



NEWS RELEASE

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New Study: Waterfront Space for Ports, Marinas in NY on Decline

NEW YORK – A preliminary study released today by the Regional Plan Association found that waterfront space available for ports, marinas, and maritime services areas in the New York Region has been declining for decades as competition for land and increased costs have escalated.

The in-depth draft report for discussion, *Making Waterfronts Work*, issues recommendations for how to revive water-dependent maritime uses and highlights their importance to the Region's economy and quality of life.

"As one of the engines of our regional economy, water dependent maritime uses are not some relic of our industrial past. They can be a bridge to a more sustainable future, and are too important to be lost," said Robert Pirani, RPA's Director of Environmental Programs. "We hope that the findings of this study help to ignite a regional discussion that protects and enhances these uses in balance with the waterfront's competing demands."

The study lays out four major areas where steps can be taken to support maritime uses. These include preparing a regional inventory of such maritime uses; assessing maritime economic impacts and contributions; convening a regional forum of key decision-makers; and developing a toolbox of financial incentives and land use protections for local and state governments to employ to ensure the viability of this sector.

The report also summarizes the latest research concerning maritime activities while synthesizing the insights of nearly fifty stakeholders from government, industry and non-governmental and advocacy organizations as to potential next steps.

- more, more, more -

Thanks to a grant from the State’s Environmental Protection Fund, RPA will be working with Nassau County to develop a comprehensive plan to protect working waterfronts next year.

“We’re thrilled for the opportunity to act on the recommendations of this study,” said Robert Freudenberg, RPA’s Senior Planner for Long Island. “In a region of the Island rich in maritime history, RPA looks forward to working with the County and its waterfront communities to formulate a common vision that protects these important waterfront activities.”

This report was conducted in partnership with University of Rhode Island’s Coastal Institute IGERT Project and was authored by Tiffany Smythe of the University of Rhode Island. The complete report can be found on web at www.rpa.org.

- 30 -

