



Save the Sound®

### **Assistant Soundkeeper**

Long Island Soundkeeper Program

May 15 to October 15, 2021

#### **Who We Are**

Save the Sound leads environmental action in your region. We protect the Sound, restore its rivers, fight climate change while building resilient communities, and save endangered lands. We do this in many ways, from legislative advocacy and legal action to engineering, environmental monitoring, and hands-on volunteer efforts. For more than 40 years we've been ensuring people can enjoy the healthy, clean, and thriving environment they deserve— today and for generations to come.

#### **Position Description**

This is a seasonal position – May 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021 – reporting to the Long Island Soundkeeper based out of Save the Sound's office in New Haven, CT. Office work will be conducted in New Haven and at times in Save the Sound NY office in Larchmont, NY. Boat/Field work will take place throughout Long Island Sound leaving from the homeport of Blackrock Harbor, Bridgeport, CT or Clinton Harbor, CT or Mamaroneck Harbor. The position is supervised by the Long Island Soundkeeper and will collaborate with Water Quality Team, the Legal Team and the Ecological Restoration Team.

The Soundkeeper actively patrols the Long Island Coastline from Plum Island to the East River. Boat days can be long with exposure to the elements and rough seas. Tracking down pollution sources by collecting water quality data and samples are primary duties associated with this position. Many issues are identified through citizen reports requiring frequent travel to diverse locations around the Sound. This work may involve launching a kayak from the patrol vessel to access shallow water discharge pipes. In addition, river patrols and stream walks may occur to identify inland pollution sources that drain to the Sound as well as potential habitat restoration projects and fish passage impediments. Job responsibilities are diverse and schedules are flexible within the 40 hour work week.

**The applicant must have a CT or NY safe boating certificate and be able to pilot up to a 25' Parker 2530**

#### **General duties**

- Vessel maintenance: Cleaning, small repairs, equipment maintenance
- Data Collection: Using scientific equipment such as handheld GPS units, water quality meters, bacteria sample bottles and data loggers
- Research: Online researching of water pollution incidents, history and impacts
- Program Development: Tabling events such as boat shows, oyster festivals and National Estuary Day

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- Outreach/Education: Supporting the Soundkeeper in scheduling and preparing for evening presentations on a variety of water quality and fishery topics to yacht clubs, conservation groups, community programs and schools.

### Specific Projects for 2021

Remote Aerial Mapping - We will be experimenting with aerial drone thermal imaging and mapping to identify potential sources of bacteria entering along the coastline. ArcGIS skills are desired for this application though not required.

Assessment of Abandoned Lobster Pots - Utilizing a side-scan sonar to potentially locate abandoned lobster pots. This project is experimental to determine if side-scan transect data is a reliable way to detect pots abandoned after the decline in the LIS lobster fishery. Abandoned pot collection is a collaboration with CTDEEP Marine Fisheries, the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk and Project Oceanography who may be contracting commercial vessels to retrieve pots this season depending on grant funding. The vessel will support these efforts in Bridgeport and *may* include scuba diving to assist the project.

### Miscellaneous Projects:

- We periodically assist academic researchers with projects by providing a sampling platform.
- We also provide boat trips for elected officials, program supporters and partner groups
- The Soundkeeper regularly attends conferences and onshore meetings with legislators, the press and the Waterkeeper Alliance so the applicant must be able to pilot the boat independently and be willing to work with other Save the Sound Programs as needed.
- The other programs include a Citizen Bacteria Monitoring effort in the Western Sound, the Unified Water Study which coordinates 23 citizen science groups across 40 bays of Long Island Sound, beach clean-ups and habitat restoration projects which include stream and culvert assessments and wetland plantings.

### Desired Qualifications:

We are looking for a highly motivated and independent individual with:

- Boating experience with boating safety certificate and/or Coast Guard approved certificate
- Ability to work independently and prioritize daily tasks to meet program goals
- Strong communications skills
- Ability to work with and coordinate all types of people mixed together in a group setting
- Excellent organizational skills, experience working with data and Microsoft Excel
- Passion for protecting and restoring water quality and familiarity with Long Island Sound
- Ability to use ArcMap is desirable, though not required



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**Terms and Compensation:**

This is a temporary full time 5 month position that pays \$18/hour for an average work week of 40 hours. The position begins May 15, 2020 and runs through October 15, 2020. It is a temporary position and does not include benefits. Access to a computer will be provided. Reimbursement for work-related travel is provided. Some evening and weekend hours will be required on an as needed basis.

**To Apply:**

We will be accepting applications until the position is filled. Please submit a resume, three references, and cover letter describing your interest and qualifications for this position electronically to Bill Lucey at [soundkeeper@savethesound.org](mailto:soundkeeper@savethesound.org).

Save the Sound is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit discrimination based on age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other legally protected status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

We will be in touch to acknowledge receipt of your application and to schedule selected applicants for an interview. Our selection process can take from 7 to 10 weeks. You will be informed when the process is complete.

**Long Island Soundkeeper Background:**

The Long Island Soundkeeper Fund began in 1987 founded by Terry Backer and was modelled after the nearby Hudson Riverkeeper. The Long Island Soundkeeper was a founding member of the Waterkeeper Alliance which is now a global water advocacy program operating in over 40 countries with more than 300 member groups. The Long Island Sound program grew from a commercial fishing advocacy group, the CT Coastal Fisherman's Association, angered by poor water quality in the waters they harvested. CFE/ Save the Sound merged Soundkeeper into their organization in 2017. Save the Sound is a regional leader protecting Long Island Sound's shoreline, marine habitat and water quality for more than 30 years, and merged with Connecticut Fund for the Environment in 2004. Linking Soundkeeper's mission of swimmable, drinkable, fishable water with CFE's legal, scientific and policy expertise and Save the Sound's stewardship, restoration, and community outreach capability has further enhanced our reputation for leadership in protecting and restoring the Sound. In 2020, the organization combined under one banner as Save the Sound. We are committed to making every beach and its surrounding waters in the Sound safe for swimming, fishing and wildlife.