

**PRESS RELEASE FROM  
LEGISLATOR SARAH ANKER**

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## **Legislator Anker Supports CCE Effort to Clean LI Sound of Derelict Lobster Traps**



*Legislator Anker joins CCE staff and volunteers at a recent press conference.*

**Mount Sinai, NY** – Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker recently attended a press conference at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai where Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) was named the recipient of a Community-Based Marine Debris Removal Grant.

This grant will fund the identification and removal of derelict lobster traps from the sea floor of Long Island Sound, as well as employ up to 45 local lobstermen and restore more than 19,840 acres of marine habitat. To date, 4,960 abandoned lobster pots have been removed from the Sound.

The project proposes to remove all such identified gear from the study site by employing the experience of commercial lobstermen from the area. The condition of retrieved gear, lobsters & other ensnared by-catch will be monitored. Collected derelict gear is recycled through the Fishing for Energy Partnership.

“Abandoned, lost or discarded lobster pots and other marine debris have become an increasing concern to the future health of the Sound,” said Legislator Anker. “This initiative puts local fishermen back to work while using their expertise to locate the traps. I will continue to advocate for the steady improvement of the Sound’s water quality and marine life.”

The grant awarded will provide benefits not only to the marine and coastal environments of Long Island Sound, but also the fishing industry itself.