



Save the Sound[®]
Action for our region's environment.

2025 New York State Legislative Forum



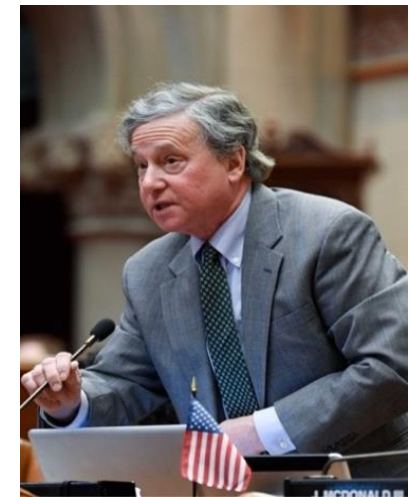
Today's Presenters



Senator Shelley Mayer



Assemblyman Tommy John Schiavoni



Assemblyman Steve Otis



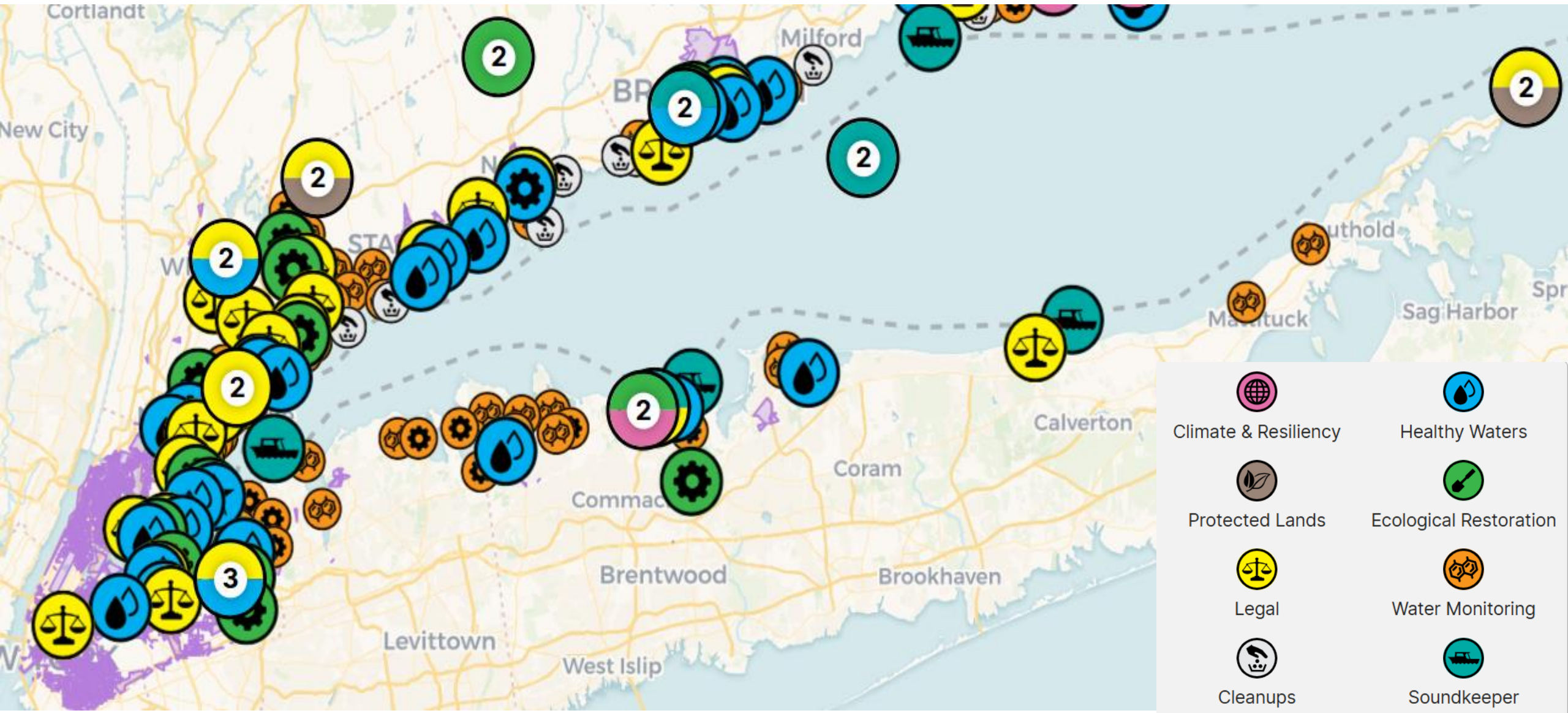
**David Ansel, Vice President of the
Center for Water Protection**



