

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON THE RESOURCE  
AND USE INVENTORY DEVELOPED FOR THE LONG ISLAND  
SOUND BLUE PLAN

HELD AT:

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MARINE HEADQUARTERS

CONFERENCE ROOM BUILDING 3

333 FERRY ROAD

OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT

MAY 8, 2018

**BETSEY WINGFIELD:** Good evening, if we could have people get seated we'll get started.

We have lots of space down front if people want to move forward.

So I wanted to welcome you here this evening. My name is Betsey Wingfield, I'm the Bureau Chief of the Water Protection and Land Reuse Bureau at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

And it's a pleasure to be down here on the coast at our marine headquarters on what's a beautiful evening.

So we are recording today's public hearing so there are some formalities, so if you'll bear with me as I work through them I would appreciate that.

So all of you know that today is Tuesday May 8, 2018. It's now 6:35 (pm), so and we're in Marine Headquarters Conference Room Building

3, and the purpose of tonight's meeting is to accept comments on the Resource and Use Inventory developed for the Long Island Sound Blue Plan.

So by way of background, and you're going to get a little bit more of this in a minute, in 2015 the Connecticut legislature passed Public Act 15-(6)6, which outlined a marine spatial planning process for Long Island Sound. There are two outputs of that planning process. One is a comprehensive Resource and Use Inventory that characterizes the Sound's human uses and natural resources. The Inventory is based on the best available data and information, including stakeholder input, and serves as the foundation of the Blue Plan. And that's what we're here to talk about tonight.

The second, the Blue Plan itself, will be a marine spatial plan based on the Inventory to help guide future uses of the Sound's waters and submerged lands.

The Blue Plan will identify locations, performance standards, and siting measures for proposed activities, uses, and facilities in the Sound. The Blue Plan will not create new regulations. Rather, it will be included as part of the state's decision-making process within existing regulatory structures.

When completed, the Plan's policies will protect both ecosystems and existing human uses all while allowing for new sustainable and compatible uses.

So the process for developing the Blue Plan is being overseen by the Blue Plan Advisory Committee which includes delegates from water-dependent uses, universities, NGOs, local governments, and more. It is overseen by Commissioner Klee, who sends his regards. The Connecticut DEEP, Connecticut Sea Grant, and The Nature Conservancy are the leads in primary Inventory and Blue Plan development.

So the Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Those meetings are open to the public and we encourage people to come. There are six subcommittees and work teams that conduct work on a regular basis. There are no special funds to actually carry out this planning process. It's all being done through existing resources, in-kind support, and grants.

For further information I would send you to the Blue Plan website ([www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan)) and the Frequently Asked Questions for updated developments, background, and links to related material.

By statute, a draft plan is due by March of 2019, so a little less than a year from now. The statute also provides for at least three formal public hearings; tonight is the first one of those public hearings.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to accept comments on the accuracy, relevance, and representativeness of the data contained in the Resource and Use Inventory developed for the Long Island Sound Blue Plan. There will be other opportunities to comment on Blue Plan findings and policies as the process unfolds.

I'd like to take an opportunity to introduce the DEEP staff who are here and the Advisory Plan [Committee] members who are here:

- So first to my right is Mary-beth Hart who is going to be our timekeeper and is helping me run the hearing;
- Brian Thompson who's the Director of the Land and Water Resources Division at DEEP is here;
- David Blatt; and
- has Emily Hall...

MARY-BETH HART: She's not here yet but she's on her way.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: And Emily Hall who is not here as of yet.

And then I'd like to mention some other Advisory Committee members:

- Sylvain De Guise who you will be hearing from shortly, he's the Director of Connecticut Sea Grant and on the Advisory Committee;
- Nathan Frohling who is with The Nature Conservancy, the Director of Connecticut Coastal and Marine Initiatives for The Nature Conservancy and an Advisory Committee member; and
- Christine Nelson who is the Town of Old Saybrook town planner is here, a coastal representative appointed by Governor Malloy on the Advisory Committee;
- David Carey who is with the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture, shellfish industry, commercial or recreational aquaculture representative appointed by Governor Malloy; and
- Bruce Beebe with Beebe Dock and Mooring Systems of Madison, appointed by State Senator Minority Leader Len Fasano.

