ELIS SEIS - Cooperating Agency Meeting – June 18, 2013
Agenda

1:30 pm Introductions/Objectives
Jean Brochi, EPA

1:35 pm Comments from Cooperating Agencies on the May 20th Screening presentation

1:45 pm Revisions to the May 20th Screening presentation
Jean Brochi, EPA and Amy Atamian, LBG

2:00 pm Agenda for the upcoming public meetings

2:05 pm Review the presentation for the public meetings

2:30 pm Next Steps – logistics for public meetings and other comments or discussion points

3:30 pm Adjourn

ELIS SEIS - Comments on May 20th Cooperating Agency presentation

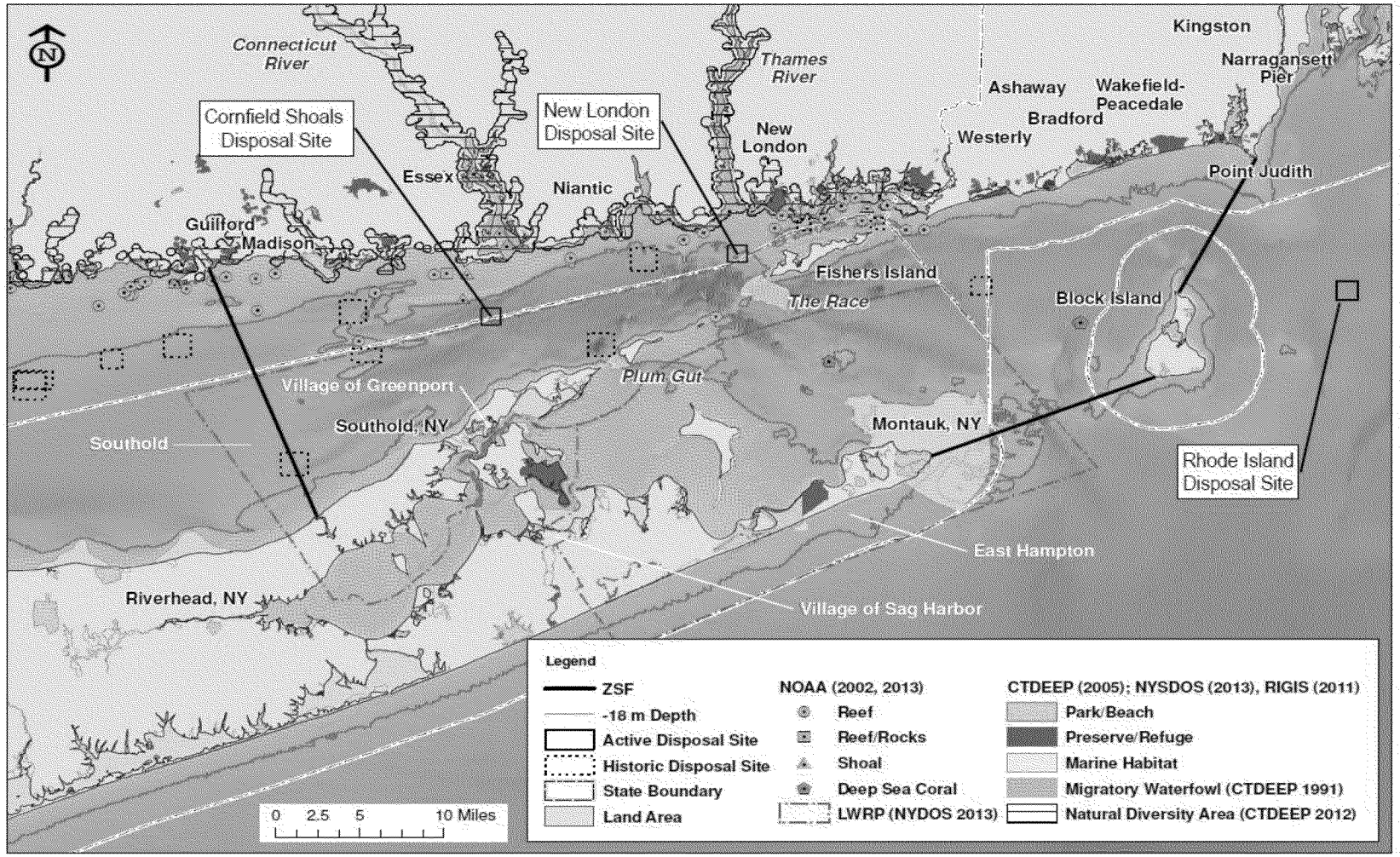
Submitted by NYDOS, USACE NED, EPA R2 (verbal communication)

Revisions to May 20th presentation

- Slide 16 – Conservation Areas: Added NYS Significant Habitat (Marine Habitat) and Deep Sea Coral
- Slide 17 – Shellfish Beds: Data for RI and limited data available for NY. Added CT Managed Shellfish Bed layer. Another potential source for NY in PDF format was found and will be added once more details are collected.
- Slide 18 – Fishing Areas: added labels for Plum Gut and The Race. Still do not have a good source for specific fishing areas in LIS.
- Slide 23 – Eelgrass Beds: Revised with CT (which include North Shore LI) and RI. Found additional source information.
- Slide 24 – Approved/Prohibited Shellfish Areas: Updated with revised Shellfish Bed and 2013 RI zone data. Another NY PDF source found and will be added once details are collected.
- Slide 25 – Historic and Active Disposal Sites: Resized text
- Slide 26 – Archaeological and Cultural Resources: revised with the NOAA ENC shipwreck and obstruction data.
- Slide 27 – Recreational Areas: Updated park/beach and added beach point features.

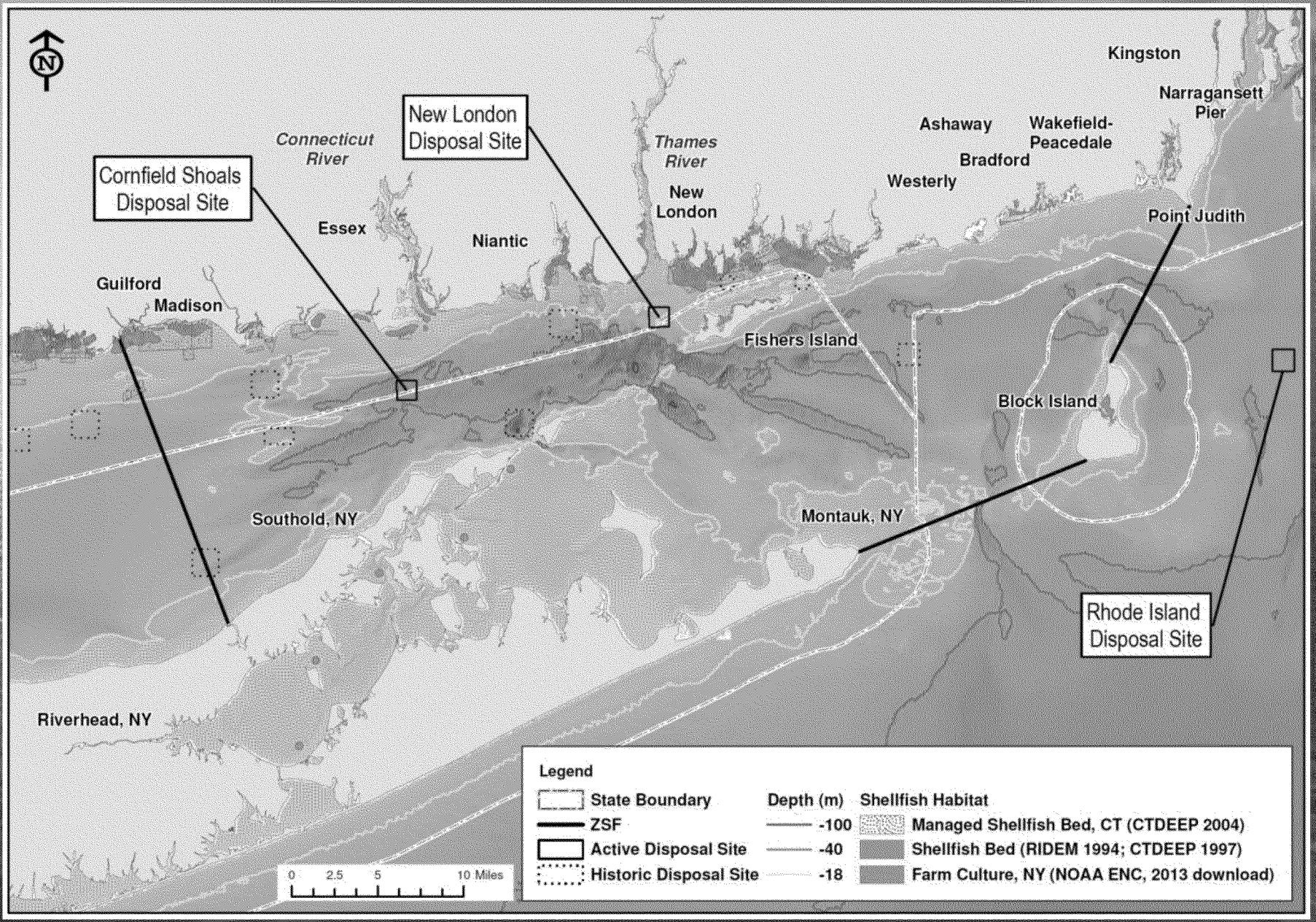
Conservation Areas

(sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, national seashores, parks, artificial reefs, etc.)

