



Harbor Management Commission

HARBOR MANAGEMENT
PLAN PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 24, 2023

Agenda

- Team Introductions
- Project Introduction
- Survey Results
- Next steps
- Useful Links
- Questions/ Open Dialogue



Project Introduction

The Harbor Management Plan is a tool for the town and the Harbor Management Commission, specifically, to provide a route for the preservation and use of coastal resources in the Harbor. The plan lays out **goals** for the harbor, **recommendations** on how to achieve those goals, and **policies** to follow to maintain a healthy balance on the waterfront.

Project Introduction

- In 2022, the Harbor Management Commission received grant funding to reevaluate the 1995 Harbor Management Plan
- RACE and Geoffrey Steadman were brought in to aid the commission in updating the plan
- Public outreach is an important part of updating the plan, as it allows the commission to see what issues are being faced and help find a way forward



Project Scope

- Review Existing Data and Reports 
- Meet with Staff and Key Stakeholders - on going
- Public Engagement Meeting - on going
- Data Gathering - on going
 - ❖ Review of Existing Conditions in the Clinton Harbor Management Area
 - ❖ Review of Existing Roles and Authorities for Harbor Management
 - ❖ Review of Harbor Management Issues and Concerns
 - ❖ Review of Public Issues and Concerns
 - ❖ Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- Completion of the Harbor Management Plan- Next step

Public Survey

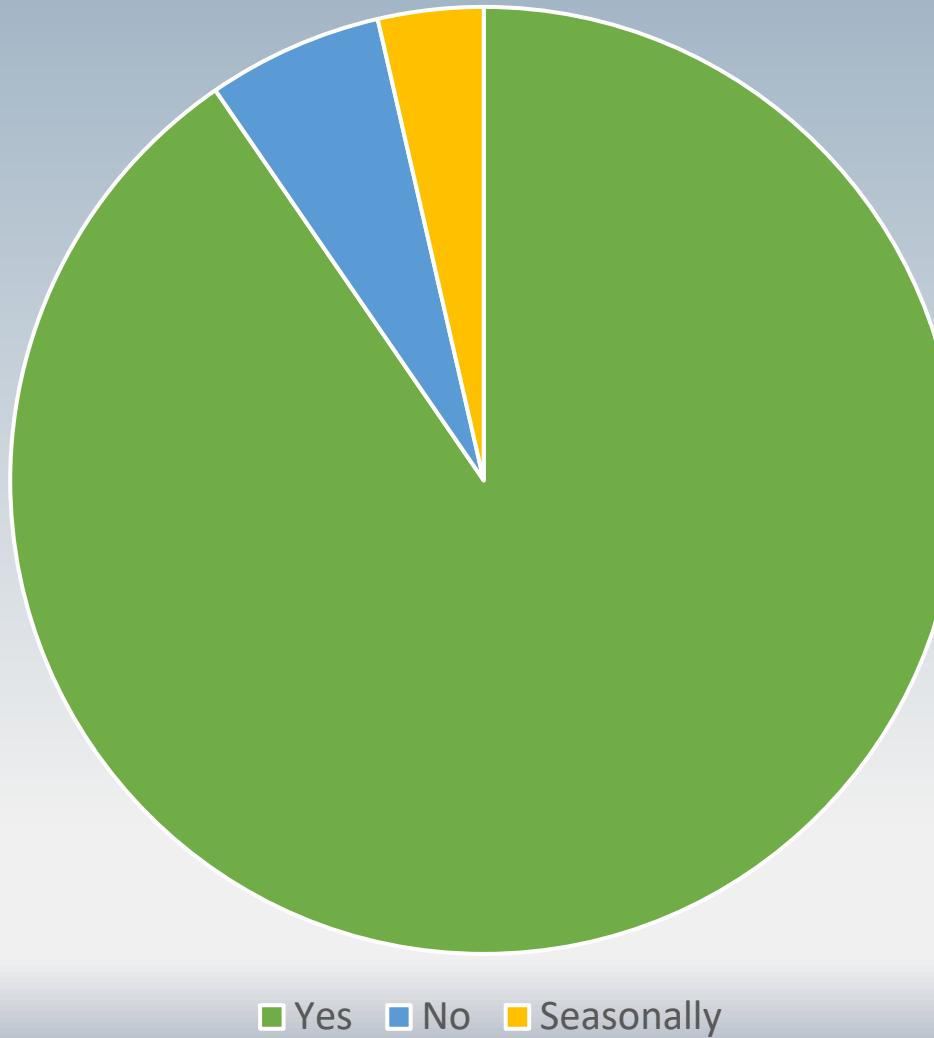
- The Public Survey was sent out to the residents and stakeholders of Clinton Harbor
 - ❖ Collect data on how residents use the waterfront
 - ❖ Determine pain points along the Harbor so the commission can address them in the updated plan
 - ❖ Obtain feedback from residents on identified issues
 - ❖ Prioritize major issues for the Commission to focus on