Have I missed any Advisory Committee members who are here? We certainly appreciate their ongoing support and the fact that they're here tonight to hear the comments that come in.

So there are sign-up sheets on the back table and those are the sign-up sheets to speak when we get to that portion of the public hearing. We already have (six) six people signed up but you're welcome to put your name on the list in the back and we will call people up according to those lists.

So the logistics of the hearing, how we're going to proceed from here, is Dr. (De) Guise is going to give us a brief overview of the Blue Plan Inventory process, which will be followed by public comment. I anticipate that Sylvain's presentation will take about 15 minutes.

And we will not be answering questions on the record tonight. Staff are certainly here and I'm sure any of the Advisory Committee members would be glad to speak to you and answer any questions. But the purpose of tonight specifically is to receive comments about the

accuracy, relevance, and representativeness of the data contained in the Resource and Use Inventory developed for the Blue Plan.

So with that I'd like to introduce Dr. De Guise.

**SYLVAIN DE GUISE:** Good. Thank you Betsey. Good evening everyone. Can you hear me OK, in the back? OK.

My name is Sylvain De Guise, I am Director for Connecticut Sea Grant, I'm a Governor's appointee on the Blue Plan Advisory Committee, and by statute I'm Chair of the Inventory and Science Subcommittee.

[Slide 1] I wanted to provide a brief overview of what the Blue Plan is, what the process is, and what the Inventory is, what the process is for the Inventory, and present to you a little bit the content of the Inventory so you can have a little bit of context for your comments.

[Slide 2] The purpose of the Blue Plan is, like Betsey said, to protect traditional uses, minimize conflicts, and maximize compatibility now and in the future. So it is meant to consider uses that exist, that we're comfortable with, that we want to continue to have. And it's meant to also be forward-looking and develop a plan for potential future uses.

It includes preserving Long Island Sound's ecosystem and resources and facilitate a transparent science-based decision-making process, so that information is based on all the knowledge that's available as opposed to what people have access to at that point in time.

[Slide 3] How it works? Like Betsey introduced, there's two big steps to the Blue Plan process. The first one is to put our hands on all of the information that exists on Long Island Sound related to natural resources and human uses, and put that in one place. And that one place is the Inventory. And there's a 200, 300-plus page document that I'll leave it in the back that is what is accessible to you right now and for you to comment on tonight.

And then based on that information, we will further distill that information to try to understand what are critical places for human uses and for natural resources, and then draft policy that takes into account those uses and natural resources, and that's gonna be the Blue Plan.

[Slide 4] So again, the Blue Plan is what we are here to talk about tonight, um, I apologize, the Inventory.

[Slide 5] And what is in the Inventory? Well, the Inventory is, by statute, the best available information and data regarding natural resources within Long Island Sound and the uses of Long Island Sound. And that gathering of information is to be done at no cost to the state, so within existing resources. We've been lucky enough to write a few grants and gather a little bit of money to support some staff time, but most of us involved in the Blue Plan do that on a voluntary basis because we believe it's a good thing to do.

The Inventory is meant to be objective, and it's meant to present information that is expert- and stakeholder-reviewed and endorsed. It's not information that is gathered willy-nilly and presented in an unorganized fashion. It has all been reviewed and you will see that in a moment.

It is meant to be mostly maps. It is geospatial data-focused, along with narratives and context so that you can read a chapter on aquaculture if you're not familiar with it and understand what aquaculture looks like in Long Island Sound.

And it is meant to be in support of the Blue Plan so that the Blue Plan is built on the best available information that exists.

