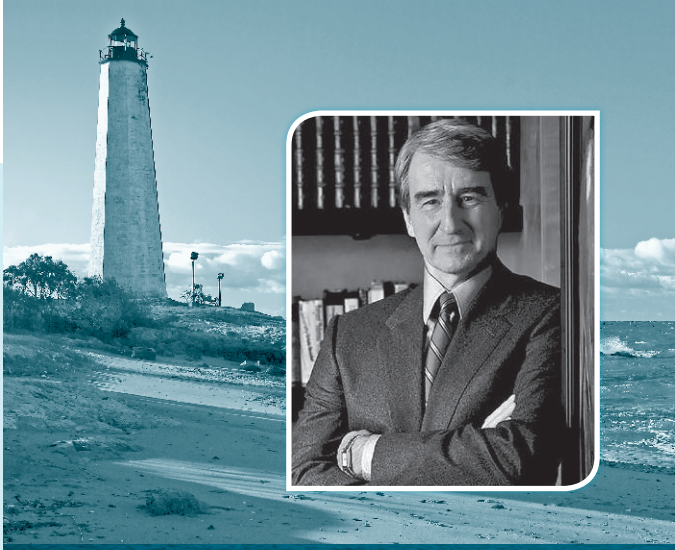


Sam Waterston's Ten no-cost ways TO SAVE (AND ENJOY!) Long Island Sound

The biggest threats to Long Island Sound are the normal things eight million people in the Sound watershed do every day at home and work and play. It may take a little practice to adopt these small changes, but each one can make a big difference!

1. Pick up after your dog and wash your car on the grass to keep pollution out of storm drains and, ultimately, Long Island Sound.

2. Grow a healthy Sound: use only organic fertilizers and pesticides on your lawn and garden.

3. Get outdoors and meet people who share your love of the Sound by volunteering for a local beach cleanup.

4. Safely get rid of old florescent bulbs, electronics, thermostats and lead-acid batteries by following local disposal and recycling guidelines.

5. Build a rain garden to capture water from your house and yard and keep it out of storm drains. *(Check out Save the Sound's home garden website www.reducerunoff.org for guidelines and plans!)*

6. Use your state auto registration to save the Sound. New Yorkers can buy a Marine and Coastal District plate. Connecticut offers a Preserve the Sound plate. Proceeds from both support coastal restoration.

7. Advocate for a clean and healthy Sound by letting local and state officials know how much you care. Every single e-mail, phone call or personal conversation helps move our government in the right direction!

8. Set an example while enjoying beaches and coastal marshes: pick up litter, keep your dog on a leash and leave wildlife undisturbed.

9. Make a direct impact on the health of Long Island Sound by volunteering in a local habitat restoration or fish passage construction project.

10. Protect the Sound by defending your hometown's environment. Get involved with your local land trust, watershed association or conservation commission.

Choose a healthy, sustainable Long Island Sound!

Join Save the Sound today!

[key code]
[name]
[address 1]
[address 2]
[city], [state] [zip]

☑ I'm choosing a better future for the Sound and generations to come.

I enclose my tax-deductible gift of: ☐ **$25** ☐ **$35** ☐ **$50** ☐ **$100** ☐ **$500** ☐ **other $**_____

NEW!

☐ **I'd like to join Save the Sound's new Green Team Monthly Giving Society.** ***(Please see reverse.)***

[key code]
[name]
[address 1]
[address 2]
[city], [state] [zip]

Please make checks payable to Save the Sound and include with this form in the envelope provided. Read more about our work at our web site: www.savethesound.org. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Federal 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

☐ My check is enclosed made payable to **Save the Sound.**
☐ I would like to charge my contribution:
☐ *Mastercard* ☐ *VISA* ☐ *Discover* ☐ *AmEx*

_____ – _____ – _____ – _____

Expiration Date (00/00): _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Please help us save paper by giving us your email address:

_____

(This is for internal use only. Save the Sound will never sell, exchange, or lend your e-mail address to any outside parties.)

Your Save the Sound Membership Benefits

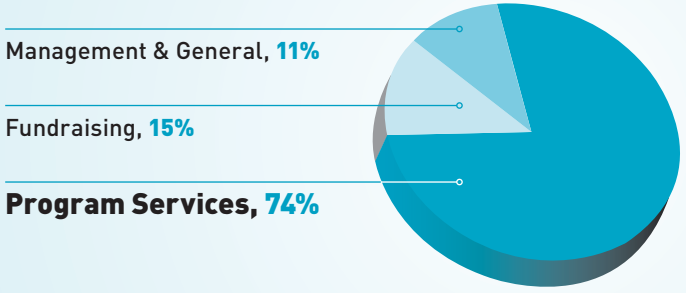
When you join with Save the Sound to protect and restore Long Island Sound, you'll receive important member updates, including *SoundBites*, our member newsletter.

With your email address, you can also join our online community of Save the Sound activists. When big issues break, you'll receive everything you need to easily educate and alert your elected officials to upcoming legislation via email, Facebook, Twitter and other social media. More than 4,000 Save the Sound activists make a call or send a message to an elected official or join a beach cleanup every year.

You'll get timely updates on beach closings and other events affecting the Sound via our blog Green Cities Blue Waters — *greencitiesbluewaters.wordpress.com/* and you'll find great tips for environmentally beneficial gardens and homes at *www.reducerunoff.org*.

Accountability and Transparency

Connecticut Fund for the Environment holds itself accountable to its members and the public. For more information, download our Annual Report at **www.ctenvironment.org/annual-reports.cfm**.



☑ YES, I want to join Save the Sound's new Green Team Monthly Giving Society. Please charge my credit card a recurring monthly gift of: *(Minimum monthly gift: $5)*

☐ $5 a month ☐ $10 a month ☐ $15 a month ☐ $25 a month ☐ Other $_____ per month

I would like my monthly gift to be charged to my:

☐ *Mastercard* ☐ *VISA* ☐ *Discover* ☐ *AmEx*

_____ – _____ – _____ – _____

Expiration Date (00/00): _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____

A record of my monthly gift will appear on my credit card statement. I can increase, decrease, or suspend my giving by calling Save the Sound at (203) 787-0646. I understand that my first gift will be transferred in about four weeks. All gifts comply with U.S. law.

☐ Please send email updates to

_____ @ _____

(This is for internal use only. Save the Sound will never sell, exchange, or lend your e-mail address to any outside parties.)

Thank you for your generosity. All contributions are tax deductible.

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Count me in!

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Save the Sound
142 Temple Street
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