



The Long Island Sound Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coalition Proposes Creation of Estuary Stamps

Stamford, CT, March 29, 2000 - The Long Island Sound Study today announced that it has asked the U.S. Postal Service to create a series of United States postage stamps celebrating areas of environmental, economic, and cultural importance—estuaries. The Long Island Sound Study is a cooperative effort between EPA and the states of Connecticut and New York to protect and restore the Sound and its ecosystem. If selected by the U.S. Postal Service as a new series, '**America's Estuaries**' postage stamps would illustrate bays, inlets, and harbors from across the nation. The series would also highlight the most ecologically significant plant and animal life found in estuaries of national significance.

The Association of National Estuary Programs and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association joined with the Long Island Sound Study in submitting the proposal to the U.S. Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. The groups worked in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in developing the proposal. The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will decide whether "**America's Estuaries**" is chosen to become a series of postage stamps.

"The concept of a stamp to recognize the Nation's estuaries and estuarine

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research reserves came out of a discussion by the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC),” observed Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “Long Island Sound is an extraordinary scenic and recreational attraction in the heart of the country’s most densely populated region. What better way to draw attention to this environmental treasure than through stamps that focus on this resource,” commented Tedesco.

“An ‘**America’s Estuaries**’ postage stamp series would provide citizens young and old, nationally and locally, with an opportunity to learn about these threatened resources,” said John Atkin, Connecticut Co-Chair of the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee and President of Save the Sound, a bi-state environmental organization.

“The coalition of groups supporting this project feels that a series of stamps focusing on these unique ecosystems would create a tremendous educational opportunity for our nation’s young people,” said David Miller, New York Co-Chair of the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee and Executive Director of the National Audubon Society of New York.

Miller continued, “If citizens show their support for the project, ‘**America’s Estuaries**’ may have a good chance of being selected. Students, teachers, and other interested citizens can support this effort by contacting the U.S. Postal Service. We all need productive and healthy estuaries, but right now, they need our help.”

To support the “**America’s Estuaries**” stamp proposal, write to the CSAC, c/o Stamp Development, 475 L’Enfant Plaza S.W., Room 4474E, Washington, D.C. 20260-2437. The U.S. Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee meets quarterly to decide on stamp subjects and makes recommendations to the Postmaster General.