



Winter 2021 Edition

What We've Been Up To!

Hi everyone and welcome back to Coastal Steward LI's newsletter! We hope that everyone is staying safe, healthy, and enjoying the new year!

There has been a flurry of activity down at Mt. Sinai Harbor and it is not because of CSLI. This winter's dredging in Mt. Sinai Harbor was recently completed in order to provide safe navigation and beach nourishment to the surrounding areas. According to NOAA, dredging is the process of removing sediment from the bottom of a waterway due to material filling and blocking channels and harbors. The Army Corps of Engineers has determined that approximately 60,000 cubic yards of sediment, comprised of roughly 22.5% gravel and 76.5% sand, will be removed from the harbor inlet .



The inlet leading to the LI Sound has been subjected, over time, to intense currents due to the moving tide and now with a wider entrance these currents should be less severe for recreational boats as well as law enforcement vessels. As for beach nourishment, all of the material removed will be placed on East Beach of Port Jefferson Village in order to replenish their loss of beach due to erosion. Mt. Sinai Harbor's main source of erosion was due to the old jetties being submerged at high tide allowing for material to pass through and settling on the bottom of the inlet. In the summer of 2020, the Town of Brookhaven rebuilt these jetties in order to prevent further erosion. The dredging of the harbor is said to have a ten-year maintenance period in which one other dredging event will be performed in order to maintain the depth of the inlet 15 ft. below the mean tide line. The Army Corps of Engineers has predicted that 30,000 cubic yards of material would be removed and deposited in the previous locations during future dredging.

Dredging of the inlet not only benefits the beach and boaters but the many life forms in the harbor. NOAA states that dredging can help to reduce the amount of contaminant exposure that marine and terrestrial organisms can be exposed to, especially when located in an area with a small amount of water exchange. However, dredging can also have some adverse effects to the near-by environment such as increasing the turbidity of the water. Having sediments suspended in the water for long periods of time means a decrease in the amount of light that can penetrate the water column. Light is needed to sustain the primary producers of Mt. Sinai Harbor's food web. The oysters we raise in our shellfish restoration program are benthic primary consumers. At CSLI, we are aware that an increase in turbidity could affect the survival of these bivalves due to an insufficient amount of food being available and covered in any loose sediment that settles in new areas. The Army Corps of Engineers has posted their public notice which includes dredging plans showing that turbidity curtains would be installed around the construction area. Turbidity curtains act as floating barriers that contain solids that become suspended in the water column during the dredging process, thereby mitigating turbidity in the harbor.

CSLI is very excited to witness the benefits that this dredging process will bring to Mt Sinai Harbor!



Interested in Joining Us?

As we enter into the colder months the frequency of our events may decrease but that doesn't mean we aren't coming up with new ways to be involved with our community! Head over to our website and click on our [News and Events tab](#) for more details.



Support Coastal Steward!

We'd like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our volunteers and those who have donated to CSLI in the past. By supporting us, we can continue our mission of restoring and preserving LI's coastline through education, raising public awareness and community action.

You can support us by making a tax-deductible donation to our organization that supports our marine education programs. Click [here](#) to help make a difference with us!

Another way to help our non-profit (501(c)(3)) is by using 'AmazonSmile' whenever you order something from Amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CSLI. And there's no extra cost!

Simply navigate to <https://smile.amazon.com> and click on the 'Get started' button. After signing in, you will need to choose 'Coastal Steward Long Island' as the charitable organization. There's a 'Learn more about AmazonSmile' link at the bottom of their page to get more information.



Did You Know?

You can purchase your very own Coastal Steward apparel! Head over to [Tidal Tees Apparel](#) where we have a collection of items and a 100% of the profits come back to us!

