Workshop Sponsors
Workshop Objectives

- Present the new SSER seagrass maps and 2002-2018 change analysis
- Provide scientific context for the status and trends observed in the SSER seagrass ecosystems
- Illustrate a community-based approach to local seagrass protection and management in Long Island Sound
- Initiate a discussion on options for seagrass preservation in SSER
Seagrass Mapping & Change: 2002-2018
Seagrass Status & Trends: Agents of Change
Seagrass Management: Community Leadership
Small Group Discussions

1. What additional information do you wish was being collected to enable better seagrass protection and management in the SSER?

2. Is it important for South Shore communities to be involved in taking care of seagrass in their bays and estuaries?
   - If yes, why? Which community-based organizations/leaders are most likely or best-positioned to lead seagrass protection efforts?
   - If no, why? Who responsibility should it be?
Participant Recommended Actions

**FOR DATA & INFORMATION**

- Improve monitoring frequency, resolution, coordination and use of standardized protocols
- Obtain groundwater modeling, shoreline hardening/living shoreline, boating impact, commercial fishing gear deployment and seasonal population flux impact data
- Conduct social science to gauge public perceptions of seagrass value and understanding of septic system, fertilizer use and boating impacts

**FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Form a community-based coalition to initiate local seagrass conservation action; launch the coalition in South Hampton and/or Fire Island
- Use community-based outreach and social marketing to raise awareness and appreciation of seagrass and reduce local boating impacts
- Engage citizen scientists in monitoring seagrass condition, water quality and local uses/impacts