

OUTCOME 2: REDUCED POINT SOURCE POLLUTION



Point sources of pollution - typically discrete and discernible pipe outfalls - also exist within the Reserve, and are regulated and monitored through the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit program. Point sources, while not as widespread and geographically less significant than nonpoint sources, can still cause significant water quality impacts in their immediate areas.

Exploring Regulation of Private Petroleum Tanks less than 1,100 gallons

Regulation of privately-owned residential heating oil tanks can help to reduce the potential for pollution caused by tank leaks and spills.

- Suffolk County sponsored and implemented a program targeted at decommissioning residential underground fuel tanks. The program has resulted in over 500 tank upgrades.
- The Town of Southampton instituted a tax rebate program to encourage removal and upgrading of residential underground fuel storage tanks.

Evaluation of Need for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Outfall Relocations

Five wastewater treatment plants discharge secondarily treated effluent into the western bays of the Reserve. Reserve partners have made the following progress in addressing potential water quality and ecological impacts to the estuary caused by the discharge from these plants.

- The City of Long Beach has completed Phase I and designs for Phases II and III of its project to improve the quality of effluent discharged into Reynolds Channel. The final settling tanks, influent pumping station, primary settling tanks, sludge dewatering, and plant drain system will be addressed in this project.
- A Reserve Council workgroup has been established to address the issue of water quality and assessment of water quality data in the western Hempstead bays and Reynolds Channel, including the ecological impact of the wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the estuary in this area.

Expansion of Village of Patchogue Sewer District

In February 2005, a feasibility report was completed to expand the Patchogue Sewer District to include the Patchogue River Maritime Center and upgrade the plant to tertiary treatment, in order to address the water quality impacts of on-site wastewater treatment (septic) systems in the area.

NEXT STEPS FOR REDUCED POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Reserve Council partners will complete implementation of the Long Beach wastewater treatment plant upgrades and expansion of the Patchogue Sewer District.

Reserve Council partners will analyze existing water quality data for the western bays and expand current monitoring efforts to assess the impacts of wastewater treatment plant discharges on water quality and ecological health. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocations for nutrients should be developed for the western bays.

