

For Immediate Release

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Flotilla of Kayaks & Paddle Boards Set to Launch on Saturday, July 22

Individuals, Teams and Families Paddling in Fundraiser to Protect Long Island Sound



Hundreds of area residents and paddling enthusiasts will take to the waters of Long Island Sound on Saturday, July 22, paddling kayaks and stand up paddle boards in a fun and purposeful quest to protect and preserve Long Island Sound. Paddlers will launch from Cove Island Park in Stamford (Darien residents can

launch from nearby Weed Beach) in a fun and colorful flotilla paddling four miles to Stamford Harbor where they will celebrate with food, music and a fun summer beach party.

The Flotilla is sponsored by SoundWaters, the non-profit organization based at Cove Island Park with the mission to *protect Long Island Sound through education*. SoundWaters is creating the event to reinforce the huge role that the Sound plays in the lives of coastal communities and the need to do everything we can to protect this fragile resource.

“Our mission at SoundWaters is to help people learn about and appreciate the incredible resource we have in Long Island Sound. We do this all year long by teaching over 32,000 students from across Connecticut, but we also know that a great way to learn to love the Sound is to just have fun, in this case by paddling,” said SoundWaters President, Leigh Shemitz. “The Flotilla is a fun way for the entire family to enjoy the Sound and help us raise awareness and money to teach even more kids. The children we teach today will become the adults who take care of Long Island Sound for generations” Shemitz said.

About the Flotilla: Pushing off from Cove Island and Weed Beach at 8:30am to take advantage of calm waters, paddlers will journey four miles south along the coastline to Stamford Harbor where they will land on the beach at Boccuzzi Park. At their destination, paddlers can relax and enjoy food, music, camaraderie and the satisfaction of a job well done. Safety boats will mark the route to assist paddlers and following the event, transportation will be provided back to Cove Island and Weed Beach for paddlers, kayaks and boards. Paddlers will all be raising money to support SoundWaters education programs. The Flotilla is supported by Half Full Brewery, Downunder and Moffly Media. Learn more and start your Flotilla team at

SoundWatersFlotilla.org

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Don't Own a Kayak or Paddle Board? No worries. Downunder and SoundWaters will be happy to rent you one for the Flotilla. You can reserve your rentals at SoundWatersFlotilla.org.

Want some practice time on the water? SoundWaters is renting kayaks and paddle boards every Friday-Sunday on the docks at Harbor Point. Visit SoundWaters.org/rentals to reserve your kayak or board.

About SoundWaters

SoundWaters, founded in 1989, is the premier environmental education organization focused on the protection of Long Island Sound and its watershed. Annually, SoundWaters hosts shipboard and land-based programs for 32,000 children, including 11,000 from underserved communities. SoundWaters works in partnership with schools, communities, civic organizations, businesses and other environmental and educational organizations to develop experiences that foster a sense of responsibility for the environment and encourage actions that ensure the sustainable future of the Long Island Sound ecosystem. For more information, please visit SoundWaters.org