



VISION

The Great Salt Pond will continue to serve a central role in Block Island life for generations to come as one of Block Island's most significant natural features, recreational resources and economic assets. The community will place vital importance on the protection of its water quality, fragile ecosystem and scenic character. This beloved recreational resource will continue to be known as a first-class yacht harbor and welcoming to a variety of water-based recreational activities. Through sound management, the Great Salt Pond will remain in strong ecological health and will contribute immeasurably to the local economy and the quality of life of residents.

5. THE GREAT SALT POND

New Shoreham 2016 Draft Comprehensive Plan

THE GREAT SALT POND

Supporting Documents

BLOCK ISLAND HARBORS SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION STUDY. TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM, RI. AUGUST 1, 2013.

SEASONAL DYNAMICS OF JUVENILE FISH IN GREAT SALT POND, BLOCK ISLAND, 2014.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, BLOCK ISLAND FIELD OFFICE. DECEMBER 14, 2014.

THE GREAT SALT POND MANAGEMENT PLAN. TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM, RI. 1998.

TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN. REVISED JANUARY 18, 2012.

Overview

One of Block Island's greatest assets is its beautiful sheltered harbor, known as the Great Salt Pond. Historically an enclosed pond, this now 673 acre tidal harbor, known as New Harbor, opens to Block Island Sound providing vessels with shelter from heavy seas. Since Block Island had no natural harbors, breakwaters were constructed to form Old Harbor in 1870. New Harbor, was created in 1895, when a channel was dug to connect the Great Salt Pond to Block Island Sound through the northwestern side of the island.

The federal channel accessing the Great Salt Pond was authorized through the U.S. Rivers and Harbors Act of June 3, 1896 (modified in 1902 and 1945) which allows for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors and specifically cites the Great Salt Pond on Block Island.

Today, the Great Salt Pond is a popular multiple use recreational and economic asset. Providing for those uses while also protecting ecological communities, water quality, and sensitive archeological sites is a great challenge. This magically scenic natural feature demands our protection. A balance of appropriate uses must be achieved in order to provide an optimal habitat, superior water quality and a recreation zone for water based activities in keeping with this special place.

Cultural Asset

The Great Salt Pond has provided a home, habitat, and recreation for thousands of years. The shores of the pond have a long history of human use, as it once was a primary area of residence by Native Americans both before and after contact with Europeans. Due to its significance, the area was

added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and is referred to as the Great Salt Pond Archeological District (See *Map HCI Historic & Cultural Resources*).

Ecological Asset

Covering about one square mile in area, the Great Salt Pond is surrounded by a scenic watershed and is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Its waters, shoreline and coastal wetlands provide important habitat for birds, seals, lobsters, crabs, shellfish and fish.

Recreational Asset

The Great Salt Pond is one of the most popular yacht harbors in the northeast with approximately 1,000 visiting boats moored in New Harbor on a typical summer weekend and as many as 2,000 on special occasions such as holidays or Race Week. It is navigable by vessels with up to 12 feet of draft and offers a large anchoring area and rental moorings. The pond is also popular for paddling and fishing.

Economic Asset

Together with the nearby beaches, the Great Salt Pond/New Harbor is the island's prime attraction for tourists. On summer weekends, visiting boaters are estimated to represent a waterborne community of 3,000 to 6,000 people making New Harbor a major economic asset not only for the Town but also for the State. The local businesses established to support this waterborne community provide jobs for residents and contribute significantly to the local tax base. Permits and fees associated with the recreational uses on the pond also represent a significant revenue source for the town.

Appropriate Uses

The intention of the Town has been and continues to be that New Harbor be dedicated to recreational boating use, commercial fishing, shellfishing, and aquaculture but not to other commercial activities such as freight, ferries, major transportation and other uses that might conflict with those intended uses or the scenic and natural qualities of the Great Salt Pond. A clear distinction must remain between uses appropriate for Old Harbor and New Harbor.

Concern over potential overdevelopment or inappropriate uses that could forever negatively impact this important natural and economic asset drives a significant amount of civic attention and volunteerism and, as such, appropriate public policies and protective measures should follow. Public policies affecting the Great Salt Pond and its watershed should be based on a long-term view, a clear understanding of the pond's ecosystem and the utilization of tools to forecast and evaluate environmental impacts. It is important that the Great Salt Pond be protected and managed in a way to prevent future harm while allowing for the current uses to continue.