Survey Results



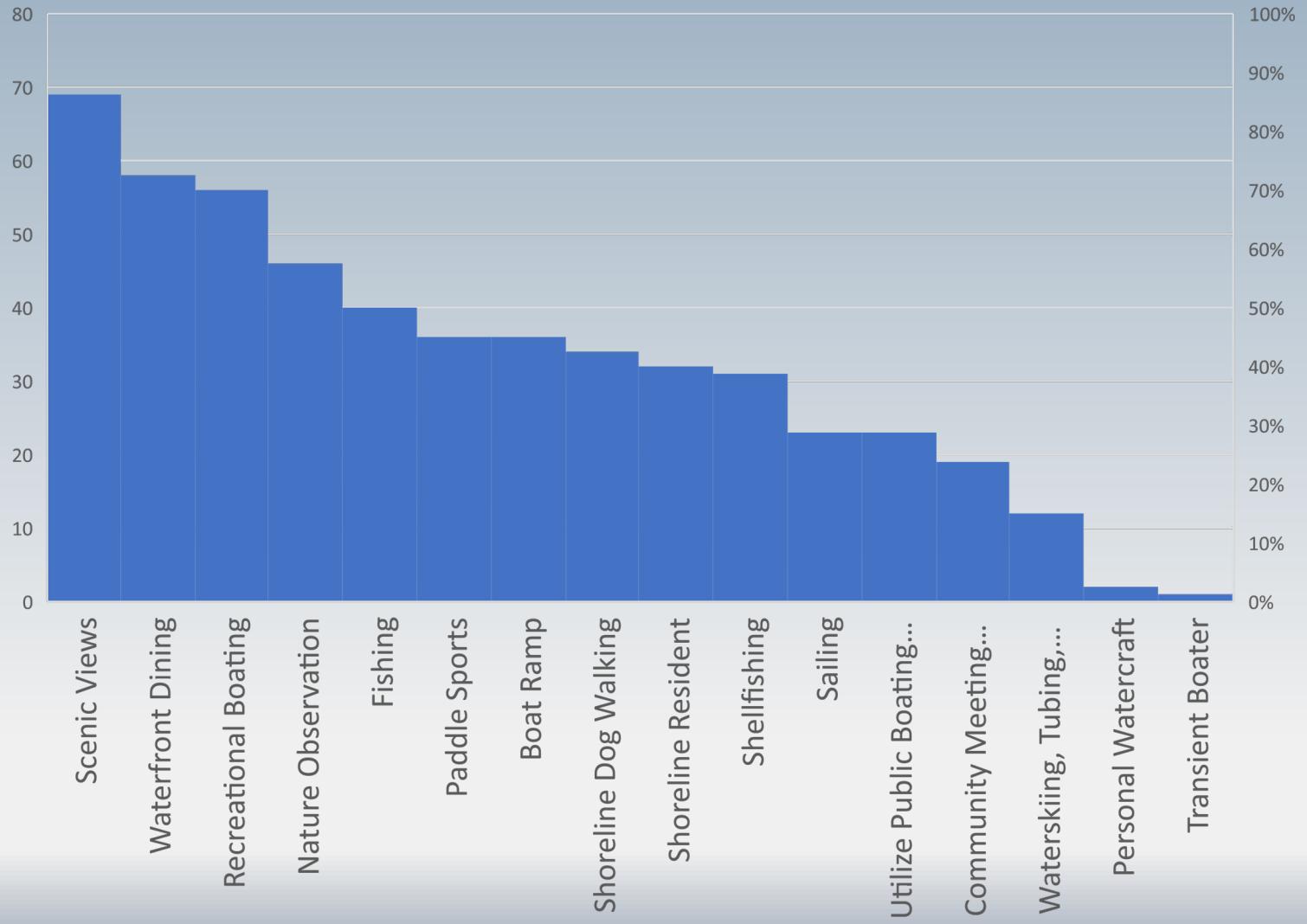
Do you live in the Town of Clinton?