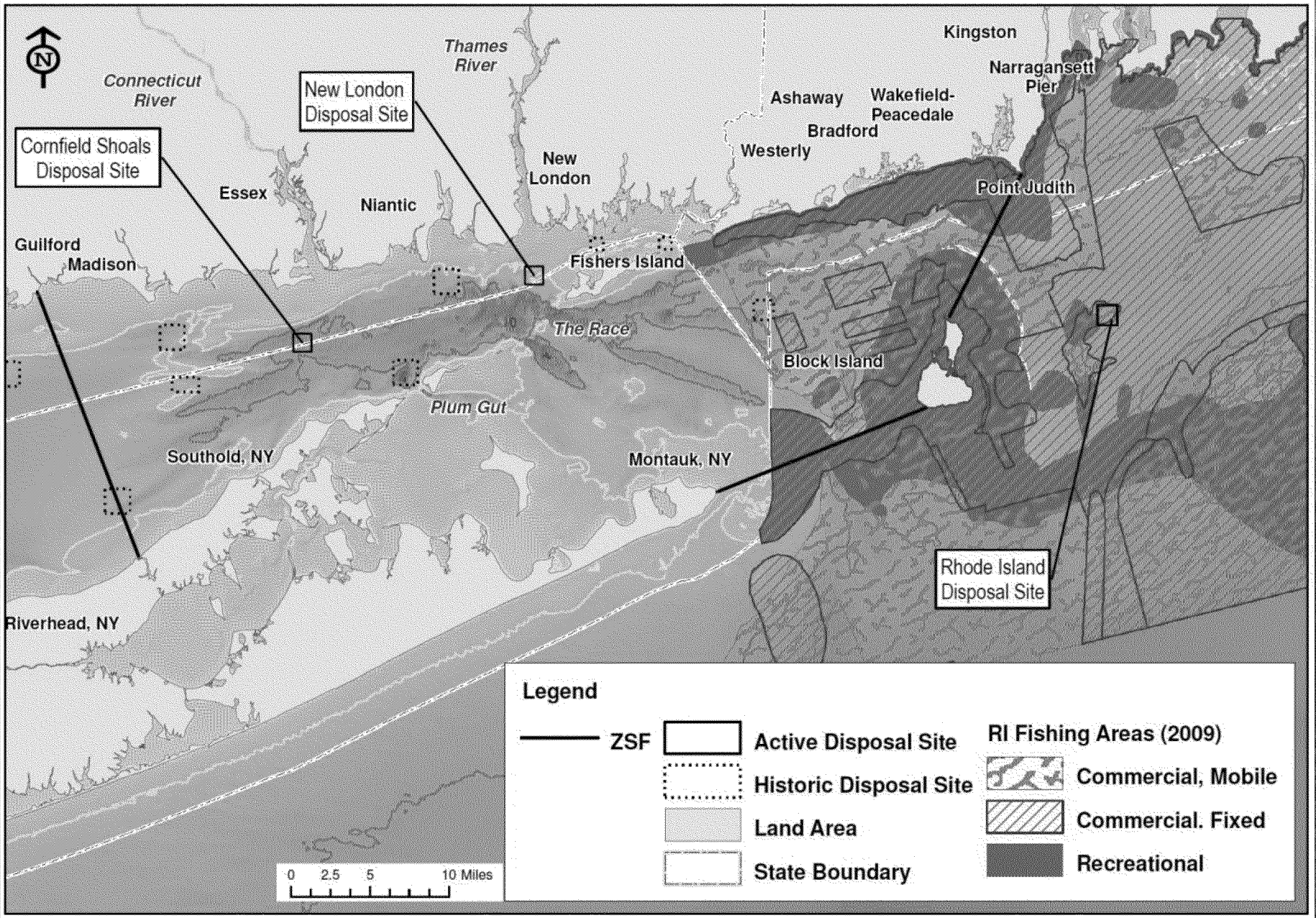


Conservation Areas	Slide 17

Shellfish Beds

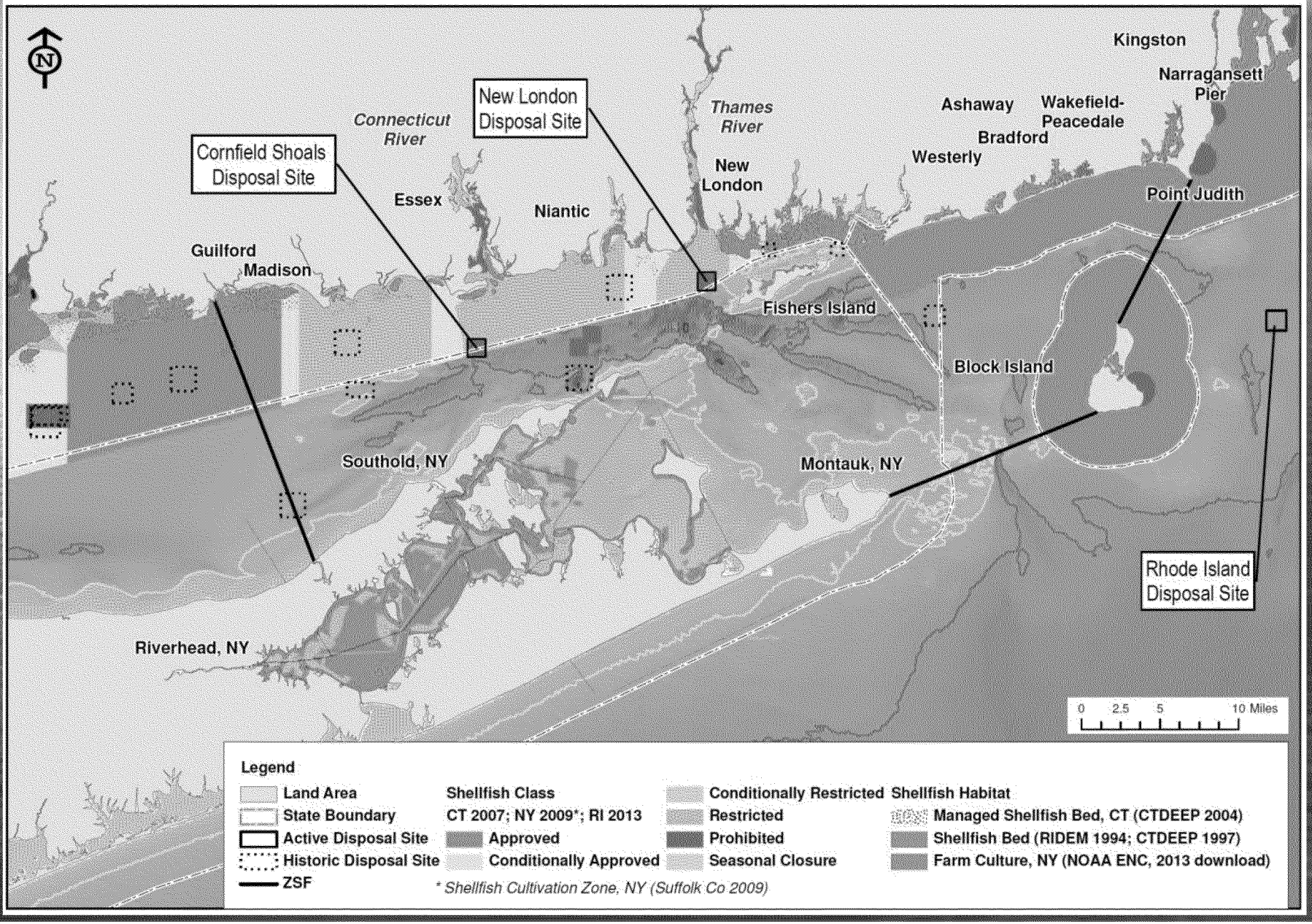


Fishing Areas (additional data needed)