**Allison Rugila,
Associate Soundkeeper**



**Ella McGrail, New York
Policy Coordinator**



LONG ISLAND SOUND REPORT CARD

2024

BASED ON 2023 DATA

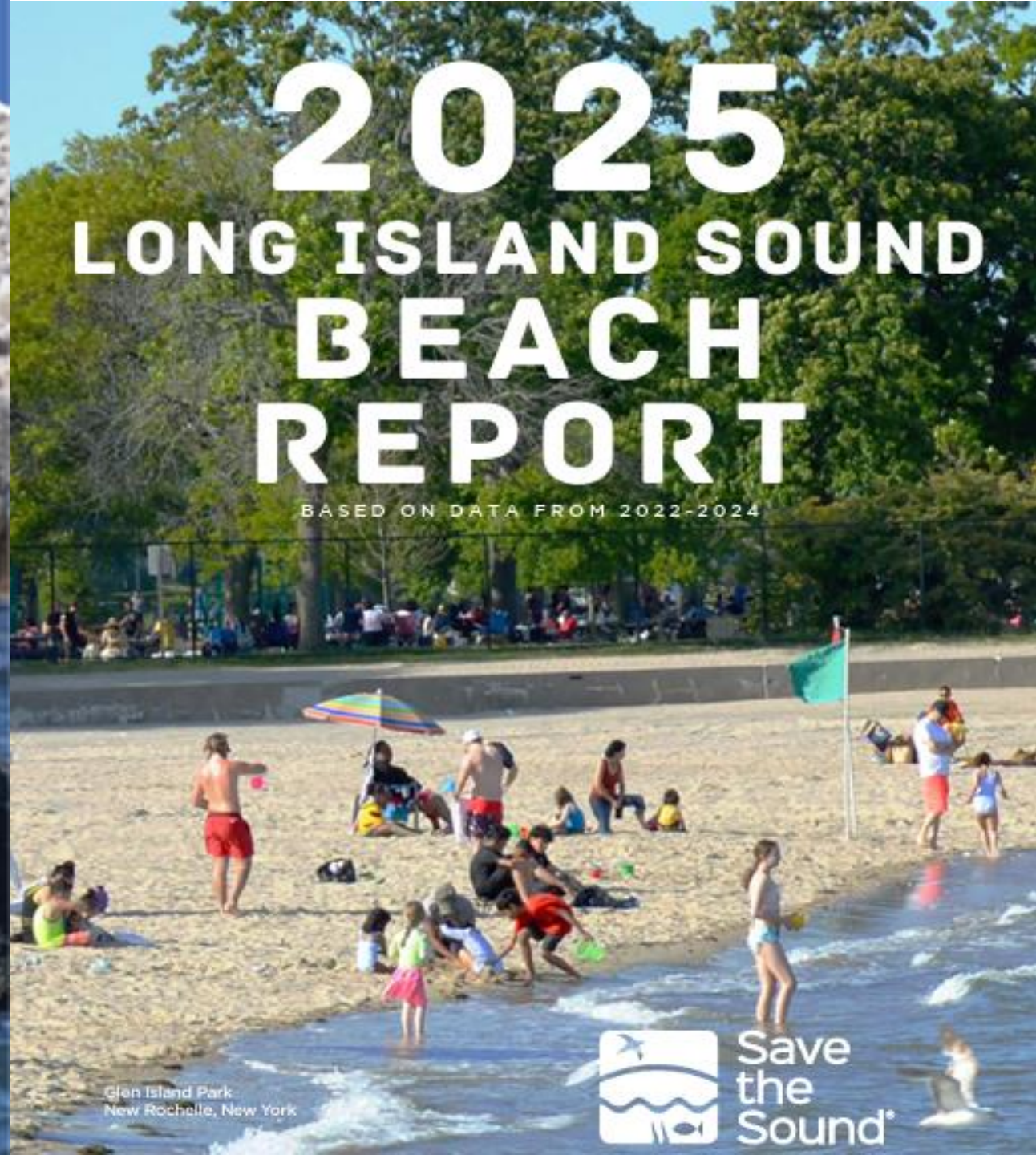


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Harbor seals near Plum Island, New York
(Credit: Dr. Arlie Kohnman for CIMS II)

