

**North Sea Municipal Landfill (UD#2 II-16)**  
**Southampton, New York**  
**30 June 1985**

**Location and Nature of Site**

North Sea Municipal Landfill is an active 110-acre solid waste landfill owned by the Town of Southampton. The landfill accepts residential, commercial, industrial, and septic wastes. The lack of a leachate collection system, landfill liner, or diversion structure has precluded a determination of the quantity of solid, sludge, and liquid waste at the site.

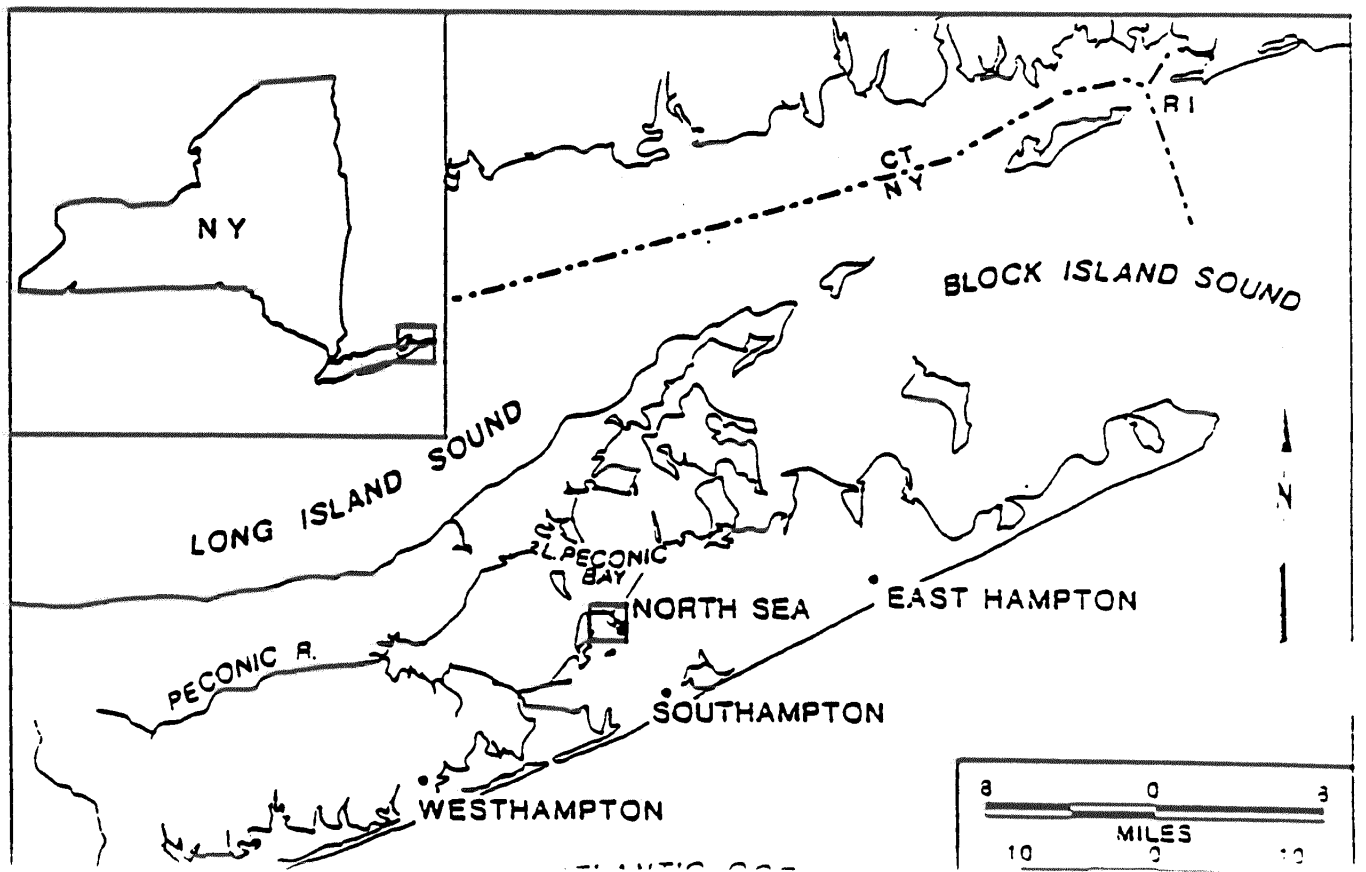
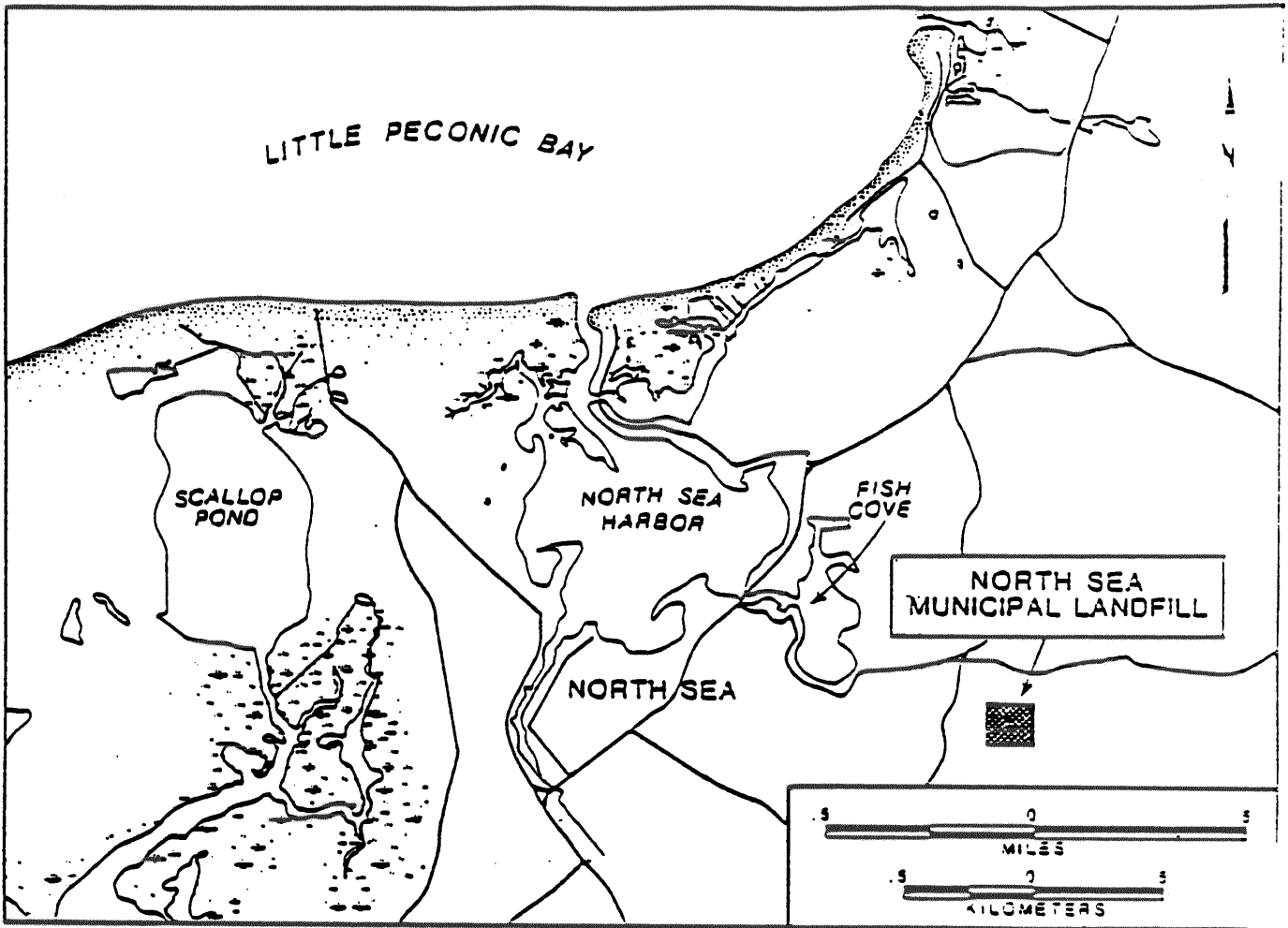
The Town of Southampton has been cooperating with the Suffolk County Health Department to provide alternate drinking water supplies in areas where the leachate plume has degraded groundwater. EPA has the lead for site investigation and cleanup and has scheduled work on the RI/FS for FY 1986.

