

## NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Beacon Heights Inc. Landfill (I-2)

Beacon Falls, Connecticut

April 13, 1984

### Location and Nature of Site:

The Beacon Heights Landfill site is located on Blackberry Hill Road, Beacon Falls, Connecticut (Figure 1). This facility is an old open landfill with known usage dating back to the 1920's. Mixed industrial waste and common garbage have been deposited in the dump over the years with little concern for site control or documentation.

Site dump records are poor. A 1972 Industrial Waste Survey conducted by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection identified several waste generators known to have contributed material to the site. Upjohn Chemical, Armstrong Rubber, B.F. Goodrich, Uniroyal, Zollo Drum Disposal, and Reliable Industrial Waste Disposal head the list. Potential waste categories consisting of oils, rubber waste, plastic waste, solvents, pesticides, resins, acids, and caustics are probable, but not proven by sampling and analysis. Suspected volumes dumped since 1972 are high, in the hundreds of thousands of gallons per year and tens of thousands of tons per year. The site was closed to chemical waste dumping in 1981.

### Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

The site sits on top of a mountain composed of permeable rock and till soils. Local surface waters have been polluted as a result. Limited sampling has shown high levels of benzene and toluene in a small stream flowing through the site.

Other sampling shows hydrocarbon migration off-site in the surface and groundwater. Streams adjacent to the site are contaminated, and the State suspects that the Naugatuck River two miles away is receiving pollution from this site, though strong evidence for this is still lacking. The Naugatuck flows 15 miles south into Long Island Sound. Known pollution transport is a function of rain and snow runoff.

### Marine Resources at Risk:

The Naugatuck River is upstream of tidal influence at this site. The Naugatuck River supports some recreational fisheries and spawning and nursery areas for anadromous fish. The species listed in Table 1 are present in the vicinity of this site, and the species listed in Table 2 are present downstream in the nearshore waters of Long Island Sound. It is unknown to what extent anadromous fish utilize the Naugatuck River in the area of the site.