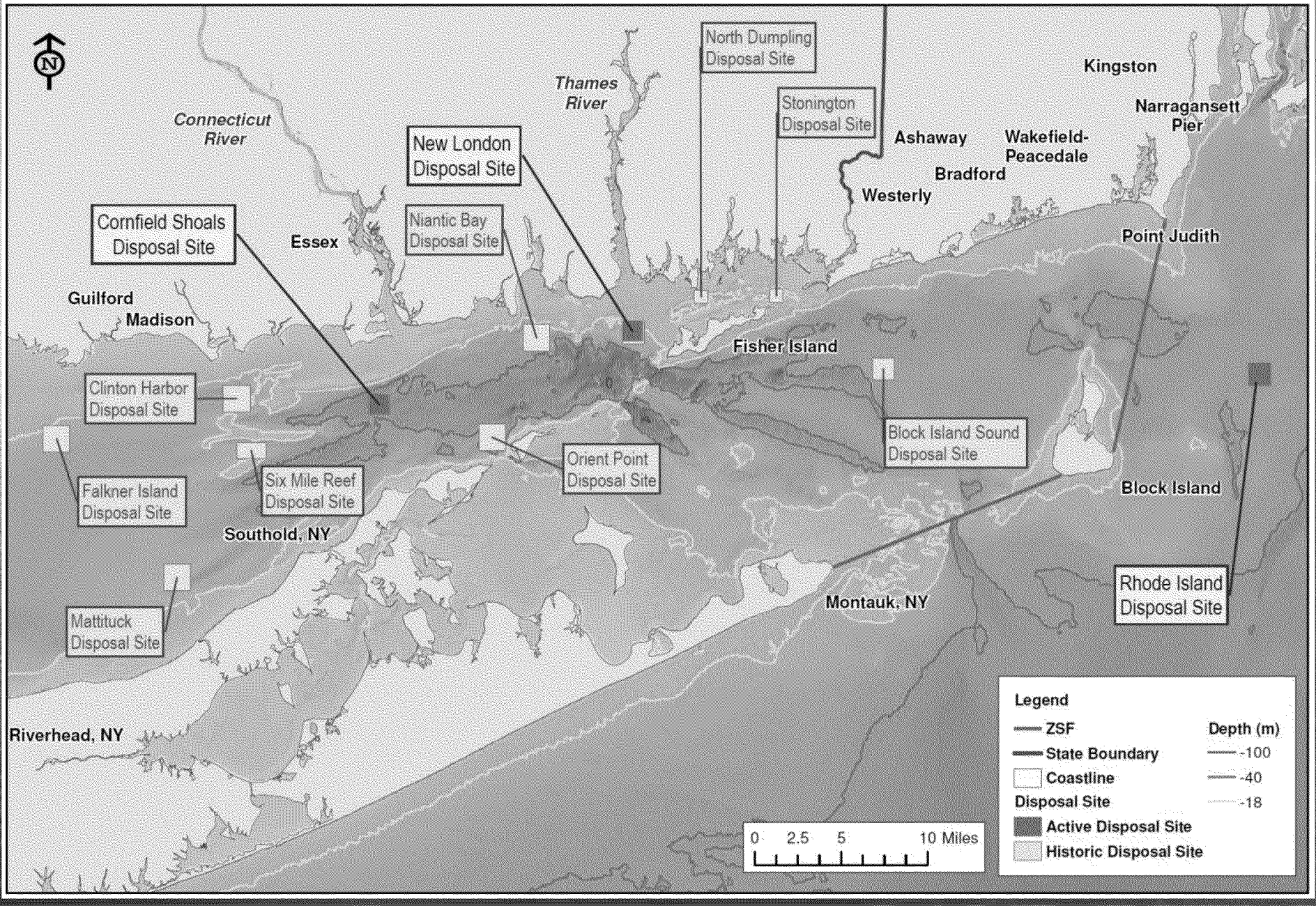


Approved/ Prohibited Shellfish Areas

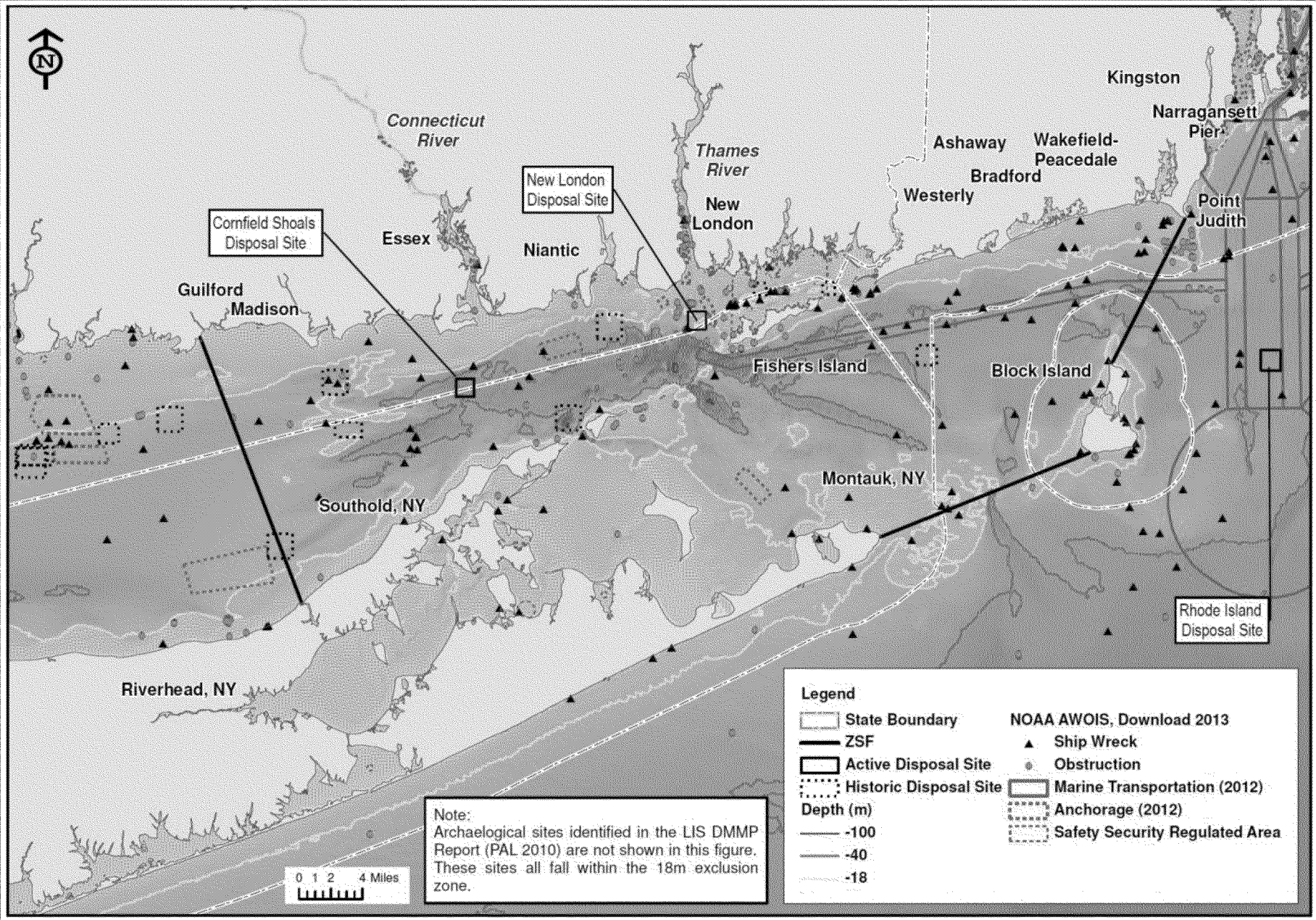
(additional NY data needed)