**Proximity Of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources**

This eastern Long Island site is located near the southern shore of Little Peconic Bay in an area with extensive ponds, coves, and wetlands. The terrain is generally flat with elevations less than 30.5 meters above mean sea level.

A plume of contaminated groundwater is moving northwest from the site and has resulted in the closure of several drinking water wells. Monitoring wells and nearby private wells have been contaminated with heavy metals and vinyl chloride.

Groundwater in this area flows about 550 meters to Fish Cove, a major recreation and fishing area. The site is also 1.6 kilometers from a wetlands area. No analyses of contamination levels from the leachate plume entering Fish Cove have been conducted nor are any planned.



## **Marine Resources at Risk**

Fish Cove is a small, tidally-influenced body of water approximately 500 meters by 300 meters in size. Flow in the cove is to North Sea Harbor via a tidal creek about 400 meters in length. North Sea Harbor is approximately 600 acres in size and is connected to Little Peconic Bay via a navigable channel approximately 1,000 meters in length.

The Fish Cove shoreline is a mixture of bulkhead, gravel beach, and marsh. The shoreline of North Sea Harbor is partially bulkheaded and the remainder is marsh.

Alewife are known to enter North Sea Harbor and migrate inland via Alewife Creek to Big Fresh Pond where spawning occurs. Alewife may also enter Fish Cove to spawn.

The anadromous fish present in Little Peconic Bay threatened by the North Sea site include the Atlantic sturgeon, American shad, alewife, blueback herring, and striped bass. Flounder, tautog, bluefish, black seabass, weakfish, scup, and cunner are also found in the Bay.

Hard clam beds are harvested in the waters of North Sea Harbor but are not of any commercial significance.

Raptors, including nesting osprey, are present in the vicinity of the site, particularly on Robins Island five kilometers west of the North Sea site in Little Peconic Bay. The least and common terns are present in the area during spring and summer. Neither Fish Cove nor North Sea Harbor are important overwintering habitats for migratory waterfowl; total numbers are usually less than 100 birds.

Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge is located on the west shore of North Sea Harbor approximately three kilometers west of the site. The North Sea Harbor area is an important recreational resource to local inhabitants.

## **Site Chronology**

- 1963 Start of operation of site as a municipal landfill.
- 1979 Closure of private wells to the north of the site.
- 1981 Private homes affected by groundwater plume connected to public water supply.
- May 1983 Preliminary Assessment Report completed.
- Dec. 1984 EPA Hazardous Ranking Score Report completed.

NOAA Reviewer: Gary Ott, NOAA Hazardous Materials Response Branch  
EPA Contact: Mel Hauptman  
Local Contact: Southampton Highway Department

## **References**

CERCLA Implementation Report, 1984. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II, Hazardous Waste Site Branch.

Hazardous Ranking Score Report (HRS), 1984. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II.

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