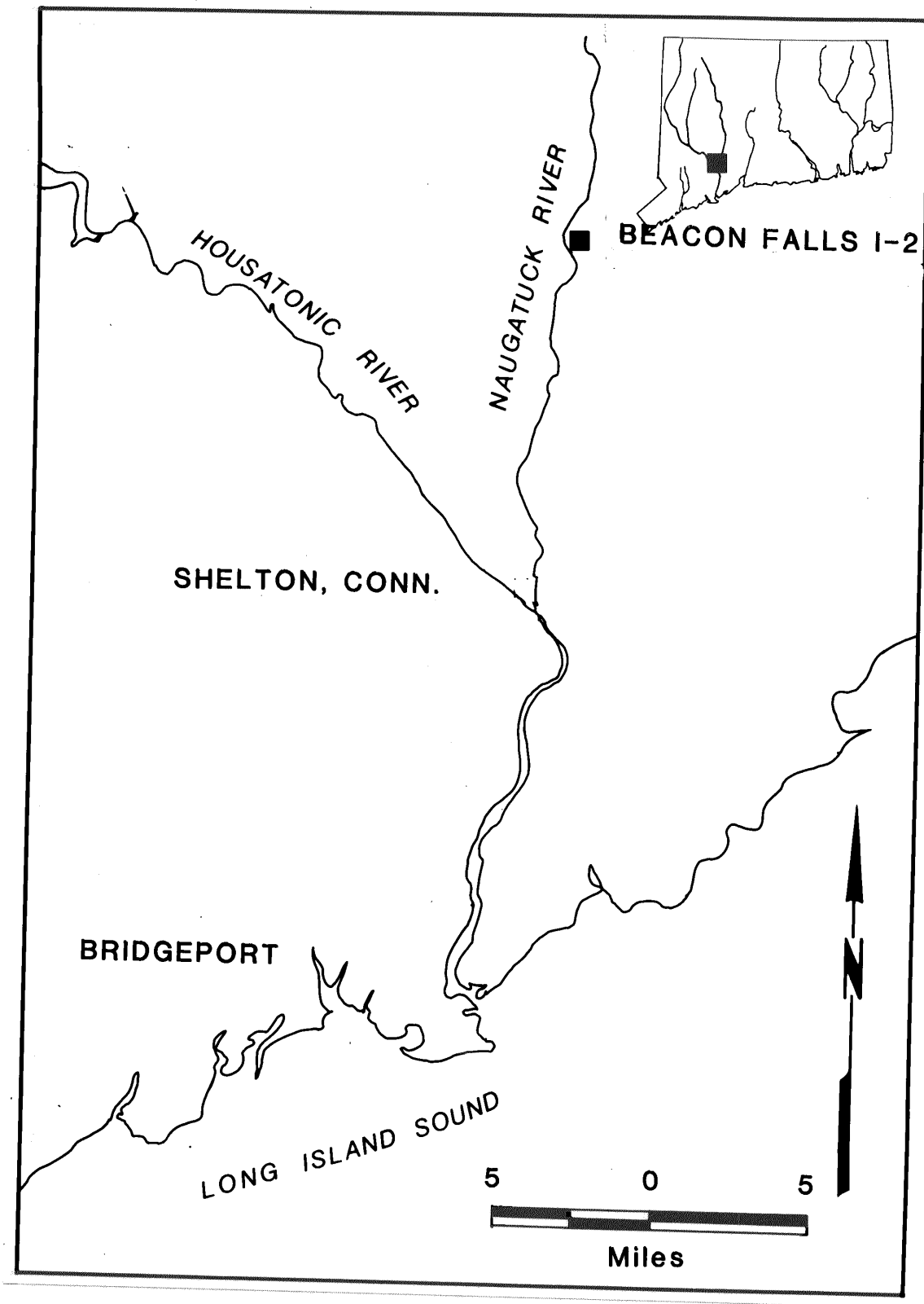


FIGURE 1. Site location.

Table 1. Fishery Resources of the Freshwater Regions  
of the Naugatuck River (1-4)

| Finfish<br>Species    | Adult<br>Habitat | Spawning<br>Area | Nursery<br>Area | Comm.<br>Fish. | Rec.<br>Fish. | Migr.<br>Route |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Anadromous</u>     |                  |                  |                 |                |               |                |
| Alewife               |                  | x                | x               |                |               | x              |
| American shad         |                  | x                | x               |                |               | x              |
| Striped bass          |                  | x                | x               | x              | x             | x              |
| <u>Non-anadromous</u> |                  |                  |                 |                |               |                |
| White catfish         | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |
| American eel          | x                |                  |                 | x              | x             |                |
| Sunfish               | x                | x                | x               |                | x             |                |
| Yellow perch          | x                | x                | x               |                | x             |                |
| Chain pickerel        | x                | x                | x               |                | x             |                |
| Largemouth bass       | x                | x                | x               |                | x             |                |

The mouth of the Housatonic River, located 22 miles downstream from this site, features a large marshland with habitats for shorebirds and wading birds including the least tern, a species of special state concern, and the black-crested heron.

Table 2. Fishery Resources of the Nearshore Waters  
Near Milford, Connecticut (1-4)

| Finfish<br>Species | Adult<br>Habitat | Spawning<br>Area | Nursery<br>Area | Comm.<br>Fish. | Rec.<br>Fish. | Migr.<br>Route |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| White perch        | x                |                  |                 |                | x             | x              |
| Flounder           | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Northern kingfish  | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Weakfish           | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Atlantic tomcod    | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Black sea bass     | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Atlantic menhaden  | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Seatrout           | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Atlantic herring   | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| Bluefish           | x                |                  |                 |                | x             |                |
| <u>Shellfish</u>   |                  |                  |                 |                |               |                |
| Hard clam          | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |
| Soft shell clam    | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |
| Blue crab          | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |
| American lobster   | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |
| Eastern oyster     | x                | x                | x               | x              | x             |                |

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

1920 to 1970, open burning of garbage and "all comers" waste disposal.

1970 to 1973, burning stopped, minimum cover landfill technique used.

1973 to 1979, deep cell wastewater and sludge disposal, drum cells.

1980 to 1981, landfill garbage disposal only.

1981 EPA began planning for remedial or removal actions.

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References:

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