Tour the Great Salt Pond - A Shared-Use Harbor

The Great Salt Pond serves as a shared-use harbor. Roughly one-half, the northern sector, is reserved for recreational use. This is a “no anchoring” area **(1)**, kept open for sailing, swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, kite boarding, rowing and wakeboarding. The Great Salt Pond is readymade for paddling, with flat water surrounded by scenic salt marsh and estuaries perfect for bird and wildlife sightings.

The central and southern deep-water areas of the Great Salt Pond are set aside as anchorage **(2)** and mooring areas **(3)**. The mooring field contains both private and rental moorings. The town owns and manages 90 rental moorings. The 289 private moorings in the Great Salt Pond are controlled by permits issued by the Town. The mooring area is at or near capacity and there is a long list of island residents and nonresidents on the waitlist for mooring permits. Commercial launch services operate throughout the Great Salt Pond, serving both the anchorage and mooring areas.

Three large private marinas **(4)** provide over 400 slips for private yachts, dockage for the high speed ferry from Montauk, New York, and on occasion, host small cruise ships. Surrounding the three large marinas are shoreside restaurants and inns within walking distance. Two of the marinas have bars and eating establishments on the piers.

The southwest corner of Great Salt Pond is Cormorant Cove **(5)**, a 32 acre cove bordered by private residences, some with piers. Part of Cormorant Cove is deep enough for anchorage, but it is separated from the main body of the harbor by a shoal, and there is only a narrow entry with water deep enough for boats with four to five feet of draft.

Northwest of Cormorant Cove, on the edge of the channel joining Block Island Sound, is a former U.S. Coast Guard station **(6)**. Its building and dock are now owned by the Town and future uses are being explored.

The northern recreational area by Beane Point is bordered to the west and the north by dunes, tidal flats and salt marshes. This is an undeveloped conservation area **(7)** and wildlife preserve. It is owned in part by local entities and in part by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Along the eastern shore of the recreational area is a public beach, Andy’s Way **(8)** with a small parking area off of Corn Neck Road. Dozens of small craft are pulled up on the beach here during the season.

While there are homes along this shore, most buildings are set back from the water’s edge, leaving the shoreline untouched. One exception is the Block Island Club **(9)**, a community nonprofit that focuses on sail training for juniors. The club has a building near the water, a small swimming beach and a pier (the only pier permitted in the recreational area). The club has a fleet of more than 40 sailboats, kayaks, canoes and rowboats.

To the south of the club is a public dinghy beach, known as Mosquito Beach **(10)**, which provides visiting boaters with access to the ocean beaches and town facilities on the eastern side of the island, across Corn Neck Road.



Figure GSP I: Great Salt Pond Tour

In the southeast corner of the Great Salt Pond there are linked salt-water ponds, Trim's Pond **(11)** and Harbor Pond **(12)**. Part of this area is used for commercial aquaculture. This is mostly shallow water, navigable by kayaks or canoes, but with deeper water along an entrance channel where there is a public launch ramp for small craft, the only one in the Great Salt Pond. Also located along the channel is a docking station for pumpout boats to transfer waste from boats in the harbor to the town's sewage treatment system. Commercial facilities in this area include kayak and paddleboard rental stations, a boat launch, repair and winter storage facility, with rental slips for small craft, and a bait and tackle shop with rental cabins and a dock for small fishing boats. One other organization located on the water here is the BI Maritime Institute **(13)**, a nonprofit which has slips for a dozen boats.

See below for CRMC Water Type Classification Map. A majority of waterfront on the Great Salt Pond is designated Type I, Conservation Areas, which does not permit the construction of new docks.

Public Facilities for a Waterborne Community

In the summer, boaters in New Harbor represent a large seasonal community on the island resulting in the need for a significant amount of public services and facilities including but not limited to emergency response, utilities, and refuse collection. Currently, there are few on-shore public facilities to meet the basic needs for these visiting boaters. For example, there is no public dinghy dock for the moored and anchored boats, and no publicly owned shower or toilet facility readily accessible to boaters in the harbor. A subcommittee of the Harbors Commission was established in 2015 to identify any necessary public facilities for the boating population on the Great Salt Pond. The greatest challenge will be identifying appropriate locations for new facilities conveniently sited for intended users.

