



# SUMMER DAYS

Summer @ SoundWaters

September, 2020



**A Successful Summer (that almost wasn't).**

## Summer *Happened* at SoundWaters

As sure as the seasons change, SoundWaters comes alive every summer with children sailing, exploring and learning. The ritual is so ingrained that hundreds of families plan their calendars around it every year...except in 2020.

Summer 2020 was remarkable, not just for its success, but also for the fact that it happened at all. If you asked us in April what summer would look like, we could not have answered and that was scary. But with hard work, extensive planning, the trust of parents and your support, over 500 children sailed, explored, researched and learned with SoundWaters even as other programs were cancelling. We even introduced a new high school program. We have never been more delighted (or relieved) to report on a successful summer.

503

Kids



\$230K

Scholarships



5,332

People of all ages experienced Long Island Sound in a SoundWaters Boat





# Fun and Adventure in Small Groups

## A Summer Recipe: Outdoors. Healthy. For Everyone.

We followed that recipe to the letter and adhered strictly to guidance from state and federal authorities to deliver a fun, safe summer of adventure and learning to 500 children in our Young Mariners and Camp SoundWaters programs. Great weather kept everyone outdoors and active and incredible donor support kept both programs accessible to all families.



*"Absolutely loved it. Educational, fun. It was a fantastic experience for the kids. They made great friends and the instructors were outstanding."*

**- Young Mariners Parent**

*"Many thanks to the whole staff at SoundWaters for making this week so memorable for these kids - after a long spring at home!"*

**- Camp SoundWaters Parent**





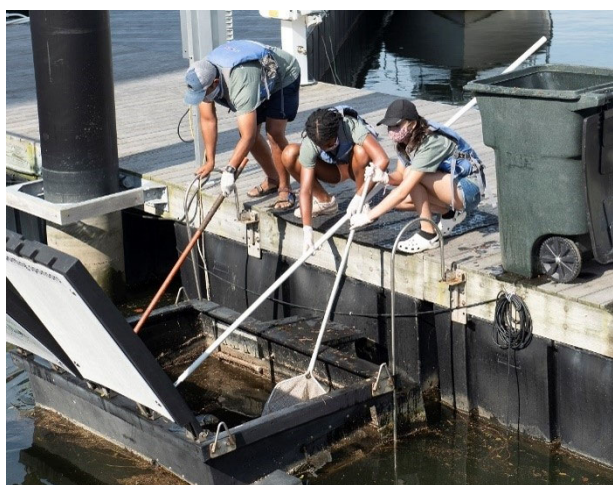
# New in 2020: Summer Research Intensive (SRI)

## Closing the High School Opportunity Gap

For the fortunate few high school students who can travel to Woods Hole, San Diego or even the Caribbean, a summer marine science experience can be a life changing opportunity. SoundWaters launched SRI for everyone else because the opportunity to follow a passion for science and work in the environment should be open to all.

To close that opportunity gap, SoundWaters hosted 20 high school students over four weeks to conduct intensive research on Long Island Sound water quality, marine debris and animal populations. A test program in 2020, SRI will welcome more students in 2021.

*SRI is funded in part by 11th Hour Racing, a program of The Schmidt Family Foundation.*



The trash skimmer provided new data daily on human impact on our local environment.

*"My summer intensive was amazing! It was a ton of fun, I learned so much, and made many new friends. Although we were doing a lot of work, it never felt like it. It was great, and I hope to do it again next year."*

**- SRI Student, 10th Grade**



Deploying the trawl net on the Research Vessel gave SRI students valuable insights into animal populations.



Identifying and documenting different types of plankton helped students understand the fragile Long Island Sound ecosystem.

# The Sound of Summer Fun

After a spring in isolation, children weren't the only ones looking for opportunities to get outside. Long Island Sound was the perfect outlet for adults too.

## Public Sails

The schooner *SoundWaters* was plenty active this summer. We didn't sail with students, but adults and families took full advantage. 1,465 passengers enjoyed the peaceful, cool breezes and gorgeous sunsets of Long Island Sound this summer.

*"The SoundWaters sunset sails were a great way to end each week on a positive note amid all the turmoil and chaos happening in the world. Captain Mike and Captain VG and their crew created a safe and fun experience for everyone on board."*

**- Sunset Sail Passenger**



## Paddle Sports

People came from everywhere to get out, exercise and just enjoy the Sound. 3,255 people rented kayaks and paddleboards from SoundWaters this summer.

*"The SoundWaters crew from top down has been really nice and accommodating ... in challenging times they always keep safety in mind especially with COVID-19."*

**- Kayaker**



## Paddling Across Stamford!

Over 100 paddlers – more than ever before – took to the Sound in July to paddle from one end of Stamford's coastline to the other in the SoundWaters Flotilla. The group raised over \$50,000 for Long Island Sound research and education. Save the date for next year: July 10, 2021.

*"This is such a great event and I never miss it. Only SoundWaters could get this many people onto the Sound smoothly, safely and for such a great cause."*

**- Stamford Mayor, David Martin**



## HarborFest Hiatus

One summer tradition did fall victim to COVID. Bringing thousands of people to Stamford Harbor was just not appropriate this summer. Look for HarborFest '21 next August.