Survey Results



How do you enjoy the Harbor?



Survey Results



Have you experienced any conflicts between people using the harbor for these different activities?

- Kayakers and paddle boarders in the Channel
- No wake zone, excessive speed
- Sound from Restaurants
- Feces seen at town beach
- Shell fishing Limits

Survey Results



Which Harbor Facilities have you used in the past 3 years? (Top 5 ranked from "Frequent" and "Sometimes" users)

1. Town Beach
2. Town Marina
3. Town Boat Ramp
4. Waterfront Residence
5. Cedar Island Marina

Survey Results



Please rank the following initiatives based on how important it is to you.
(Ranked by "Extremely Important" selections)

1. Environmental issues, including water quality, preservation of marine ecosystems, and protection of natural resources
2. General safety of people using the harbor, including boating safety
3. Recreational Boating, including boating by resident and visiting boaters
4. Maintenance dredging and use of dredged material
5. Harbor Access, including physical and visual access to the water by residents and the general public
6. Coastal resiliency, including how we manage natural and human systems in the harbor relative to sea level rise, and impacts from storm surge
7. Enforcement of speed limits within the inner harbor to maintain a safe boating environment
8. Public awareness and education about issues affecting the harbor
9. Community Character and Heritage, including the harbor's historic resources of national, state, and local significance
10. Police presence and enforcement of safe boating laws within the harbor.
11. Continue to update and fine-tune the harbor's mooring rules and procedures and create on-line mooring administration system.

Survey Results



The Harbor Management Commission is considering designating specified use areas within the Harbor to help manage resources and reduce the potential for conflicts between uses.

(Ranked by "Very Important" Selections)

1. No Wake Zones
2. Natural Resource Protection Areas
3. Recreational Shellfish Beds
4. Leased Shellfish Beds
5. Waterski Areas
6. Permitted Mooring Field(s)
7. Federal Anchorage

Survey Results



Are there other specified use areas the Commission should consider?

- Waterfowl Hunting
- Breakwaters
- Commercial Shellfish Areas
- Recreational Shellfish Beds
- Waterfront Dining
- Sailing area
- Public / Private Land on Cedar Island
- Boat Launching Facilities
- Bird sanctuary
- Public Restroom Facilities
- Swimming Areas
- Scenic View Areas
- Animal Use Areas
- Kayaking Areas