Considerations:

- THE HARBORMASTER'S OFFICE IS LOCATED IN A "SHACK" ON AN OLD BARGE AT THE BOAT BASIN AND MUST BE RELOCATED SOON.
- CURRENTLY, THE TOWN HAS AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE MARINA BUSINESS TO ALLOW USE OF SHOWERS FOR VISITING BOATERS IN EXCHANGE FOR NO COST REFUSE REMOVAL.
- AN UPGRADED TOWN BEACH PAVILION, ACCESSED FROM NEW HARBOR BY CROSSING CORN NECK ROAD, WILL PROVIDE EXTENDED TIME FOR VISITING BOATERS TO UTILIZE TOKEN OPERATED PUBLIC RESTROOM AND SHOWER FACILITIES. THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AND AVAILABLE FOR USE IN 2016.
- LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE MAY REQUIRE THE RELOCATION OF THE TOWN'S BOAT RAMP AT NEW HARBOR.

Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of the Great Salt Pond (New Harbor)

The Harbormaster oversees all marine activity in the Great Salt Pond (as well as Old Harbor described elsewhere in this plan). The Harbormaster is responsible for safe navigation within the harbor, for rental of moorings and the location of boats in the anchorage, and for the operation of sewage pumpout boats.

While the Harbormaster is in day-to-day control of the Great Salt Pond, jurisdiction is shared with other agencies and groups. By the ruling of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has primary jurisdiction of the shoreline of the pond and the 200-foot contiguous landward area, including tidal water. CRMC's authority extends to docks, piers, launching ramps, buildings, aquaculture, the size and configuration of marinas and any other proposed alterations in tidal waters, the shoreline or the 200-foot contiguous area.

Numerous federal as well as state laws and regulations apply, notably in the areas of navigation and environmental protection. The channel into Block Island Sound, cut in the late 19th Century, turned the

Great Salt Pond from an isolated pond into navigable waters and a harbor of refuge. Thus it is subject to oversight by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In fulfilling its mission to maintain navigation, the Army Corps of Engineers occasionally conducts maintenance dredging projects at the channel to the Great Salt Pond. Natural shoaling processes reduce available depths in the entrance channel making navigation to and from the pond hazardous. At times, shallow depths have led to the grounding of some vessels and the need for additional navigational buoy.

State law delegates the power to regulate fishing in the Great Salt Pond to the Town of New Shoreham (RIGL 20-3-7). Block Island's Shellfish Commission and its Shellfish Wardens are responsible for management of the shellfish and finfish populations in the Great Salt Pond, encompassing the regulation of commercial and private shellfish licenses, quantities, methods and timing of shellfishing, the opening and closing of shellfish beds and enforcement.

Also involved in the future of the Great Salt Pond are non-governmental organizations. One island nonprofit, the Committee for the Great Salt Pond (CGSP), was created specifically to help deal with environmental and developmental issues in the Great Salt Pond and its watershed. Other organizations are closely concerned with the Great Salt Pond because of their broader interest in conservation and environmental protection on Block Island. They include The Nature Conservancy, the Ocean View Foundation, the Block Island Residents Association, the Block Island Land Trust, and the Block Island Conservancy. These organizations intersect in many ways, and collaborate informally, but no one institution coordinates their activities or oversees their efforts.

The Committee for the Great Salt Pond

The mission of the Committee for the Great Salt Pond (CGSP) is to protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond and its watershed. The Committee for the Great Salt Pond, one of Block Island's most active environmental organizations, was founded in response to a 1986 proposal to build a large ferry terminal inside the pond. About a decade following, a second controversial project proposed the expansion of docks at Champlin's Marina into the Great Salt Pond to add an additional 140 boat slips. The CGSP, leading the opposition, filed an appeal with the Rhode Island Supreme Court to reverse the lower court's decision to allow the expansion without seeking CRMC review. The Town, Land Trust, and Block Island Conservancy are also opposed to the dock expansion.

The CGSP has one of the longest running water quality sampling databases in the country. Recent initiatives of the Committee for the Great Salt Pond include conducting expanded water quality testing and research and management of non-point source pollution impacts on the Great Salt Pond.