[Slide 6] It's also important to consider what the Inventory is not. The Inventory is not meant to be interpretations, opinions, or judgments on some areas versus others or some uses versus others. So you should not be reading in the Inventory that fishing is good or fishing is bad, but

what you should be reading in the Inventory is fishing exists, within context, and this is where it happens.

It's not a plan, it is not forward looking, it is the best information we have right now. It is not new regulation, and for that matter it is not meant to be a legal document. But it mostly refers to where the information lives.

And it certainly is not perfect. It's been a huge endeavor to spend a lot of time to gather information where it's obvious and where it's not so obvious, put it in front of people, and it's very humbling to be told that we missed really important stuff, or that there's access to data that we had not uncovered yet, or there's information that's really important that's missing that we don't have. So it is definitely not perfect. It is continuing to be improved upon, though.

[Slide 7] Just, some of us are more visual than others, this is a schematic representation that represents, in the first part, the data gathering. So we gathered data, we made sure that it was sound data, that it had sufficient backing, was sufficiently up-to-date to be worth incorporating in the Inventory, and that we could derive map products from that information. And when it was not sufficient we closed the loop, went back to start, and we looked harder for information.

[Slide 8] And then the second part, which was probably the most important part where we spent a lot of time and effort, is to put that information in front of people and say, "Does that look...what we found from websites and from different locations, from geospatial information that we could put our hands on, does that look like what you know of Long Island Sound?" And that was really, really important for us to make sure that we had data that was recognized as accurate, representative, and that could be trusted.

[Slide 9] The goals of the Inventory was to review map products for accuracy (does that look like what it should look like, is it up-to-date, are

the right things in the right place?); is it representative (does that look like what you know of Long Island Sound, you users who are familiar with any given sector, or who are familiar with some natural resources or some characteristics thereof?); is it relevant (is it something that you're comfortable putting in front of your peers and say, "This is what we will build a policy piece upon"?). So those three characteristics were the backbone of why and how we engaged people to make sure that the data that we gathered met those criteria.

We also worked pretty hard to identify data gaps. We certainly do not have our hands on everything that ever existed. And we asked for that, we asked if there are things that we should know about that we don't, that we have not put in front of you. And if so, where can we find it? And we looked for the availability of data that could help address those data gaps and we are now in the process of accessing that additional data.

[Slide 10] And again, a more graphic representation, there's an Inventory that we meant to build with two sources of input: on the natural resources side and on the human use side, to build the Inventory upon which the planning process will rely. But on the right, there's a bunch of stakeholders who don't necessarily have data of a geospatial nature that they could directly contribute, but they might be very interested in the Blue Plan process, they might be very interested in reviewing what we found about where people recreate or about where beaches are or about what historic landmarks might be, so we tried to hold meetings every now and then to keep people apprised of what we were doing, what we were finding, how that was going, and where we were going from there.

[Slide 11] And here's a summary of the table of contents for the Inventory. You see on the left the ecological characterization section, and on the right the human use characterization. And for both of those



we have a number of chapters, those are in italics, and those chapters are clustered in areas that made sense.

For example, under “Animals” we have a chapter on marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, fish, and benthic invertebrates, so we could organize information into different chapters but it was important to us to be able to find all those chapters together in a section that’s called “Animals.” And then when gather data on plants and animals, we further look for characteristics of the environment that would be conducive to hosting those species, for example, looking for coastal wetlands or seafloor complexity.

And the goal is to be able—the last bullet—to integrate that information into “Ecologically Significant Areas.” So the last bullet is an interpretation of the data that we gathered up front, and it’s a process that’s actively ongoing now based on the information we gathered that’s part of the Inventory.

Similarly on the human use side, we have sectors associated with fish and shellfish activities like aquaculture, fishing, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, charter and party boats; some sectors associated with recreation and tourism; some sectors associated with cultural resources and education.