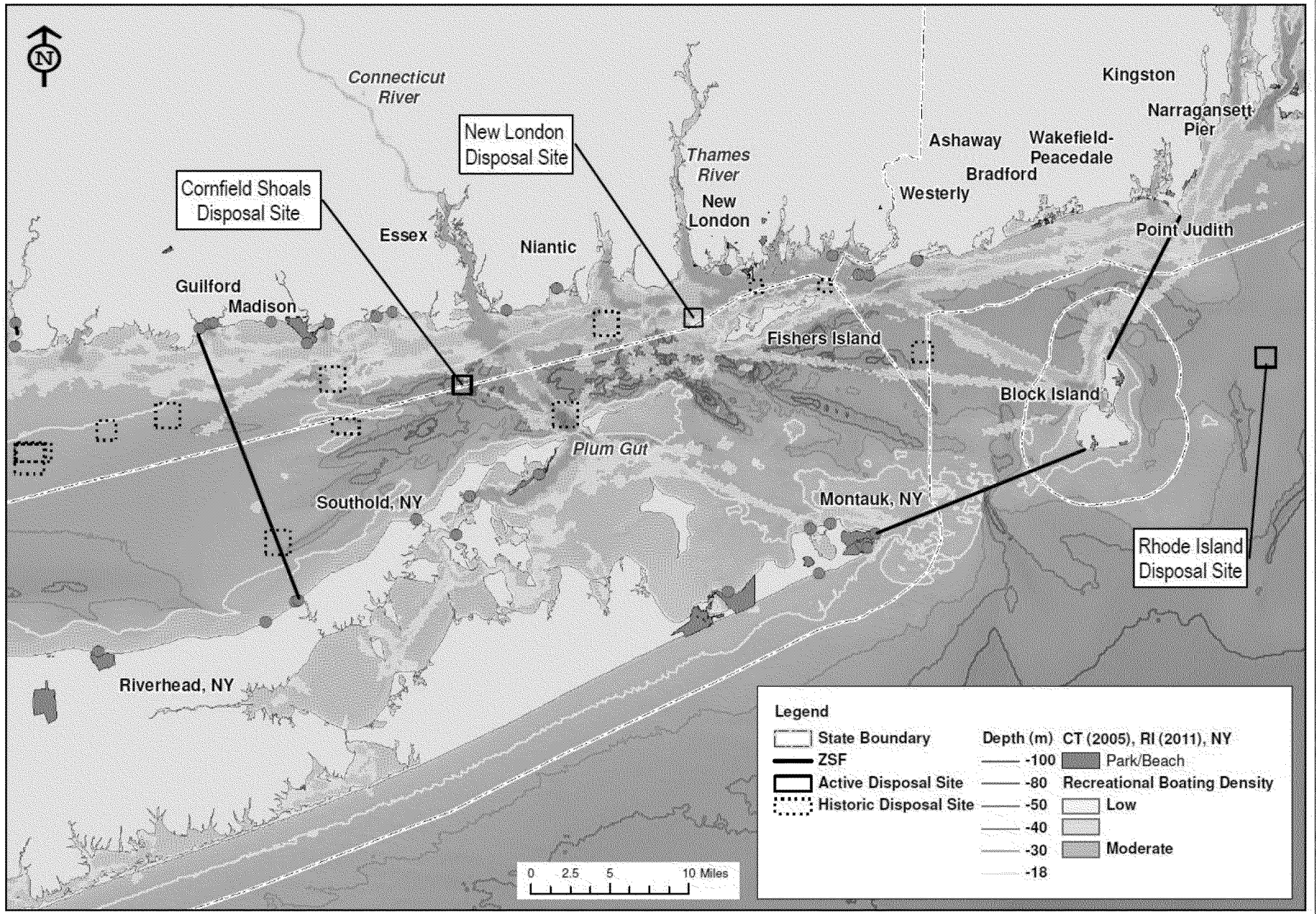
Active and Historic Disposal Sites



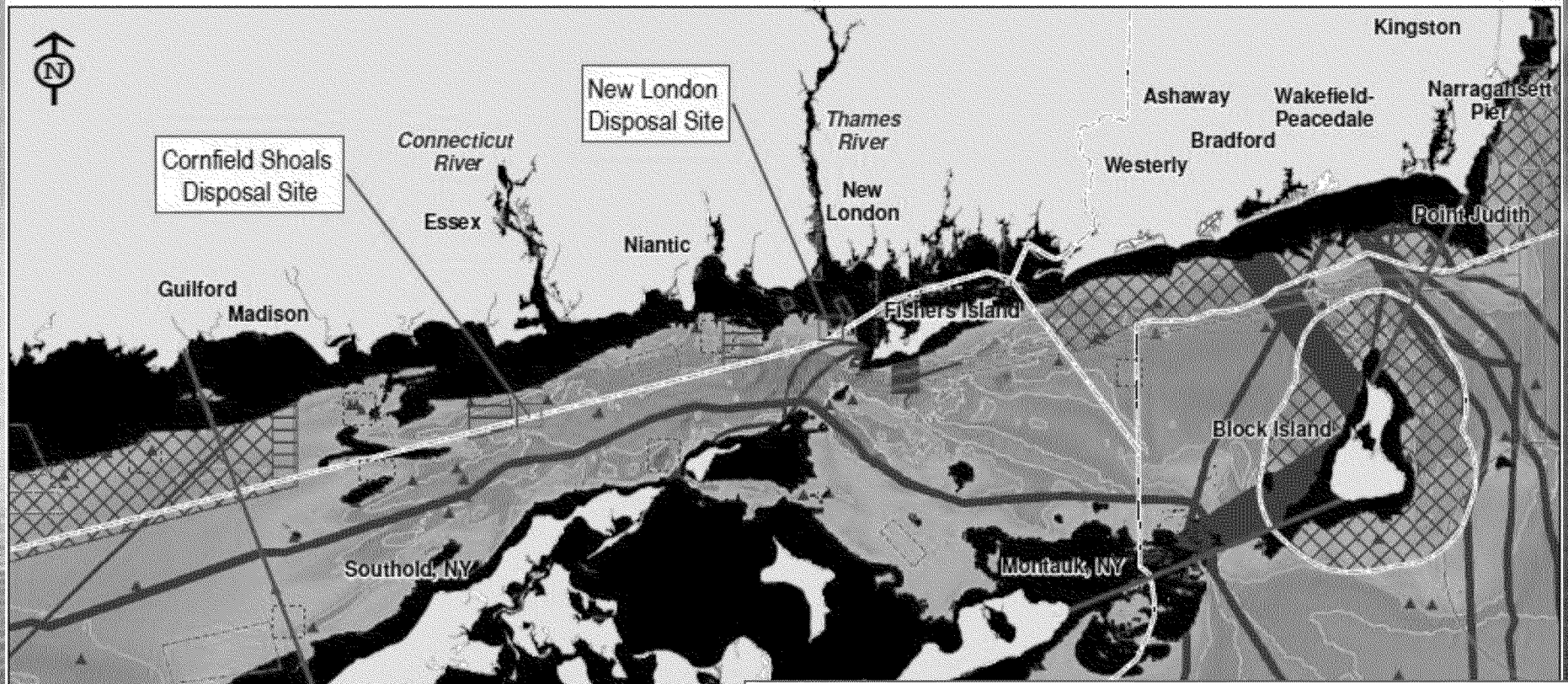
Archaeological and Cultural Resources



Recreational Areas and Navigation



Overlay 1: Base - Bathymetry



Identified:
- Bathymetry
- Navigation corridors, anchoring
- Cables and pipelines
- Active/historic sites
- Archaeology and Cultural Res.
- Shellfish Zoning

Screened zone:
- <18m depth
- Shellfish beds
- Eelgrass beds
- Beaches

Land Area
Old ZSF
ZSF
Active Disposal Site
Historic Disposal Site
State Boundary
Safety Security Regulated Area
Anchorage
Marine Transportation

Depth (m)
-100
-50
-40
-30
-18

Wrecks and Obstructions
Submarine Cables
Cables/Pipelines
0-18m Depth
Coastline
Shellfish Areas
Approved
Conditionally Approved

Cooperating Agency Mtg

DRAFT
Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (ELIS SEIS) Public Meetings (NY & CT)

U.S. EPA Region 1 and 2
June 25-26, 2013

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Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (ELIS SEIS) Public Meetings (NY & CT)

U.S. EPA Region 1 and 2
June 25-26, 2013

ELIS SEIS Agenda

2:00 pm Registration

2:30 pm Ground Rules/Logistics
Facilitator, Bernward Hay, the Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBG)

2:35 pm Welcome/Project Update
Jean Brochi, Project Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit
EPA Region 1

2:45 pm Site Screening/GIS
Bernward Hay, LBG

3:30 pm Discussion and Next Steps
Bernward Hay, LBG

4:30 pm Adjourn

EPA-USACE Share Responsibility

- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA, aka Ocean Dumping Act)
  - Section 102: EPA Designates Sites
  - Section 103: USACE Selects Sites subject to EPA concurrence
- Dredged material disposal at these sites must meet criteria in Ocean Dumping Regulations (40 CFR Parts 220-229)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - Section 404: USACE issues permits subject to EPA concurrence
  - Section 404(c): EPA has veto authority

EPA's Role in Dredging

- Designate ocean dredged material disposal sites for long-term use (following EPA's voluntary NEPA policy to prepare an EIS)
- Promulgate regulations and criteria for disposal site selection and permitting discharges
- Review USACE dredging projects and permits
- Develop site monitoring/management plans (SMMP)
- Monitor disposal sites jointly with Corps

Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Sites

Designated by EPA in July 2005:

- Western Long Island Sound
- Central Long Island Sound

Selected by Corps in 1990s, scheduled to close December 2016:

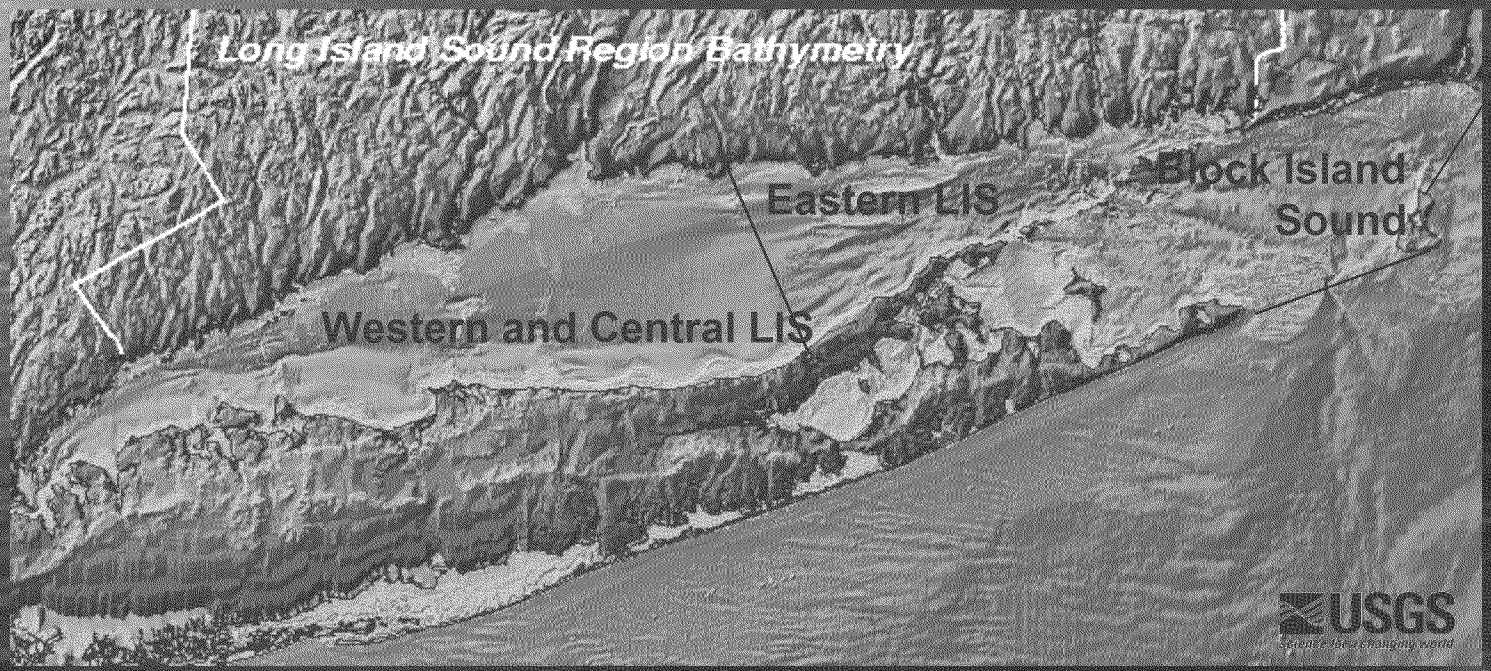
- Cornfield Shoals
- New London

Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement

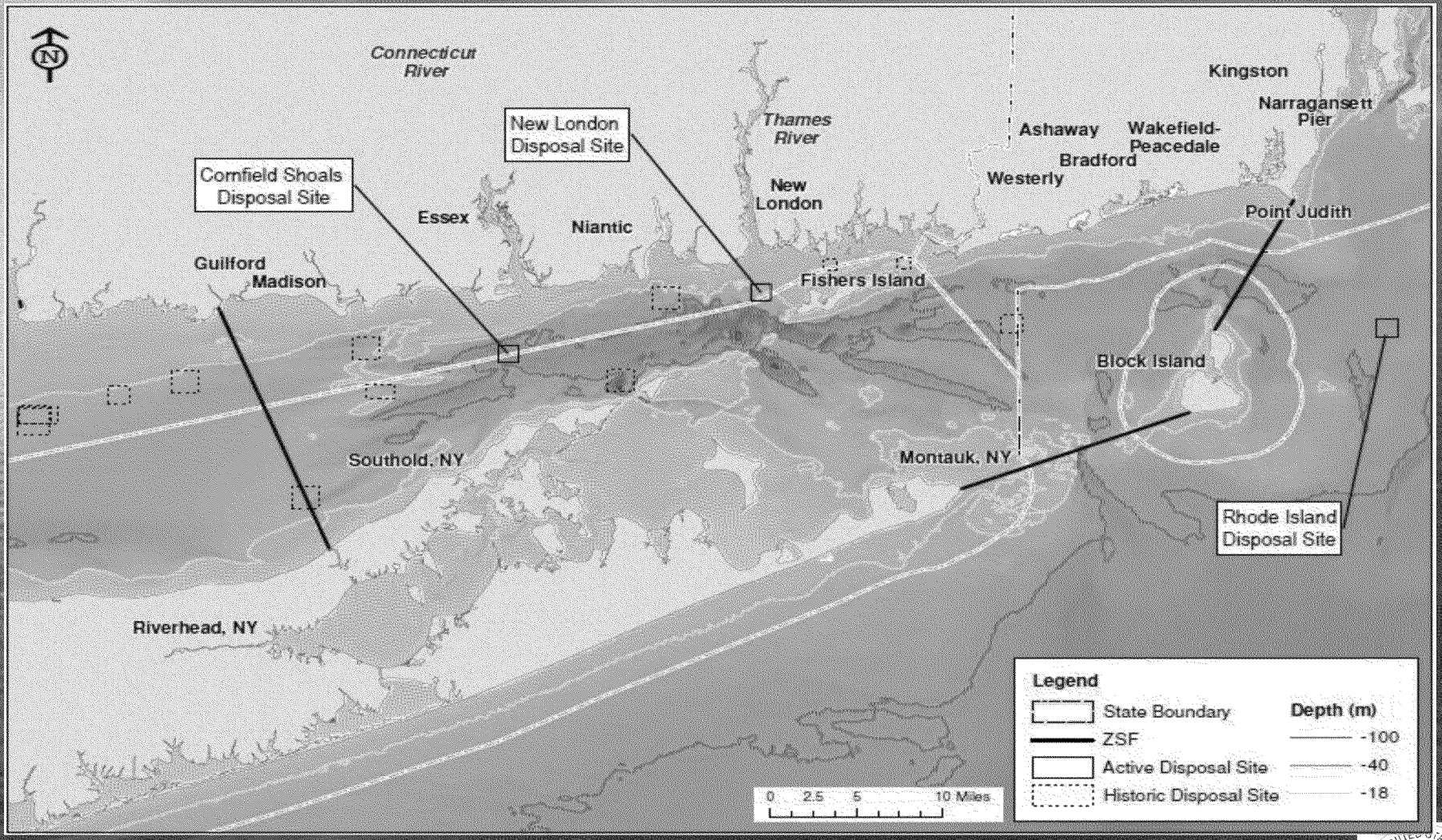
- April 2004 – EPA and Corps complete EIS recommending designation of CLIS and WLIS disposal sites, initiates final rulemaking
- June 2004 – NYS DOS objects to proposed federal action as inconsistent with CZM Program
- September 2004-May 2005 – EPA, Corps, NOAA, NY and CT negotiate conditions to site designation rule so NY can withdraw its objection

ELIS –SEIS
Zone of Siting Feasibility

- SEIS will address the eastern region of Long Island Sound, and Block Island Sound



ELIS SEIS – Active Dredged Material Disposal sites



ELIS SEIS Activities

- EPA publishes Notice of Intent.
- November 14 , 2012 and January 9, 2013 Notice of Intent public meetings
- Written and Oral comments received by (insert #)
- Public Scoping document from first two meetings available on EPA website by July 1, 2013
- Literature Search and Data Gap analysis initiated in February and ongoing
- Study of Physical Oceanography initiated in March 2013.
- Data available in July.
- January-June ongoing screening of sites and screening of available data – create slides using available GIS data (Geographic Information System)

Approach to Screening

- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (1972): Criteria or ocean dredged material site designation
  - 5 general criteria (40 CFR 228.5)
  - 11 specific criteria (40 CFR 228.6)

- Screening levels
  - Initial Screening of areas potentially acceptable as an open water disposal site
  - Further evaluate areas using additional data (this may include additional field work, research, etc.).

Examples of Screening Criteria

- Sedimentary Environment
  - Bathymetry
  - Currents and Waves; Bottom Stress
  - Sediment Texture (resuspension potential; habitat proxy)
- Areas of Conflicting uses
  - Infrastructure (cables, pipelines)
  - Navigation (shipping lanes, anchoring areas)
  - Conservation Areas (sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, National Seashores, parks, artificial reefs)
- Biological Resources
  - Shellfish Beds
  - Benthic Community
  - Fish Habitat, Fish Concentrations, and Fishing Areas
  - Breeding, Spawning, Nursery, Feeding, and Passage Areas

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Site Discussion

- Site characteristics
- Valuable marine habitats
  - Gravel and hardbottom areas were identified previously as important to maintain
- Conservation Areas
- Economy, Safety, and Environment
- Active/historic vs. new disposal area