Environmental Significance and Considerations

Habitat

The Great Salt Pond is a tidal harbor supporting a diverse habitat. Of the more than 300 species of birds seen on Block Island, about 50 species nest here, including many waterfowl. More than 30 species of finfish and shellfish are found in the Great Salt Pond, along with clam and oyster beds.

In 2014, The Nature Conservancy and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management launched a scientific investigation to determine the pond's importance as nursery habitat for fish. In total, 25 species of fish from 24 families were recorded during the 2014 survey. Forage fish accounted for 94% of fish captured, including: Atlantic silverside, striped killifish, and rainwater killifish. The most abundant species was Atlantic silversides. Winter flounder was the fourth most abundant species. For most fish species in the Great Salt Pond, including winter flounder, abundance peaked in September and declined with temperature decrease in October. The report for the first year of the study recommends that, in future years, researchers also collect water quality data such as temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen at each station during the time of the fish survey.

The ecological significance of the network of coastal wetlands of the Great Salt Pond must be understood and protected. Many of these wetlands are threatened by sea level rise and accommodations should be planned for wetland migration. See the *Natural Hazards & Climate Change Chapter* for SLAMM Maps (Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model) for Block Island. SLAMM maps are also available at http://www.crmc.ri.gov/maps/maps_slamm.html.

Water Quality

It is hard to overstate the importance of water quality protection to the Great Salt Pond. If this harbor were not kept clean and attractive, its value to the island would be diminished or destroyed.

Block Island has taken extensive steps to deal with point sources of pollution. It was the first community in the State to enact a "No Discharge" law of sewage from boats in 1993. The challenge of today and the future will be the management and reduction of non-point sources of pollution and their impacts on the Great Salt Pond and its watershed. Non-point source pollution is an everyday threat and more challenging to manage. If non-point sources of pollution are not controlled, there could be substantive, enduring changes in the biological balance of the harbor's waters or in the configuration of the pond itself.

Water quality testing is done on a regularly scheduled basis and at many locations throughout the pond by the CGSP and the Town. A tremendous amount of data has been collected over the years allowing the ability to track changes in water quality over time. Water quality test results show that bacterial counts, which were high before the "No Discharge" law went into effect, have since been kept within the permissible range. However, there are exceptions and troublesome "hot spots." The "hot spots" repeatedly register high bacteria counts with the likely source of pollution being land-based. **One location, in the Trim's Pond-Harbor Pond area, is designated "impaired waters" by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, so labeled for failure to meet the standards of the federal Clean Water Act.**

Recent water quality testing by the CGSP indicates that the water quality of the Great Salt Pond has been negatively impacted by non-point pollution. The island must be vigilant in preventing eutrophication of the waters of the pond. Such a condition results when compounds of nitrogen and phosphorus, from urban and agricultural land uses in the watershed, concentrate in the water. This accelerates plant growth and

encourages algae blooms. The dissolved oxygen in the water decreases to the point where fish and wildlife can no longer survive.

TESTS IN THE GREAT SALT POND SHOW THAT NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS LEVELS ARE NOT AT DANGEROUS LEVELS BUT ARE INCREASING SLOWLY. CONTINUED MONITORING IS NEEDED, ALONG WITH EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF NUTRIENT POLLUTANTS, AND TO REDUCE WATERSHED RUNOFF WHERE POSSIBLE.

Water quality testing should be continued and expanded, to include an evaluation of the harbor's bottom soil. Almost no biochemical testing of this kind has been done, and little is known about possible contaminants.

Land acquisition or conservation within the watershed is one significant way to reduce the risk of nonpoint source pollution to the Great Salt Pond. It is estimated, utilizing the town's Geographic Information System, that currently 25% of the land within the watershed of the Great Salt Pond is conserved (See *Map GSP I The Great Salt Pond Watershed & Conserved Lands*).

While there may be work to be done to remedy current pollution sources and prevent future ones, it should be recognized that this is a remarkably clean harbor by comparison with others. Data on bacterial counts, water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels and suspended solids indicate that the water quality of the Great Salt Pond is far better than most harbors in New England.

Local and Regional Economic Impact

The Great Salt Pond is vitally important to the island economy. It is responsible for the existence of many full and part-time jobs. Some are directly related to the Great Salt Pond as a center of recreational boating, such as the employees of the marinas, while others are indirectly related such as taxi drivers, restaurant employees and retail sales clerks.