We tell you that we’ve been interacting with people. It’s been pointed out to us that we had forgotten to include areas that are relevant to research, monitoring, and education. We added a chapter for that because it made sense, we just had not thought about it, and a section on marine transportation, infrastructure, and security.

[Slide 12] And that was truly a group effort. In order to tackle such a big task, we enrolled, or we asked for volunteers, we enrolled the members of the Blue Plan Advisory Committee that had been appointed according to a specific sector and we said, “We will use your expertise, we will use your connection to that sector, and we will have you be a

sector expert.” And then, we know that everybody has a day job, and some of us have the luxury of dedicating part of our day job to tasks like that, so we assigned people that have a little more time available to that task as assigned staff, and we combined those resources in order to reach out to the right people, find the right information, and have it vetted appropriately.

[Slide 13] Each chapter in the inventory is drafted according to the outline that’s on the screen. There’s a short introduction for each chapter, there’s a series of maps or map products that represent the key findings, again, we do not include every single map we could find in any given sector, but we try to summarize with three, four, five essential maps the most important findings of that sector.

And then we fold in the quality assessment of the data. First there was a round of assessment of technical quality (do the data have the appropriate technical characteristics to be incorporated?), and then based on stakeholder engagement, the accuracy, representativeness, and relevance. We worked hard to get/identify data gaps and the availability of data to address those data gaps.

And then we tried to put a section on relevance. Why should we care about fishing? Well fishing has been going on for hundreds of years in Long Island Sound, it’s a traditional use of Long Island Sound and it’s important for a number of reasons including social, cultural, and maybe even economic. And then we have a socioeconomic relevance section, or subsection in that.

And then as an appendix we’re trying to be really transparent and indicate the source of the information that we found that supports the finding that are in each chapter of the inventory.

[Slide 14] So to give you an example, a few slides on aquaculture: We found data sets that demonstrate where state aquaculture leases are (in orange), where town-managed aquaculture leases are (in brown), and

where natural shellfish beds that are really important to the aquaculture industry are (in grey). So we found the source of that data and we presented that data through a few maps.

[Slide 15] And to complement that, in the State of New York we found that the aquaculture industry is not organized the same, and there's not the same gathering of data in one spot and in one area that is very convenient and useful and helpful. So in New York, for example, we identified a number of temporary marine areas use assignments, some of which are active, some of which are not active, but it definitely does not have the same level of detail as what we have in Connecticut.

[Slide 16] So when we assess the data, when we talk to people, they tell us that the data we presented to them through the Aquaculture Mapping Atlas in Connecticut is what they rely on, day in, day out, that's what they use to write permit applications, that's what they use to find if they're on their lease or on their neighbor's lease, and it came from alternative sources, and they concluded that it was accurate, representative, and relevant.

On the New York side, for example, we found that there was a significant data gap, that same organization of information did not exist. So we had to work harder to go to individual towns and ask if they had permit information for leases.

[Slide 17] And then on the historical and cultural side we found that the shellfish sector was real important culturally, there's precolonial activities that rely on shellfish, and on the economic side we find that it's about a \$30 million initiative right now. And we found that, over time, the revenues that come from oysters have narrowed down a little bit and the revenues that come from clams have increased a little bit, so we find economic data that support changes over time.

[Slide 18] So we're here to receive another round of comments about the Inventory. We drafted the Inventory version 1.0 that was released at the

end of December in 2017. We had the Blue Plan Advisory Committee do a first round of review, and we incorporated the comments that we received into version 1.1, and we released version 1.1 publicly in late January/early February and we gave a 3 or 4 week public comment period where we reach out to as many people as we could and we said, “Here’s the information we got from you, does that make sense, is it organized appropriately, can you make sense of it?”

