SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360
(860)889-2324
secogct.gov

Representing 22 towns, cities, and boroughs in Southeastern Connecticut.

May 2026 - NOTICE to the following SECOG Towns

East Lyme	Montville	Preston
Groton City	New London	Stonington
Groton Town	No. Stonington	Waterford
Ledyard	Norwich	*plus Voluntown*

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with SECOG, **SEEKS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** from the above municipalities **by Wed. June 3** for 2 to 4-person field crews to access town-owned culverts for connectivity/ capacity assessments from June - October 2026.

Crews will train in **safety, access/permissions, & techniques** prior to the start of the work, which will follow the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol. NAACC is a network of affiliates from universities, state & federal natural resource and transportation depts., and conservation groups seeking improved aquatic connectivity. **Resulting data will be available to the municipalities and may aid stormwater work, capital project estimation, and/or sustainability or conservation planning.**

This effort seeks to build on existing data for increased understanding and opportunity. Field crews will come from TNC, SECOG, CT DEEP Fisheries, CTDOT, Save the Sound, Trout Unlimited, and others.

Please **EMAIL** questions to Michelle Maitland, Stormwater & Watersheds Manager **mmaitland@secogct.gov** or 475-328-1832 by June 3, 2026. If we do not receive comment by this date, we will assume local knowledge of this effort sufficient for the project team to proceed.

Funding for *Identifying and Assessing Connecticut Coastal Crossings to Build Resilience* was provided by the Long Island Sound Partnership and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

FIELD TEAM CAUTIONARY MEASURES

Crew members will
* carry a project summary to offer curious residents
* wear IDs and identifying gear &
* be limited to two vehicles.

Teams will be exclusively reliant on ROWs for access and will not be allowed on private property.

Each Police Dept. will be emailed the list of town areas scheduled the week prior.



The Connecticut Coastal Crossings Project:

Advancing knowledge for resilient infrastructure and improved habitat connectivity

What coastal crossings will be considered?

Any culvert, bridge, or tide gate within the Long Island Sound Coastal Watershed Boundary.

Project background

Insufficient, undersized, and degraded crossings impede the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms, alter sediment transport, reduce water quality, prevent full tidal exchange, disrupt natural drainage patterns, and cause flooding and erosion. This project will geospatially locate crossings within the Long Island Sound Coastal Watershed Boundary in Connecticut, train practitioners in North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (https://streamcontinuity.org/) protocols, and begin evaluating crossings for aquatic connectivity in southeastern Connecticut, providing foundational information decision-makers and practitioners need to identify and prioritize vulnerable crossings. This project is funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

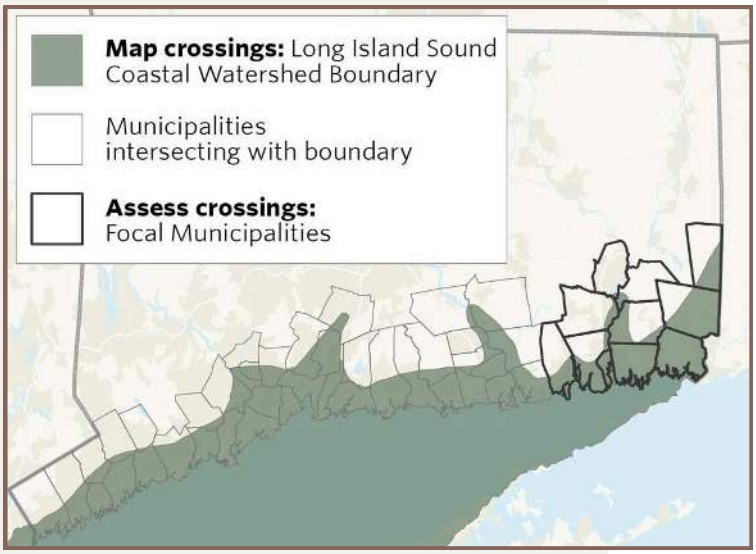
Partners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Save the Sound
- CT National Estuarine Research Reserve
- UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research
- SECOG
- CT DEEP Fisheries
- CT DOT
- North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative

How municipalities can help

- Forward notification to town departments that should be aware of project field crew Coastal Crossings assessment activities
- Help us plan the next steps as we look ahead to expand the work and mitigate problem crossings

Project Scope





Questions?

Contact Emily Hadzopulous
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