Survey Results



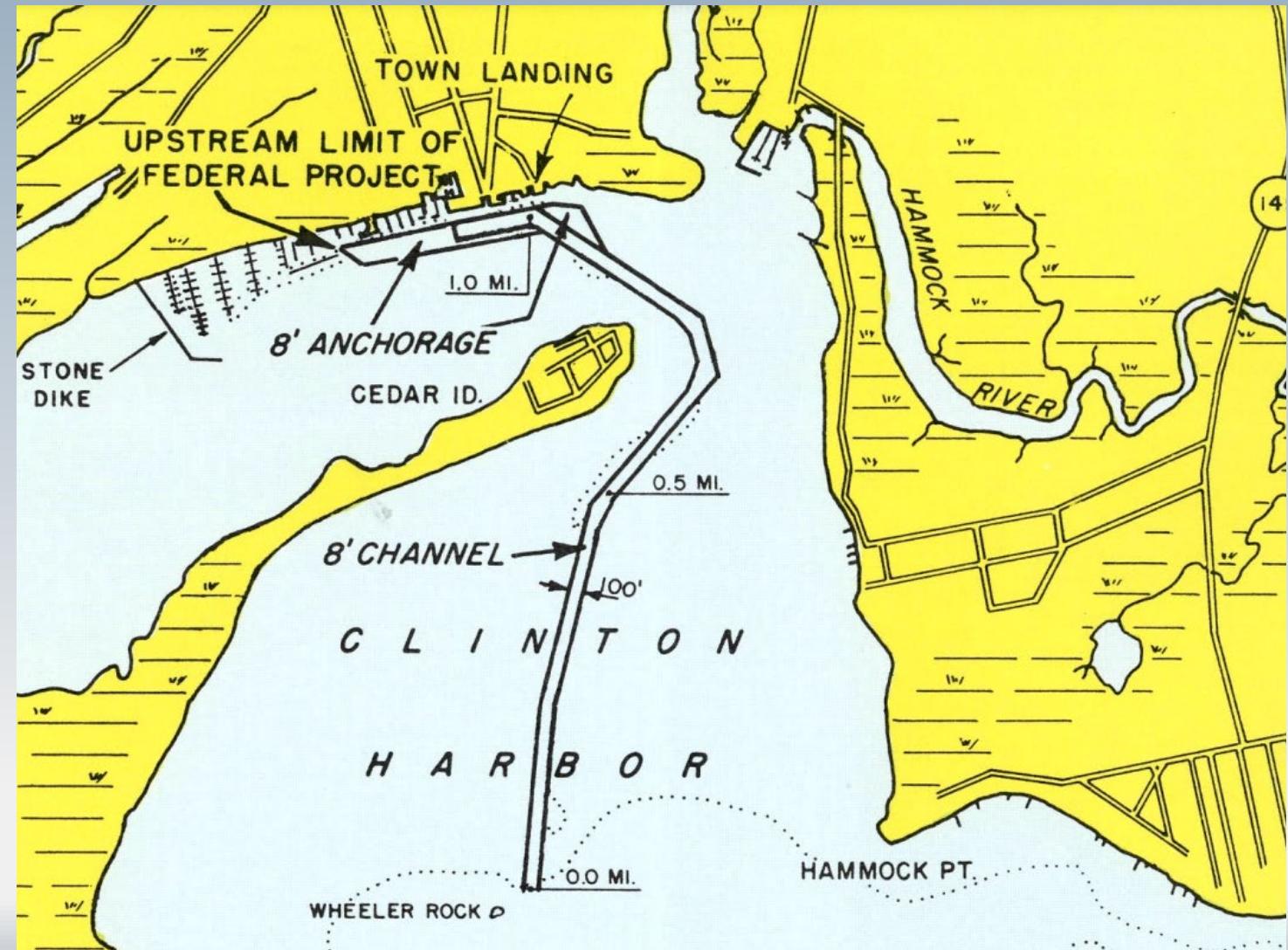
The Harbor Management Commission is reviewing the frequency of channel dredging and communications about dredging needs between the Town, Marinas, public, the USACE, and US Coast Guard. Please provide the Commission with any comments you may have about dredging.

- Increase frequency of maintenance dredging
- Only dredge when necessary/ with proper permitting
- Dredge marina entrances
- Dredge material disposal
- Communication with stakeholders
- Increase width of channel
- Dredge Indian and Hammock rivers
- Sandbar and East of Outer Channel
- Maintain Channel Markers
- Beach Nourishment on Town Beach and Cedar Island

