





**SoundWaters Response to a Broken School Year** 

**June 2020** 



SoundWaters is delivering lessons online, every day.

When the pandemic forced schools to close, the health crisis created an education crisis. Teachers, now stranded at home, need engaging materials for students who are also marooned. In response, the entire SoundWaters team mobilized to meet the needs of our region by creating a full Distance Learning Experience of great depth and are sharing this material through an online portal with hundreds of teachers and thousands of students.

"Thank you so much for this! This is a perfect addition to our curriculum-- We appreciate the entire SoundWaters education team for supporting us and our students."

- 3rd Grade Teacher, Bridgeport, CT

### **SOUNDWATERS RESPONDS: BIGGER & DEEPER**

#### **DEPTH:**

95 DISTINCT SCIENCE **LESSONS PRODUCED** AND DISTRIBUTED

#### BP P

#### **ENGAGING:**

**LESSONS INCLUDE** VIDEOS, WORKSHEETS & QUIZZES



### REACH: XX

**OFFERED TO 600 SCHOOLS (55,000** STUDENTS) AT NO COST

### **UNIQUE:**

**LESSONS PRODUCED OUTDOORS AS** VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS



## A Crisis Unfolds Overnight & SoundWaters Acts

Over 8,000 students were coming to SoundWaters this spring to study the science of Long Island Sound. That didn't happen and it left a huge hole in their learning. To meet this need, we quickly worked with teachers to bring Long Island Sound to their students.

"It's the Wild West right now. We call it distance learning, but it's crisis education."

- Michael Alfano, PhD Sacred Heart University



# The Solution: SoundWaters Distance Learning

With our experienced educators, deep relationships with teachers and administrators, and our unique connection to the natural world, SoundWaters is well prepared to help in this crisis. To meet the needs of teachers and students, SoundWaters mobilized all of our resources and created – from scratch - a brand new online science library for teachers and students.





"I am so excited to have this experience for my class. I really appreciate all of the effort you have put into creating this program and making a Google Classroom for my students to join. Thank you for making this experience possible for my students.

- 5th Grade Teacher, Stamford CT

## **Helping Teachers Finish the School Year Strong**

We leveraged our ability to teach science and developed new skills in technology and outreach to deliver Long Island Sound science online to elementary, middle and high school teachers and students to carry them through the end of the school year. SoundWaters was forced into distance learning by a crisis, but we recognize the power of this platform to bridge a gap between teachers and students and to bring Long Island Sound science to schools who may never get to experience SoundWaters in person. The potential is enormous.

"This crisis...has revealed profound disparities in children's opportunities...the most economically challenged in our society will be the most vulnerable in this crisis.

-Paul Reville, PhD Harvard University



\$182,000: SOUNDWATERS INVESTMENT IN DISTANCE LEARNING

\$0:
INCOME GENERATED FROM
DISTANCE LEARNING

ALL DISTANCE LEARNING CONTENT WAS PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS AT NO CHARGE.

"This is awesome!!!! Yes, we sure are disappointed to be missing SoundWaters this year....this is exactly what we were looking for a way to bring the SoundWaters experience to the kids remotely... these are fantastic materials to embed into our curriculum.

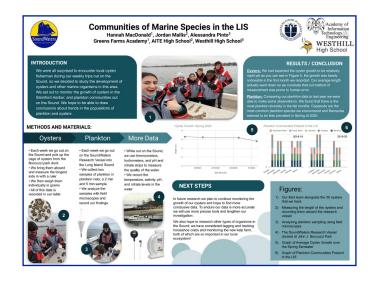
- 6th grade Science Teacher, Greenwich CT

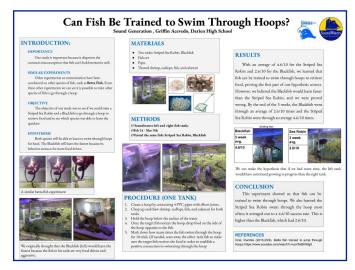
"SoundWaters created the online learning to meet the specific needs of administrators and teachers in Stamford Public Schools. The project then grew dramatically as we heard from teachers across the region. In this crisis, every district and every classroom has overwhelming needs and so we pivoted to make our materials available at no charge to all children -- from Greenwich to Bridgeport, from New Canaan to Norwalk – to help all teachers, students and families in these unprecedented times."

- Leigh Shemitz, SoundWaters

### **Student Researchers Continue Amid the Crisis**

Normally, our high school interns would be completing their 30+ hours of research and preparing to present their science posters to a live audience. Their internship ended abruptly, but that didn't stop their learning. They continued their research projects as much as they could and completed their posters, some of which you can see here. Their resilience and commitment earned them High Honors and the great admiration of the SoundWaters team!





# Virtual Learning for Students of All Ages

Students weren't the only ones stuck at home. When we canceled our spring volunteer and education events, adults lost out too. To fill that void, our team has released a new video every weekday for almost 10 weeks on a different interesting Long Island Sound topic.