2025 LONG ISLAND SOUND BEACH REPORT

BASED ON DATA FROM 2022-2024

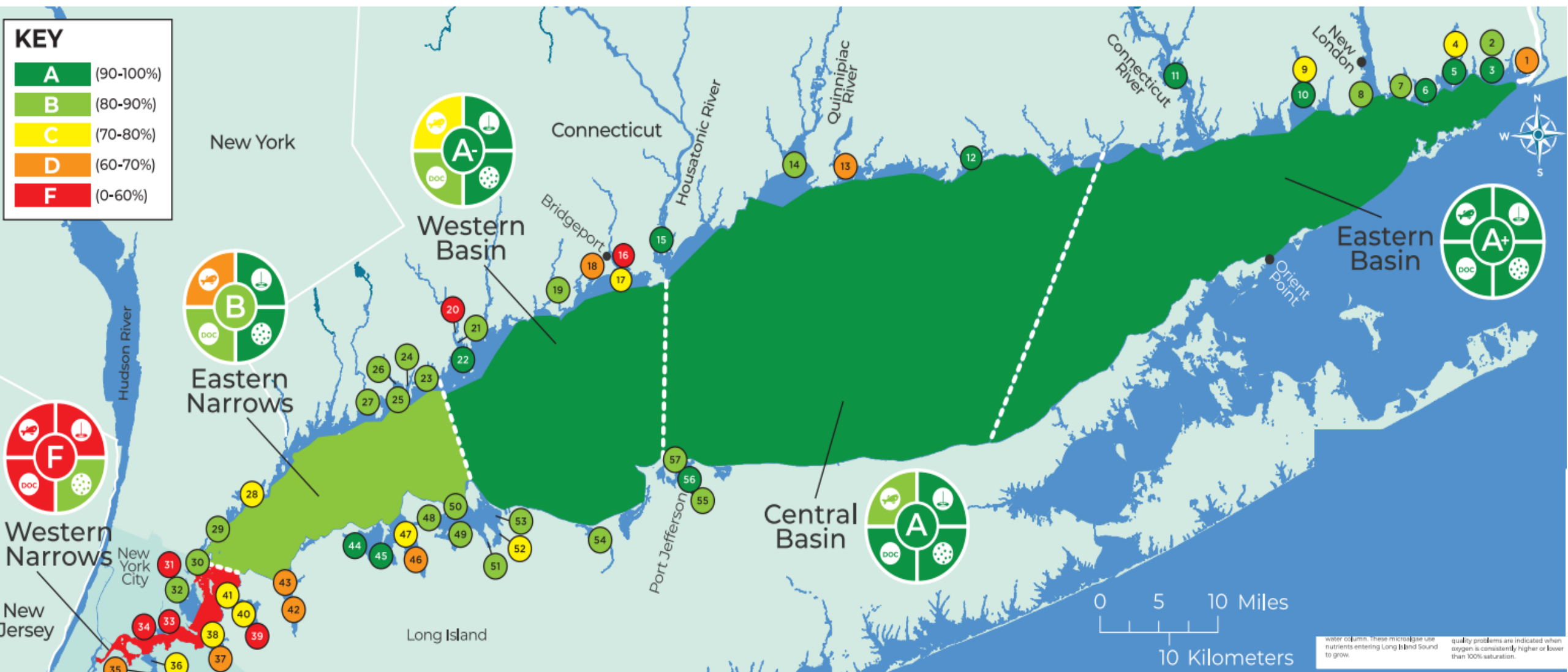


Glen Island Park
New Rochelle, New York



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Data to Understanding to Action





Unified Water Study: Season 9



Pathogen Indicator Bacteria

INDICATORS

- ✿ Enterococcus
- ✿ E. coli / Total coliforms
- ✿ Fecal coliforms

- Indicator of the presence of **fecal material and pathogens** from warm-blooded animals
- CAUSES: inadequately treated **sewage**, **runoff**, and **waste** from pets/farm animals/wildlife

2025 Highlights

- ✿ 745 samples collected & analyzed
- ✿ 12 weeks of regular monitoring
- ✿ 16 volunteers
- 66 sites





Allison Rugila, Ph.D.
Associate Soundkeeper
From the Chesapeake to the Sound



Long Island Soundkeeper(s): then and now



Terry Backer

Soundkeeper (1987 – 2015)
CT Rep. (1992 – 2015)



Bill Lucey

Soundkeeper
(2017 – present)



Allison Rugila

Assoc. Soundkeeper
(April 2025 – present)



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Science Informing Policy





Challenges & Solutions in the Sound



State Environmental Funding in LIS Region



From 2022 to 2024:

- \$208,000,000
- 76 projects
- CWIA, EPF and Environmental Bond Act



2024: \$462,500 for stormwater and erosion management at Stony Brook Harbor



2023: \$1,130,000 for stormwater infrastructure upgrades in New Rochelle



2023: \$15,000,000 for combined sewer overflow upgrades in the Bronx



2022: \$749,976 for pollution filtration & shoreline stabilization in Udalls Cove, Queens



2025 Legislative Recap



Budget

- \$425 Million for the Environmental Protection Fund

Signed By the Governor

- Reimbursements for Enhanced Septic Systems (S8241A Harckham/A8807 Kassay)

Passed Both Houses

- Horseshoe Crab Protection Act (S4289 Hoylman-Sigal/A4997 Glick)
- Banning PFAS from Menstrual Products (S1548 Fernandez/A1502 Rosenthal)
- Repealing the 100-Foot Rule (S8417 Krueger/A8888 Simon)
- Westchester Sewer System Consolidation (S7927A Mayer/A1004B Paulin)



NYS Budget FY2027

- Clean Water Infrastructure Act
 - **\$500 million**
- Environmental Protection Fund
 - **\$425 million** & no offloads
- Interstate Environmental Commission
 - **\$96,323**
- State Parks Capital Funding
 - **\$200 million**
- DEC, DOH, & EFC Funding
 - **Maintain existing staff levels**



New York Legislative Priorities 2026

- **PFAS in Household Products**
(S187A TBD/A7738 Glick)
- **PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act**(S4574B May/A5832B Kelles)
- **Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Act**
(S1464 Harckham/A1749 Glick)
- **Bigger Better Bottle Bill** (S5684May/A6543 Glick)
- **Rain Ready New York Act** (S4071 May/A7467 Rozic)

David Ansel

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