



## Sen. Blumenthal's Record of Protecting the Long Island Sound

*"The Long Island Sound is a beautiful treasure integral to Connecticut's history, identity, and economy. We want to see our coastline brimming with swimmers and fishermen—not giant, polluting oil rigs. In the face of efforts by former President Trump to benefit Big Oil, this measure aimed to protect waterways like the Sound for future generations." - Sen. Richard Blumenthal*

- Sen. Blumenthal fought for the designation of the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve for Long Island Sound. To receive this NERRS designation is an effort decades in the making. This designation is a momentous scientific and environmental milestone for Connecticut. It will help provide essential scientific insights on coastal habitats, advancing our efforts to address climate change. It will also bolster hands-on environmental education programs for Connecticut schools, inspiring the next generation of scientists.
- Sen. Blumenthal is an original cosponsor of S. 2633, the Living Shorelines Act. The Build Back Better Act included \$6 billion for NOAA to restore and study marine and coastal habitats to increase climate resilience. This funding along with other federal appropriations will be used to help restore coastal ecosystems in Connecticut and throughout the Long Island Sound.
- Sen. Blumenthal is a cosponsor of the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act introduced by Senator Menendez, which would permanently ban oil and gas exploration, leasing, and other activities in all of the Atlantic Ocean planning areas.
- Sen. Blumenthal co-led a bicameral letter with Chair Grijalva of the House Natural Resources Committee to express support for the Executive Order establishing a goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands, freshwaters, and ocean areas by 2030 to reverse the climate crisis.
- Sen. Blumenthal introduced S. 1484, the Forage Fish Conservation Act (he also introduced this bill in the 116th Congress). This bill will protect small, schooling fish important for coastal industries in CT. The language was included in the House's Magnuson Stevens Act reauthorization bill.
- Sen. Blumenthal led appropriations letters asking for robust funding for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - resulting in an 11.29% increase in funding from FY21 levels, ocean exploration programs (4.65% increase from FY21 levels), marine sanctuaries programs, and aquaculture research. The Build Back Better Act also includes \$400 million for states to upgrade aquaculture

infrastructure and \$100 million for construction of facilities that support National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves.

- In the Committee-posted Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, there is \$6.35 million in funding for Connecticut, including \$5 million in funding for a soil survey on the Long Island Sound.
- Sen. Blumenthal helped to secure \$569,000 for The Maritime Aquarium for Long Island Sound clean up (from Commerce, Justice, Science, and Relation Agencies Appropriations bill). This federal funding will continue the ongoing work toward preserving its ecological vitality, and Sen. Blumenthal will continue to fight for critical investments like these that protect the Long Island Sound's natural beauty for generations to come.

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