We received a number of comments, we addressed those in version 1.2 that was just completed, and now we’re receiving through a more formal way, comments through the public hearing that we will incorporate in what’s gonna be the quote-unquote final version of the Inventory. We’re gonna call it final between quotes, between air quotes, because we’re open to keeping updating it as we receive additional and new information. But we’re gonna have to shift our efforts, there’s only so many of us with so much time, we’re gonna have to start shifting our efforts from the Inventory process to the planning process.

[Slide 19] How many people were involved? Well we recently gathered information, or summed up information that we gathered through the Inventory process, and we held at least 44 meetings and webinars, and we identified that those meetings were more than one-on-one. We did not count the number of phone calls we made, but we involved 14 government entities, 301 topical experts or relevant stakeholders, 55 other interested parties that could be town governments, town agencies, NGOs. We interacted with 230 members of the public and we summarized that information into a 329-page document.

[Slide 20] So to give you an idea of where we’re at, we released the first version of the Inventory in December [2017], we are hoping to complete the revision of the Inventory, the review process, by the end of May [2018], and the Plan is due in March 2019. So we’re gonna have to aggressively shift our effort from gathering information to working with that information and developing a policy process.

[Slide 21] And we want to hear from you, that's why we're here tonight. A very convenient way to find us is through the website that is hosted by Connecticut DEEP: [www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lisblueplan) or you can simply Google "Long Island Sound Blue Plan," that's a lot easier to remember, at least for me.

And below are the buttons that are at the top of the website, so you can gather information on the Blue Plan Advisory Committee, all the meeting minutes are there; you can directly comment on the Blue Plan, we receive information, we funnel that to the most appropriate person and we try to address every comment we receive; there's a number of Frequently Asked Questions that are very informative about the process; and there's a number of related links, including the announcement for tonight's public hearing.

And that concludes my remarks. We're not taking questions, right?

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK. We're not, correct.

SYLVAIN DE GUISE: Thank you.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Thank you, Sylvain. I appreciate that and it was a great background. So we'll now move to the public comment period of the hearing. I will ask that when I call your name that you come up to the microphone—is it on?

MARY-BETH HART: Yes

BETSEY WINGFIELD: State your name and if you'd like to, your affiliation. And you're also welcome to submit comments in writing or to supplement your comments in writing. All comments need to be submitted by May 23rd [2018]. So, and if you're interested in speaking, you haven't signed-up, I encourage you to sign one of the lists that's in the back. In order to keep the hearing moving and making sure we have time for all speakers, we are going to ask that speakers limit their comments to four minutes. If everyone spoke in the room

we'd be here a little bit past 9:00 at that point in time. But I want to remind you that your comments should be relevant to the accuracy, representativeness of the data that Sylvain discussed and that is included in this voluminous document. And if you're reading from your document we ask that you sort of paraphrase. Mary-beth is our time keeper. We're using a time bar, so the light will be green for the first three minutes, and then it's going to blink when there's one minute left, then it's gonna go to yellow, just like a stop light, at 30 seconds, and then when it turns to red your time is up. So any questions on process?

OK. With that I'd like to call the first speaker up and it's John, is it Civic?

JOHN SIEVIEC: Sieviec

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Sieviec. Actually you're welcome to come up or you're welcome to do it from there, whatever you'd like. I get to see you if you're there. Yes.

JOHN SIEVIEC: Hello. Good evening, my name is John Sieviec, I'm a commission member of the Town of Guilford Shellfish Commission. And what we're going to provide for the Blue Plan is some old data that we've had that's been in our files—paper files—for 40 years, which I bring forward, we're digitizing right now, to bring it forward and to be able to use and compare what's happening now in the Sound versus what it was 40 years ago. That's the limit of my comments.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: That's exciting, how/when do you expect you're going to have it ready for us?

JOHN SIEVIEC: Well you've got the end of this month? It's probably going to be a couple months. We have quite a bit of files to go through.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: We'll look forward to getting it when it's ready. Thank you very much. Fred Wise next?

