



SUMMER DAYS

A RECAP OF SUMMER 2022 @ SOUNDWATERS



Photo credit:
Christian Abraham
Hearst Connecticut Media

Fun on (or in) the water: Winning team approaching the finish line at SoundWaters HarborFest.

We create broader access to Long Island Sound because our community is stronger when we are connected to and learning from the Sound.

-SoundWaters Purpose Statement

A Stronger Community

Long Island Sound comes alive in the summer and it is a joyful place. When have you seen an unhappy face at the beach, on a boat, swimming, fishing or just exploring, or even cleaning the coastline? You see smiles. We hope you enjoy reading how SoundWaters provided greater access to the Sound this summer. How we created joy. How we made our community **stronger**.

Creating Access

509

Children sailed and learned with SoundWaters this summer



2,030

Paddlers explored the coastline on SoundWaters kayaks and paddle boards



66

Summer jobs created

\$ \$ \$

19

High school students conducted research on Long Island Sound



120

Individuals with intellectual and developmental uniqueness explored Long Island Sound and its fascinating environment



3,652

Children and adults sailed on the Schooner SoundWaters



Access Creates...

Opportunity

A summer at Young Mariners or Camp SoundWaters is so much more than the absence of school. It is an **opportunity** for students to learn in different ways - through sailing, science, and coastal exploration - that build confidence, social and academic skills, and positive momentum for the coming school year.



Students get their first sailing experience during a SoundWaters summer.



High school students pull in a trawl net to monitor animal populations.

Growth

Reading science in a book is one thing. Doing science on Long Island Sound takes the learning to a whole new level. Some high school students in the *SoundWaters Research Intensive* program had never before been on a boat, but ten minutes after leaving the dock on our research vessel, they were deploying a YSI Data Sonde to measure water quality or dropping a trawl net to collect animals for an animal population study. They are high schoolers **growing** into college-ready students.

Equity

Long Island Sound should not be a place of privilege, but the cost of access can be beyond the means of many families. Our *Marine Debris Kayak* and *SoundFamilies* programs welcome children and their families to enjoy kayaking on the Sound and sailing aboard the Schooner at no cost. Funded privately and through an education grant from the U.S. EPA, these programs give all families an opportunity to connect and learn together from Long Island Sound.



Families enjoy and clean Long Island Sound in our kayaks.



Three generations of one Stamford family pull lines on the Schooner *SoundWaters* on our recent SoundFamilies sail.

It's so beautiful out here... I feel like I can breathe again.
-SoundFamilies father on his first Long Island Sound sail

Community

A few hundred people coming together at the Harbor is an outing. When 5,000 people spend the day learning, building, paddling, putting, painting, eating, and drinking? That's a celebration! That's HarborFest! In its 6th year, with the generous support of Eversource, this **community** celebration of Stamford Harbor brought more people to the Harbor than ever before, culminating with the popular and hilarious Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race. Just an outing? Not even close...



To the delight of thousands, buoyancy is more important than speed in the legendary Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race.

Our community is strongest when we come together in celebration. SoundWaters HarborFest is our celebration of our thriving waterfront and our connection to Long Island Sound.

-Stamford Mayor, Caroline Simmons



Standing over their waterlogged boat, Team Life Cycle receives the cardboard trophy from Mayor Caroline Simmons.



Friends and family enjoy a hot summer day on Long Island Sound.

Connection

You may live in a coastal community but access to the water may not be so simple. By renting kayaks and paddle boards and offering beautiful sunset sails on the Schooner *SoundWaters*, we **connected** over 5,500 people to Long Island Sound this summer. It's a good bet they were all smiling. Even better, the proceeds from these activities support our education programs.

Commitment

The Flotilla is a movement that actually moves. In July, over 150 members of the community paddled from one end of Stamford to the other in a big, colorful flotilla of kayaks and paddle boards. This group enjoys getting on the water and they showed their **commitment** to a healthy Sound by raising over \$40,000 to support SoundWaters research, education, and stewardship programs. Fun? Well, if people vote with their paddles, it is. The Flotilla grows every year. Are you committed? See you July 15, 2023.



Hundreds of paddlers make their way along the coastline in July's Flotilla.

Harbor Center Update

Oh so close... Chairs and desks are in place in the Pitney Bowes Foundation Classroom. Tools have arrived for the Brewer Family Workshop and tanks are going into the Research Intensive lab. By mid-November, students will be learning in the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center.

2022 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, November 29

After a three-year hiatus, we are happy to welcome the SoundWaters community back to our Annual Meeting at the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center. Enjoy camaraderie, refreshments, and a review of an extraordinary year teaching, learning, and growing on the Sound. Watch for an invitation coming soon.



We're Changing Our Look

SoundWaters is growing and changing - far beyond our roots as a schooner-based organization - so it's time to change our logo too. On October 24, we'll reveal a new logo that reflects the work we do today. Stay tuned...



October

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