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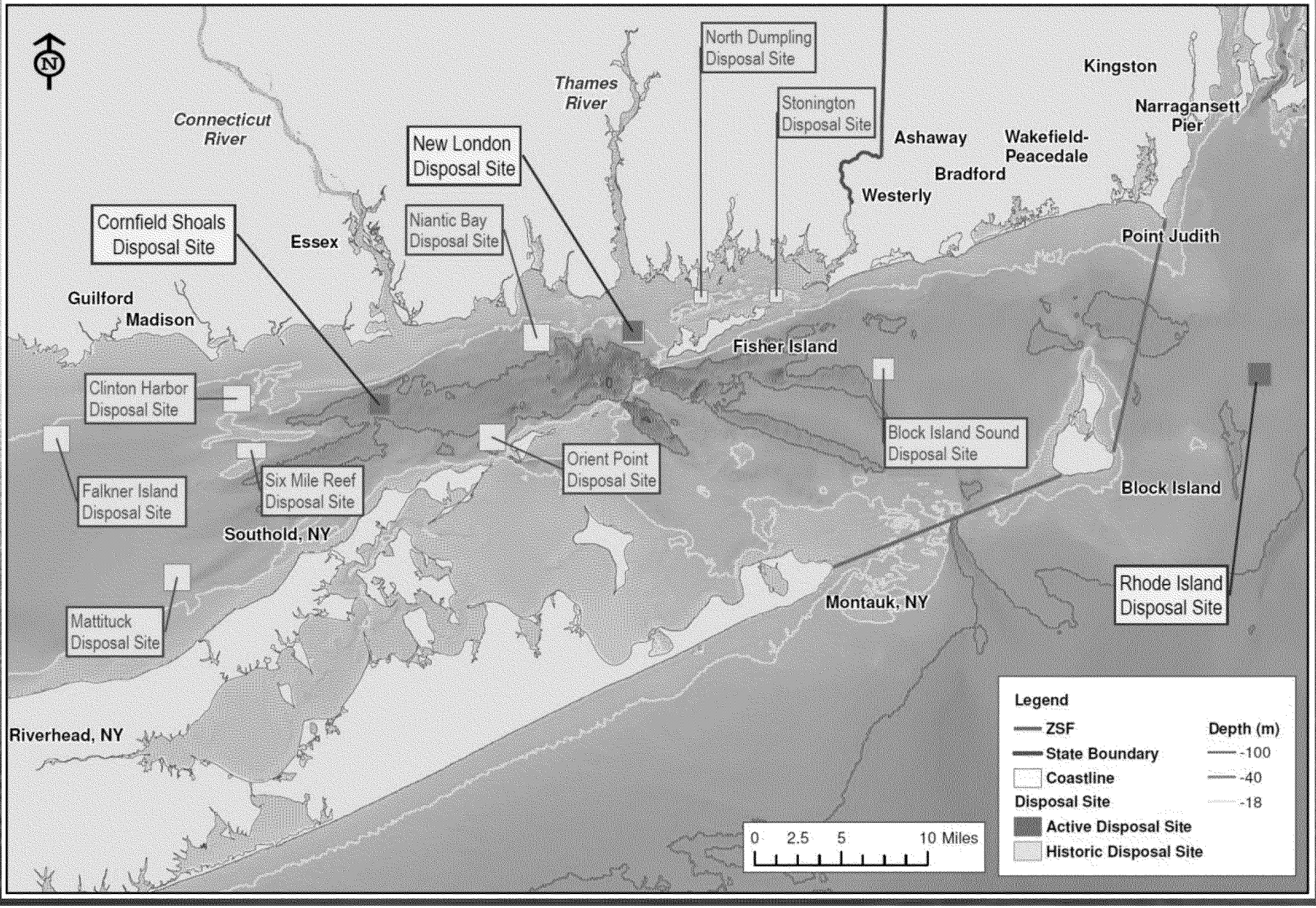
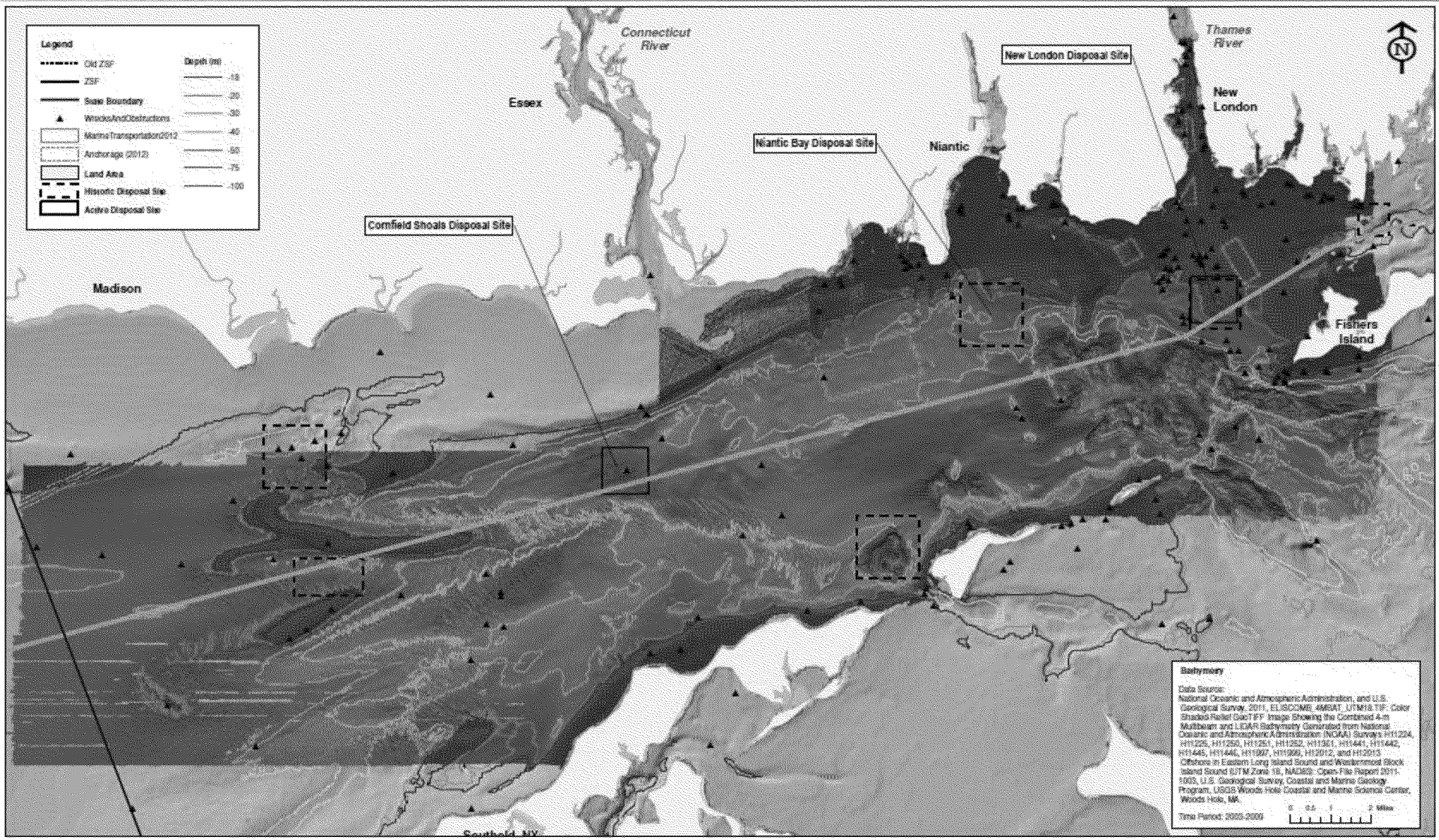
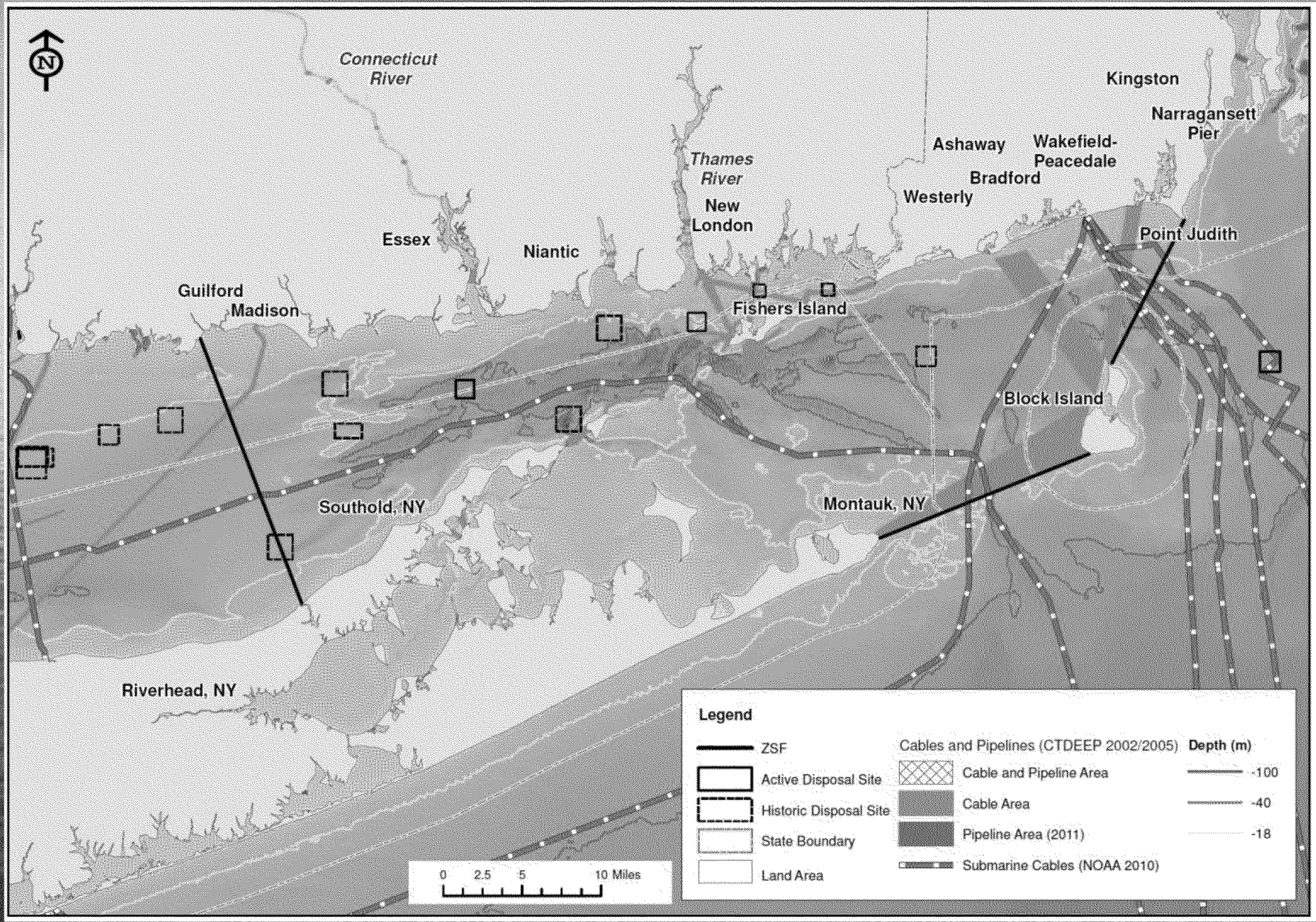
Active and Historic Disposal Sites