FRED WISE: Fred Wise from the Waterford Harbor Commission. I'm a commission member. When I signed that I was unaware that it was (inaudible) so I don't have anything at this time.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: It's a common issue. OK. We appreciate you being here tonight. Dr. K.G. Lee is next?

DR. K.G. LEE: I signed up, I thought it was attendance. I have no comment other than you're all doing a great job.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: You should come up to the mic and say that. OK thank you.

MARY-BETH HART: For the record.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK. Tom Robben is next on the list.

TOM ROBBEN: Similarly I thought it was an attendance sheet, I think it's a great job everybody's doing.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK. Anne Hannan?

ANNE HANNAN: I thought it was an attendance (inaudible).

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK, and Jeff Going is the last person on the list.

JEFF GOING: I'm Jeff Going, I'm a Board Member of Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association, Chairman of the Essex Harbor Management Commission, and an active boater, especially sailing. A month or so ago when the draft was distributed electronically, I got a copy and took an immediate focus on the recreational boating and sailing section. And I was extremely disappointed by what I saw. There was an extreme reliance, in my opinion, on AIS and outside information, meaning outside of Long Island Sound Connecticut information, particularly in regard to, for example, distance sailing races that included Newport Bermuda Annapolis Newport that had no relevance. At the same time there was an exclusion of the sailing that is done under the

auspices of Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association and local yacht clubs. And there was an exclusion of information on junior sailing. The reliance on AIS is nice, it's an electronic thing you can use, but not all boats have AIS. So you're missing a large portion of the active boater that is out there. Not to say just day sailors, who race a lot and is usually part of a junior sailing program, but if I use Niantic Bay Yacht Club and the area as an example, which is not my home club, Atlantics, Lightnings, Four-Twenties, Blue Jays, all of which part of their sailing program, and they have weekday races, they have weekend races, and these guys don't carry radios so AIS is never gonna show up on what they do. And ECSA has 40-some-odd member clubs that range from Milford all the way to Block Island. There are at least four distance races sponsored by various clubs during the course of the year. And our definition of a distance race is better than your definition, if you'll excuse the statement, your definition of a race is accurate in that it's either around something and back to where you started from, or it's from Point A to Point B. Our definition of a distance race is a minimum of 40 miles. If you don't have that you don't qualify. The member clubs sponsor over 30 races a year in what we call a circuit, those are races that are certified that meet qualifications. As a regional arm of US Sailing, the sport's organizing authority, and those races are approved, to put it that way. So those 30-odd races last year, if we tally each entrant, came to nearly 1,000 entrants. I mean, same boat, maybe 15 or 20 times at most. And that range is, I'd say, from Milford to Block Island. There are areas in Long Island Sound that are really important and really cover that activity area, if you will. Niantic Bay, again, is an example. If there is a square inch of Niantic Bay from Connecticut to the New York line, from Bartlet Reef to Hatchett's Reef, that is not covered by the activity of sailing and fishing, I'd be astounded. Duck Island off Westbrook is another area, high activity with a club there that sponsors weekend races, some are approved as part of ECSA and some are not, and they do Wednesday night sailing. There's youth organizations along Sachem's



Head in Guilford, and we move on down all the way to Windjammers and Milford Yacht Club. We would be glad, I'm sure, to come up with data for you if it's data that's needed. Thank you.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: And may we contact you for that data and to, sort of, get the team members together with ECSA in order to get that? I mean, where's the best place to, sort of, mine it because it's the exact kind of feedback we're looking for.

JEFF GOING: Yeah, you can contact me, and maybe I can volunteer our Commodore Anne (Hannan) to also help. Anne is Commodore of the ECSA Board this year

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK great, if we could have the contact information after the meeting we would very much appreciate that, because it's just the kind of input we're looking for.

JEFF GOING: Just tell us what you need for data and we can, we've got a lot of data to give you. Thank you.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Great, thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak tonight? That is the end of the formal speakers.

SUSAN BRYSON: I would, (inaudible) I didn't sign up.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Please come on up. That's OK.