Visiting boats add significantly to the island's summer population. The Harbormaster reported that during the 2014 season, about 15,000 boats came to the Great Salt Pond and stayed overnight or longer. The number of people staying overnight on boats is typically equivalent to the number of guests in the island's hotels and inns, if not greater.

While the total economic impact can only be estimated, certain figures can provide an indication as to the substantial amount of dollars generated from the uses within and surrounding the Great Salt Pond. Mooring rental fees added about \$400,000 to the Town's general fund in 2014. Fees for private moorings contributed

about \$120,000 while shellfish licenses added \$50,000. However, fees are only a portion of the harbor's economic impact. The largest single economic driver is the slip rental business done by private marinas with revenues estimated in the millions of dollars annually.

Secondary economic impacts are also significant. The people who come ashore from boats expand the tourist economy in the same way as other visitors do in that they go to beaches and restaurants, patronize retail shops and hire taxis.

Natural Hazards

The prospect of a natural disaster including hurricanes and Nor-easters impacting the Great Salt Pond and accelerating natural shoreline erosion must be factored into the Town's planning process. A major storm that results in a breach from the sea into the pond could cause catastrophic environmental and economic impacts. The most likely sites for such an event are the locations where the sea and harbor are separated by a narrow neck of land composed of sand, gravel and loose soil, easily moved by wave action. One such area is north of the channel and Beane Point where the land rises just a few yards above mean sea level. Hurricane Sandy did result in a breach of the Great Salt Pond.

Recent NOAA scenarios project 2 meters (6.6 feet) of sea level rise by 2100. In 2013, the Town conducted a sea level rise adaptation study which identified potential strategies the town can implement to prepare for and mitigate potential impacts of sea level rise. Inundation mapping conducted as part of the study shows land, docks, and roadways surrounding the Great Salt Pond as being either inundated by sea level rise or more susceptible to flooding during extreme storm conditions as a result of sea level rise. Specific strategies to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise on the Great Salt Pond and its uses include the raising of roadbeds, flood-proofing of pump stations, and the eventual relocation of the town's boat ramp.

For additional discussion on natural hazards and related maps, see the *Natural Hazards & Climate Change Chapter* and the *New Shoreham Hazard Mitigation Plan (Appendix)*.

Goals, Policies & Implementation Actions

GOAL GSPI: PROTECT AND REHABILITATE THE WATER QUALITY AND ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE GREAT SALT POND

<u>POLICY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>	<u>TIMEFRAME</u>
GSPI.A. Maintain the highest possible water quality standards	GSPI.A.1. Working with partners, such as the CGSP, continue to monitor water quality through coordinated and expanded water sampling efforts at various locations throughout the pond	Harbors Department; Harbors Commission; Shellfish Commission	Ongoing
	GSPI.A.2. With partners, conduct complete physical and chemical analyses of the pond's bottom soil	Harbors Commission; Shellfish Commission	Short-term
	GSPI.A.3. Identify point sources of pollution and initiate immediate action to cease the activity	Harbors Department	Ongoing
GSPI.B. Mitigate potential impacts of non-point source pollution on the ecological health of the Great Salt Pond	GSPI.B.1. Work with partners to conduct a study to identify potential non-point sources of pollution upstream of the Great Salt Pond	Town Manager; Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning;	Short-term
	GSPI.B.2. Encourage local land conservation groups such as the Block Island Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and the Block Island Conservancy to prioritize land conservation investments which will have a positive impact on water quality of the GSP	Town Manager; Town Council; Conservation Commission	Ongoing
	GSPI.B.3. Educate property owners on best management practices such as minimizing use of herbicides and pesticides	Harbors Department; Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Conservation Commission	Ongoing

GSPI.C. Plan for potential impacts to the Great Salt Pond from natural hazards	GSPI.C.1. Seek grant funding to implement strategies identified in the Block Island Sea Level Rise Adaptation Study	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Grant Writer	Short-term; Medium-term; Long-term
	GSPI.C.2. Identify lands that will provide marsh migration areas for coastal wetlands of the Great Salt Pond in response to sea level rise	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Land Trust; Conservation Commission	Medium-term; Ongoing
	GSPI.C.3. With the help of partners, pursue dune restoration projects to mitigate erosion and provide habitat along the Great Salt Pond	Town Manager; Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Grant Writer	Long-term
	GSPI.C.4. Consider sea level rise and storm flooding when designing upgrades to or locating public facilities including roads, bridges, structures, utilities, and pump stations	Planning Board; Sewer Commission; Water Commission; Town Manager	Ongoing