Bathymetry (Eastern LIS)



Cables and Pipelines



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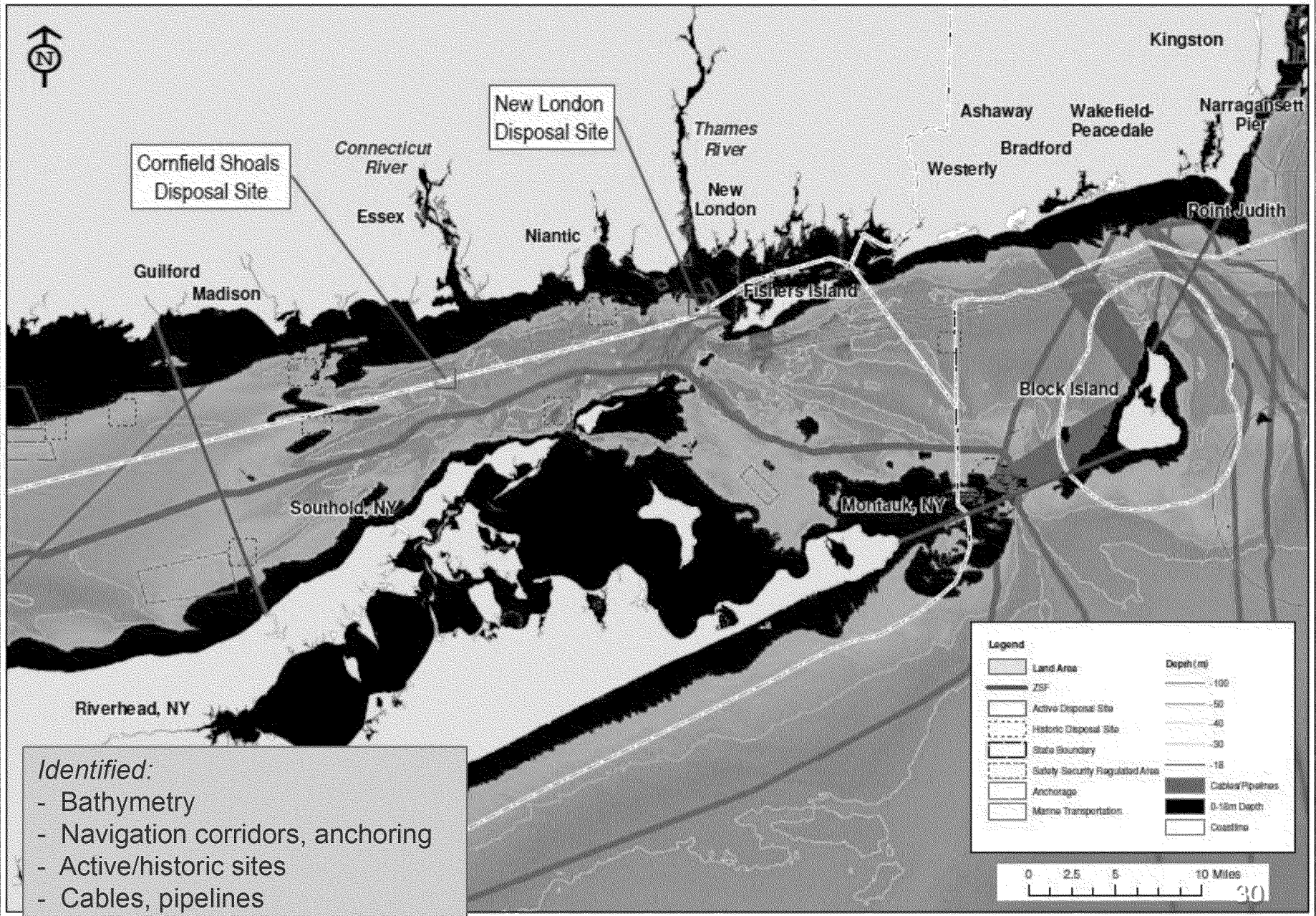
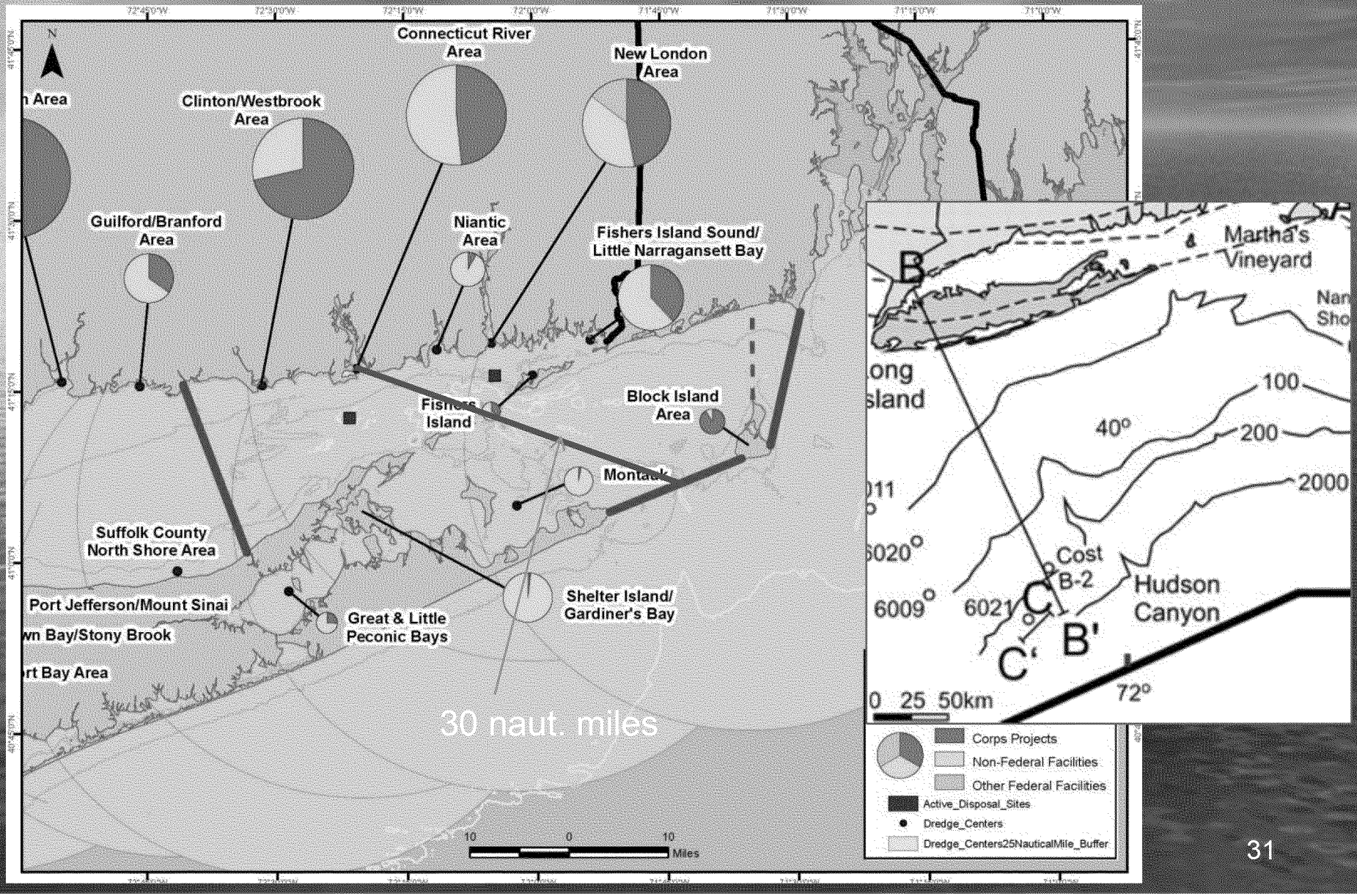
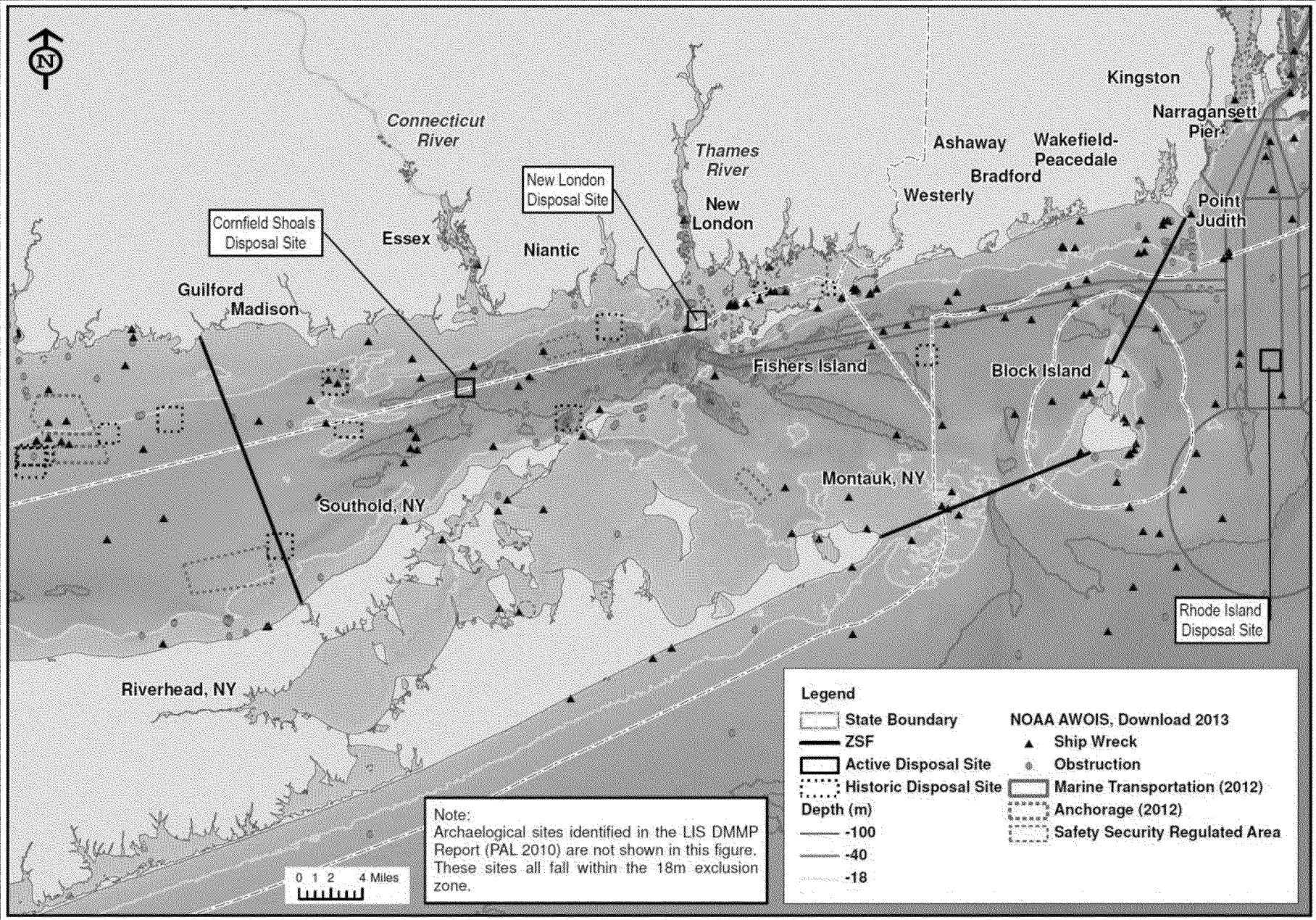


