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The Sound's Story

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Fast Facts

- The Coast of L.I.S is called the 'Gold Coast' because 19th century tycoons built their mansions there.

Long Island Sound

Have you ever been to Long Island Sound? Well, if you haven't, it'll be like you have once I tell you this information. Here you can learn about its geography and the land and water animals that live there.

First, I will tell you about the geography about Long Island Sound. The volume of the ocean is eighteen trillion gallons (of water). Also, the average depth of the water is sixty-three feet. The area of the beach is 1,320 square miles. The area of the *drainage* watershed is 16,820 square miles. The coastline is about 600 miles long. Also, Long Island Sounds coastline is called the "Gold Coast" because 19th century tycoons built their

mansions there.

Now, the water creatures. In Long Island Sound, there are all different kinds of animals. One type is all the crabs. There are Fiddler crabs, which were first discovered in Boston (now they're in Long Island Sound!!) around 1900. Another is the mole crab, who burrow in the sandy beach. There are also bluefish in the ocean, who chase 'menhaden' for food. Some plankton can use harmful algal blooms that can be toxic or even illuminate clams. Monkfish have enormous mouths that are capable of grasping crustation or large fish.

Lastly, there are also some land

creatures down at long Island sound. There are Red foxes who hunt down voles for food. There are birds, such as Bald Eagles, who take advantage of the fish and invertebrates in the shallow ocean. Another bird is the Herring Gull, which make nests on wind swept beaches. Also, Canada geese, Mute swans, and Brant Swans eat eelgrass; found in shallow, clear watered areas.

Now that you know about the geography, land and water animals of Long Island Sound, don't you just want to go there and see it all for yourself? Well you can, and you'll have a blast, whether it's research or just going to the beach!

My Senses at the Sound

I am going to describe Long Island Sound. Specifically the rocky and sandy beaches, and how I used my senses there.

At Long Island Sound, I saw things that another fifth grader would probably not see in a long time. I got to see lots of fish, such as a Northern Kingfish, bluefish, or silversides. I also saw lots of crabs; Japanese Shore crabs. Most of those were small and/or males, but we also found a lot of large and medium. One was pretty big, and it had little orange balls in-between its claws... we thought those were its muscles.

I could smell the fresh air blowing

around us. When we were collecting crabs, I started to smell fish and crabs. Even the sand was emitting a smell. I smelled the garbage smell from the dumpster, which wasn't such a pleasant smell! The fumes from the buses were blowing around, and up my nose. (I could also smell a lady smoking in the pavilion.)

I heard the waves crashing on the shore, and the seagulls squawking. I could hear the crabs tapping around the buckets we collected them in. I heard the voices and sounds of adults helping kids. I heard kids yelling "whoa!" and "cool!" while looking at crabs and

fish. At times, all I could hear was silence.

I could almost taste the fish when they were altogether in a bucket. I got splashed with ocean water, and tasted the salt. And of course, my lunch tasted better because we were outdoors, and at the beach.

I touched a lot of things, all the way from moon jelly fish to wet sand. I touched a bluefish squirming in my hand. The moon jelly was gooey and squishy. The water was warm yet refreshing. While we were seining, my waiters got suctioned to my legs. When we picked up crabs, I felt them tickle my hand.

Atlantic Cod

- Feed at dawn or dusk on small fish, including *young* cod.
- Form schools during the day, close to the bottom of the ocean, usually at a depth of 600m.
- Listed as an endangered species by the Committee on the Status of endangered wildlife in Canada.
- Color varies from brownish to greenish to gray, becoming pale on its belly. It

averages 4kg in weight and 65 cm in length.



Save the Sound

I think Long Island Sound should not be polluted because that leads to a huge body of water that we use. I also think this because there are a lot of animals in the ocean, and I we pollute, it would go to the water, leading to the water creatures. If the pollution gets to the animals, the could die, lowering the population. That would/could damage a food chain, an lots of animals (not just

water animals) would definitely be affected. Just think, would you really want all those shrimp, fish, crabs... all to be **gone**? Also, think about the beach. I think you and me both know that the beach is one of our top ten places. If you pollute Long Island Sound (or the sewer) it would defeat all living things on the beach. Then, it will be an unhealthy environment, and it will be smelly,

the water will be garbage filled, and it won't be a good place to go anymore. Kind of going back to what I said about the water being polluted, we need that water. If the water gets dirty, we'll have dirty water. Drinking water, bathing water, pretty much all water that we use. The water from the ocean gets filtered and sent to us to use it. Basically, if you pollute, it will come back to you.

A 'Tap' into the Crabs

This graph is showing how many crabs both fifth grade classes collected in Long Island Sound. We collected these crabs in the rocky beach.



Crabs Collected by 5M a and 5M o