USACE Maintained Area

The Federal Navigation Project con

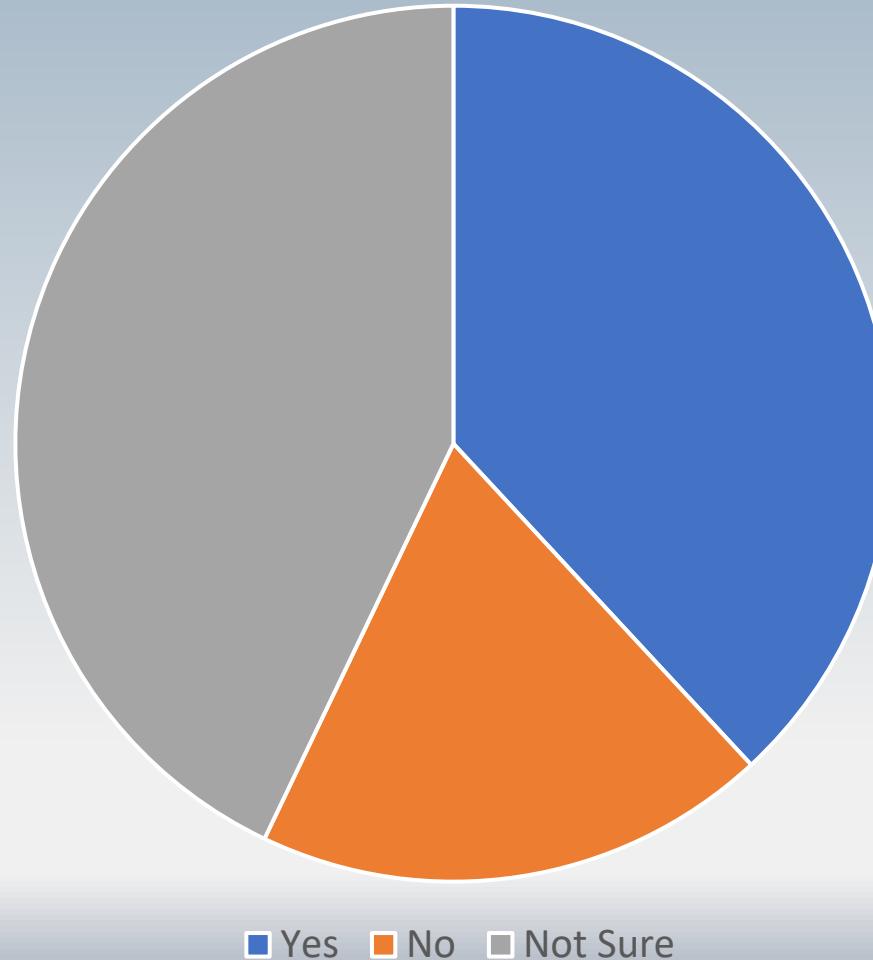
- A 1.1-mile-long channel, eight feet deep and 100 feet wide, extending from Long Island Sound to the wharves in Clinton;
- An anchorage area eight feet deep in the wharf area; and
- Maintenance of the Cedar Island Dike.
- Last dredged in 2012



Survey Results



Is there a need for more enforcement of rules and regulations in the Harbor?



Survey Results



Please add any comments you have regarding enforcement.

- Kayakers need to be aware of channel markers and other vessels
- No ticketing or enforcement of no wake area around Cedar Island currently
- More police visibility in the summer
- No wake zone reminder
- Crabbing activities
- Pollution
- Lack of police presence is leading to increasing disregard of speed limits
- Rules regarding water skiing not posted
- Adequate Emergency Response Funding
- No Wake Zones not Honored
- Shell fishing at inappropriate times

Survey Results



Please share any additional thoughts you have concerning harbor management in Clinton.

- More information on Shellfish Beds
- Beach erosion
- Boat ramp
- Flooding/ sea level rise
- Shellfish seeding
- Signage
- Lighting at Town Ramp
- Parking Access, Lighting at Town Facilities
- Communication of Unsafe Harbor Conditions / Shellfish
- Mooring Regulations
- Pump out Boat Advertising and Septic Maintenance
- Rental Kayak Education
- More restaurants on the waterfront
- Waterfront traffic congestion

Next Steps

- Though we can't address every issue that has come up throughout this process, many valid points have been made and will be beneficial in updating the Harbor Management Plan.
- These responses will provide the Harbor Management Commission with an idea of how to best move forward and implement a Plan that benefits the whole harbor and addresses issues that are important to the citizens of Clinton



Next Steps

- Continue to review issues brought up in survey and meeting
- Update of Harbor Management Goals, Objectives, and Policies
- Update of Water-Use Plans and Guidelines
- Update of Plan Implementation Recommendations
- Prepare and Review of Draft and Final HMP Document

Useful Links

➤ *Shellfish Maps and information*

<https://clintonshellfish.org/recreational-shellfishing-map/>

➤ *Pump Out Locations*

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Pumpout-Facilities--Clean-Boating-Information>





Questions?

Breakout Boards

- Environmental
 - Dredging
 - Shellfish
 - Pollution
- Facilities/ Access
- Boating/ Safety
- Other