GOAL GSP2: AFFIRM THE GREAT SALT POND'S REPUTATION AS A FIRST CLASS BOATING DESTINATION

<u>POLICY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>	<u>TIMEFRAME</u>
GSP2.A. Improve public facilities at the Great Salt Pond to enhance the experience of boaters	GSP2.A.1 Survey visiting boaters' experience at New Harbor and their opinions of the island while also collecting valuable data in regards to economic contributions to the local economy during their stay	Harbors Department	Ongoing
	GSP2.A.2. Consider offering public restroom and shower facilities, dingy dockage, and storage lockers for New Harbor	Town Manager; Town Council; Harbors Commission; Planning Board	Short-term; medium-term; long-term
	GSP2.A.3. Determine new location for Harbormaster's Office in the vicinity of New Harbor	Town Manager; Town Council	Short-term
	GSP2.A.4. Establish and maintain a reserve fund dedicated to public improvements for New Harbor	Town Council; Finance Department	Short-term; Ongoing

	GSP2.A.5. Seek grant opportunities to help fund potential upgrade and expansion of public harbor facilities	Harbors Department; Grant Writer; Town Manager	Short-term; Medium-term; Long-term
	GSP2.A.6. Install kiosk that provides information to boaters including the annual Harbor’s Guide and a map of the attractions and services surrounding the Great Salt Pond	Harbors Department; GIS Department; Town Manager	Medium-term
GSP2.B. Encourage the use of low impact small watercrafts such as kayaks and canoes	GSP2.B.1. Create and disseminate a blueways map and guide to promote paddling (RC1.C.3.)	GIS; Harbors Department; Tourism Council; Recreation Department	Short-term
GSP2.C. Assure management of the Great Salt Pond and its uses is implemented in a sustainable, balanced, clear and fair manner	GSP2.C.1. Take actions to meet the goals and objectives identified in the locally adopted Harbor Management Plan	Town Manager; Harbors Department; Harbors Commission	Short-term; Medium-term; Long-term; Ongoing
	GSP2.C.2. Develop a plan with the US Coast Guard and US Army Corp of Engineers which clearly delineates areas for rental moorings, private moorings, anchorages, channels, fairways and turning basins	Town Manager; Harbors Department; Town Council	Medium-term
	GSP2.C.3. Determine scientifically-based maximum number of moorings to prevent negative impacts	Harbors Department	Short-term

GOAL GSP3: SUPPORT AN APPROPRIATE MIX OF WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES AND SHORELINE LAND USES WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE SCENIC AND NATURAL QUALITIES OF THE GREAT SALT POND

POLICY	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMEFRAME
GSP3.A. Institute proper land management practices that support the ecological health of the Great Salt Pond	GSP3.A.1. Review current local regulations (subdivision, zoning etc.) to ensure they provide the necessary protections for the Great Salt Pond	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Conservation Commission	Short-term
GSP3.B. Recognize the clear distinction in appropriate uses between Old Harbor and New Harbor	GSP3.B.1. Update the Great Salt Pond Management Plan	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Harbors Department	Medium-term
	GSP3.B.2. Seek CRMC approval of locally adopted Harbor Management Plan; keep Harbor Management Plan current through future updates	Harbors Department; Town Manager; Town Council	Short-term; Ongoing
GSP3.C. Recognize and protect public right-of-ways to the shoreline of the Great Salt Pond	GSP3.C.1. Maintain an inventory of public right-of-ways to the shore and disseminate a map to residents and visitors	Town Clerk; GIS Department	Ongoing
GSP3.D. Retain opportunities for public uses of land fronting on the Great Salt Pond	GSP3.D.1. Explore options for the repurposing of the former Coast Guard Station	Town Manager; Town Council; Planning Board	Short-term
GSP3.E. Encourage sustainable fishing, shellfishing and aquaculture practices	GSP3.E.1. Support the Shellfish Commission and other organizations in their efforts to develop aquaculture projects and expand shellfish and finfish resources	Town Council; Harbors Commission; Shellfish Commission	Ongoing

Timeframes: Short-term (1-3 years); Medium-term (4-6 years); Long-term (7-10 years)