Identified:
- Bathymetry
- Navigation corridors, anchoring
- Active/historic sites
- Cables, pipelines

Continental Shelf and Areas within 25 nm of Dredging Centers

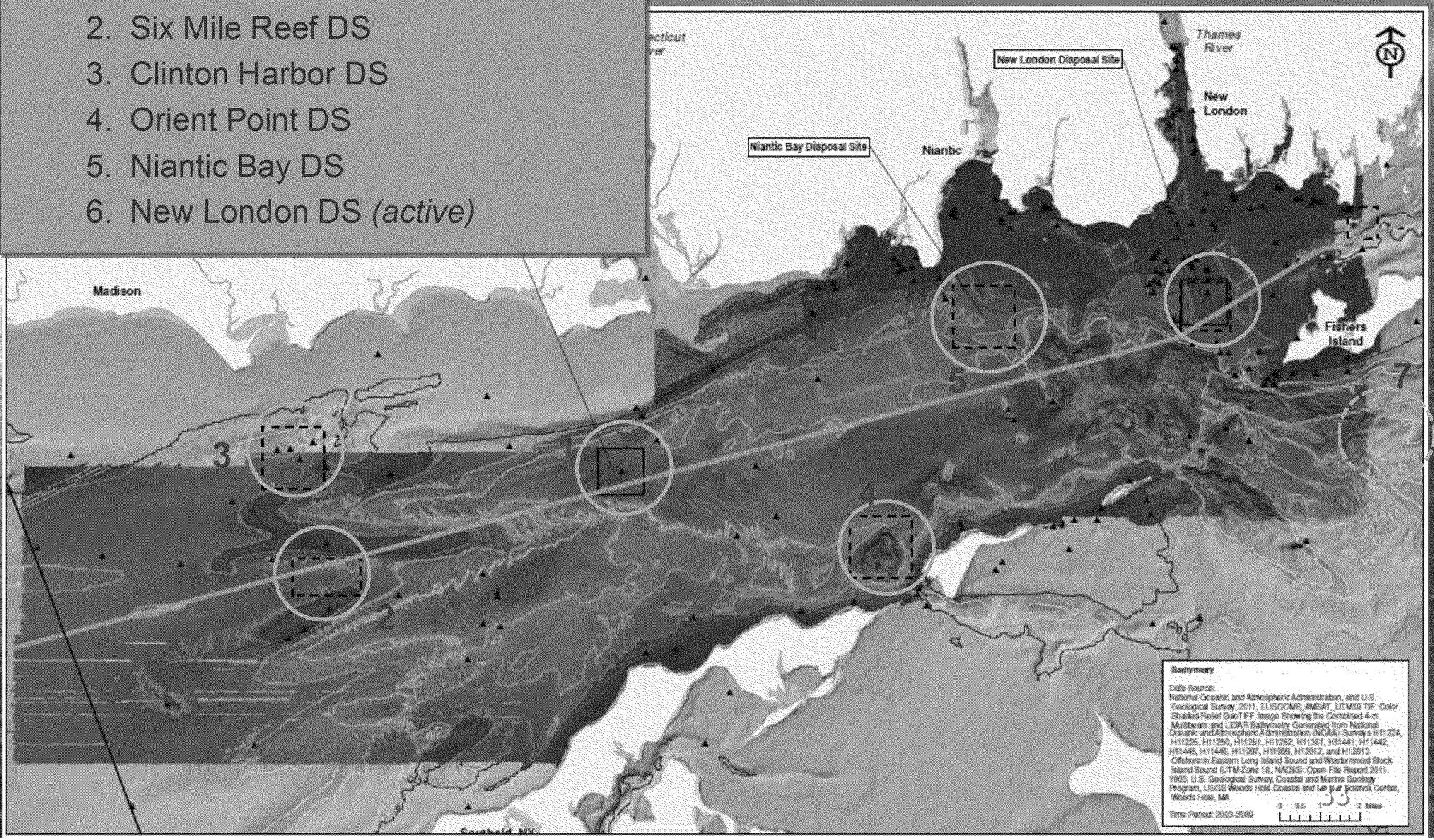


Archaeological and Cultural Resources



Site Discussion: Eastern Long Island Sound

1. Cornfield Shoals DS (*active)*
2. Six Mile Reef DS
3. Clinton Harbor DS
4. Orient Point DS
5. Niantic Bay DS
6. New London DS *(active)*



Next Steps

- Assess sites in more detail
  - Integrate additional available information
  - Identify and fill remaining data gaps
  - Review existing and newly collected data for priority sites
- Collect additional data on sediment, biological resources
- Review data from Physical Oceanography Study Cooperating Agency Meeting in fall
- Public Meeting's in winter

QUESTIONS?