SUSAN BRYSON: (Inaudible). Good evening, my name is Susan Bryson, I am a resident of one of Connecticut's many beach community towns, and I have made this statement a couple of times at a couple of these hearings. But I am concerned that this Inventory, which I understand, I recognize, is not a plan, is and will be for purposes of planning activities on the Sound. And I'm concerned that these beach communities are not acknowledged or categorized or focused on in this as there are sort of few places that would be more affected by activities on the Sound than these communities. And specifically, I am gonna

submit written comments, but not tonight but I'll get them to you before your deadline...

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK

SUSAN BRYSON: I don't think that it's that, I also understand that your planning area is in the, sort of contours of 10 feet depth and...

BETSEY WINGFIELD: And out.

SUSAN BRYSON: ...seaward, but there, all of these water activities that you categorize have a land-based activities from which they're launched, for lack of a better word, and those, some of those areas are recognized in this report: beaches and access areas and marinas and so forth. And I think few areas launch more of the, sort of, recreational activities than these communities. They are referenced to some extent, not entirely clearly, but in the section that's on historic coastal, what's that section on historical and archeological areas? And I would support, and I'm happy to see that that information is there and the data gaps include trying to gather the information from the studies that have been done on these historic communities. I'm focused specifically on these traditional Connecticut beach communities, most of which arose in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and I think they have, they're very identifiable, it's not just, sort of, random houses along the shoreline, they tend to have civic organizations, and they tend to have beaches and common areas, traditions, and so forth. And for purposes of your ultimate goal here I think it's a very great gap in your data not to include that.

A sort of footnote on that is I appreciate the value of the process, its database, but I hope you appreciate the limitations of doing that, that the narrative tries to cure. But if you're not an industry or a big organization there isn't this kind of data. I know that the aquaculture people have spent a long time collecting data, and of course they have a very full set of data points and information and I also understand you to say that you're not making, sort of, priority decisions, but de facto they become,

sort of, priority decisions unless these items are recognized. So there's sort of a micro, micro (inaudible) in data that I think you need to either collect or acknowledge as a data gap.

My other point is an entirely different point and this just might be my inadequate ability to read these maps but it was very hard to determine for a micro area what these dots meant. And I don't know if there's a way of looking behind the information. I don't know, for example, in our community, I'm from Short Beach which is at the western end of Branford, it was very hard to tell if the marina, the sailing club, the summer camps, if these activities were recognized in those dots. (Inaudible.)

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Would you spell your last name for me please?

SUSAN BRYSON: Sure, Bryson, B-R-Y-S-O-N

Betsey Wingfield: OK, thank you. Anyone else who would like to speak? Please come on up.

DENIS HABZA: My name is Captain Denis Habza, I'm with squalusmarine.com, I just have a quick question. Forgive me if it's not necessarily on the topics of this evening, but the Blue Plan, like you say, isn't designed to create any regulation. But my question is, will this plan be submitted to the state of Connecticut, which will, in turn, use items within the plan down the road to potentially create regulation is my question?

BETSEY WINGFIELD: And we're in this hard spot of we're not actually answering questions.

DENIS HABZA: Just double checking. OK, thank you.

BETSEY WINGFIELD: Yes. But we'd be glad to talk to you afterwards.

DENIS HABZA: Fair enough.

Betsey Wingfield: Anyone else like to provide comments on the record? You can talk for longer than four minutes since we clearly didn't use it. OK. I think with that, what I suggest is that we, David, is there, do we have to keep the record open for some period of time? What did the public notice say?

DAVID BLATT: It said 6:30 to 8:30

BETSEY WINGFIELD: OK. So, we're going to close the record at 7:15 and I will stay along with some of the staff and we're glad to answer your questions off the record. If anyone else comes in who'd like to speak at a reasonable hour we'll probably still be here. So again I thank you for being here and I thank you for your input. OK.