

NY update for Roundtable of Tidal Crossing Initiatives:

- TNC colleagues in upstate NY have been collaborating with NACC and NYSDEC to evaluate stream crossings. Although most of those streams are unidirectional, some streams on the Hudson River have bi-directional flow. NYS DEC's Josh Theil speaks very highly of the standardizations that have been put in place for the upstate stream crossing assessments that allow prioritization of these crossings across the state for restoration funding prioritization.
- On Long Island we started to survey tidal crossings a number of years ago using the volunteer field data sheets set up by ME's Return the Tide project. That project was discontinued due to an unreliable intern and the lack of staff capacity to pick up the project.
- We are about to start a tidal assessment again in Suffolk County on the eastern end of Long Island, NY and we want to be coordinated with other efforts across the region. We plan to hire a team of field interns during the summer of 2016 to make crossing assessments. We have had conversations with the County and a number of Towns and Villages to assess their level of interest in the project and to gather relevant datasets on the locations of crossings. There is a high level of interest in this project on Long Island because of the simultaneous benefits to marsh health and risk reduction.
- The driver of our project is Climate Change (accelerating SLR and changes in precipitation patterns). We want to promote salt marsh migration and long term viability as well as coastal resilience more generally. Fish passage is another factor, but it has not been the driver of our project to date. We have partner organizations on Long Island that are very interested in fish passage.
- Our project is funded with TNC internal funds.
- Roadblocks that we anticipate include some resistance from landowners in cases where better tidal connection will lead to increased flooding of their properties.

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