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SoundWaters Welcomes Director of Coastal Resiliency Projects

STAMFORD, CT/September 12, 2023–SoundWaters, the nonprofit organization dedicated to the resilience of Long Island Sound and its shoreline, has hired Sean Ryan as its first-ever Director of Coastal Resiliency Projects.

Ryan received his Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography from the University of Connecticut, where he investigated the impact of climate change on microalgae. He holds certifications as a Rescue Diver from Scuba Diving International and as a Scientific Scuba Diver from the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. While a doctoral student, he served as a member of the UConn Dive Safety Board.

Coastal resiliency projects at SoundWaters combine tangible efforts to improve the health of Long Island Sound with a focus on public engagement and student learning. In the past, such projects have included coastal cleanups, kelp farming, oyster seeding, water quality testing, habitat restoration and climate science studies.

"Adding Sean to our leadership team will strengthen our capacity for local impact in every sense, allowing us to engage more deeply with our shoreline community as well as with the Sound," said SoundWaters President Leigh Shemitz. "With his expertise in climate science and his practical experience in the marine environment, we'll be able to engage more people in our kelp farming, expand our work in restorative ecology and offer students opportunities for research at an extremely sophisticated level. We are excited about Sean's commitment to our mission, and we look forward to seeing him grow our coastal resiliency programs in depth and breadth."

About SoundWaters

SoundWaters is a nonprofit organization committed to the resilience of Long Island Sound and its surrounding communities. Through excellence in science education, we foster understanding of our natural world, particularly the impact of climate change. Through memorable experiences and equitable access to the Sound and its shoreline, we build motivation to protect our shared environment. For more information, visit <u>soundwaters.org</u>.

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