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# Threatened and Endangered Species Management and Protection Program



Photo By: Luke Ormand



Photo By: James Carleton



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## 2009

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## Introduction

Established in 1686, the Southampton Town Board of Trustees has long supported the need to protect the town's various natural resources. Located on the eastern end of Long Island, Southampton is home to an extensive coastline of ocean and bay beaches. Within this sensitive coastal habitat resides three federally and state listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species. These include two bird species; the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) and the plant seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*). In addition, the town is also home to seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*), a rare plant in New York State.

Prior to 1998, T&E species recovery in the Southampton area was undertaken by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). However, due to a decrease in staffing and resources provided by the NYSDEC and TNC, the Southampton Trustees initiated their own program. To date, this includes the sole management of approximately 13 miles of ocean beach from Shinnecock County Park East to the East Hampton Town border, and 16 bay sites located throughout the town. Still a vital part of the program, TNC monitors the ocean sites west of the Shinnecock Inlet in addition to two bay sites, while the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service monitor the shoreline of Westhampton Beach Dunes. Monitoring is also provided by the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation at public beaches in county ownership (Shinnecock West and East County Parks).

Listed as federally threatened and state endangered, the piping plover (PIPL) constitutes the largest portion of the T&E Species Program. Arriving from mid to late March, the piping plover breeding season lasts until late August to early September. Prior to their arrival, pre fencing is erected in areas that have historically been used by nesting plovers. The purpose of this fencing is to preserve the habitat from foot and vehicular traffic. Piping plovers are territorial, in that they will not nest within the direct vicinity of another mating pair. Consequently, the first month is often spent defending a territory and nesting doesn't officially begin until this is complete; usually late April to early May. Once the female lays one egg, she will continue to do so every other day until four eggs are laid. From this point on, both the male and female will share incubating duties for the next 25-28 days. Additional string fencing is erected for any nests not located in the previously installed areas in order to protect the incubating adult from being disturbed and flushed from the nest. If the site is suitable, a ten foot diameter wire mesh enclosure is erected and nylon netting is placed on top. The enclosure is put up so that the plovers can get in and out but predators such as crows, gulls, raccoons, and fox can not. If a nest is not successful and it is still early enough in the season, the pair will reneest, often in close proximity of the previous nest. Failure can occur as a result of abandonment, predation, washout, unhatched eggs or loss of chicks at a young age. During a reneest the number of eggs laid begins to decrease consecutively.

Right before the chicks are due to hatch, snow fencing is erected to close off the area to vehicular traffic. This fencing is erected within approximately 1000 meters on each side of the nest and extends from the toe of the dune to the water's edge. The reason for this structure is, that upon hatching, piping plover chicks are extremely small, camouflage and unable to fly until they are 25-35 days old. In addition, the chicks are precocial; meaning that they are not fed by their parents but must find their own food and begin

doing so within the first few hours after hatching. As a result, chicks often run back and forth along the beach, putting them at risk. Once a plover chick is observed flying approximately 15 meters it is considered a success and is counted toward the management goals.

In order to remove the Atlantic Coast piping plover populations from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, the USFWS has developed a recovery criterion that must be met. Delisting will occur when there are 2,000 breeding pairs, maintained over five years. Of the two thousand, 575 of those must be located within New York and New Jersey. Other important delisting criteria include achieving a five year average productivity of 1.5 fledged chicks per pair and instituting long term agreements among cooperating agencies, landowners, and conservation organizations in order to maintain populations and productivity (USFWS, 1995). For the 2008 season, there were a total of 1848 pairs along the Atlantic Coast in which 558 were located in the NY-NJ unit.

Listed as a threatened species in New York State, the least tern (LETE) shares some similarities with the piping plover in terms of breeding and nesting behavior. As a result, beachgoers often mistake the identities of these two species. Arriving to their breeding grounds by late April to mid May, eggs are normally laid from late May through June. Frequently found within the same habitat as the piping plovers, nests are incubated for approximately 21 days. However, unlike the plover, terns nest in colonies and can have anywhere from 1 to 3 eggs per nest, making the use of exclosures impractical. In order to protect their nests, adult terns will actively defend them by dive bombing or defecating on any perceived threat. These birds are also different in that they are semi-percocial. Chicks are capable of moving about shortly after birth but remain in or around the nest and are fed by the adults. Often times the chicks stay within the string fence and hide amongst vegetation until they are nearly ready to fly or have already fledged. Although this is beneficial in regard to safety from vehicular or foot traffic, it makes exact counts more difficult. As a result, least tern counts are estimated. Around 19-20 days after hatching, the least tern chicks are able to fly and most have left for wintering grounds by the end of August to early September.

Seabeach amaranth is an annual low growing plant once abundant in coastal environments from Massachusetts to South Carolina. Believed to have been extirpated for over three decades from the state of New York, small populations were discovered on Long Island in 1990. This is believed to be the result of seeds being transported via storms and hurricanes. Recognized as both state and federally endangered, the population of seabeach amaranth has steadily increased and is now found in seven states, the majority of which are located in the mid Atlantic region. Found along sandy beaches, amaranth is often located between the toe of the dune and the high tide mark. The plants begin sprouting from their seeds between June and July and can grow as large as three feet in diameter. Upon their arrival, string fence is erected to protect the plants and they are individually counted. Seed production begins in August, peaks in September and last until the plant dies, sometimes occurring as late as November.

The main threat facing the future of seabeach amaranth is the loss of suitable habitat. This is often caused by the increased rate of erosion as a result of the use of bulkheads, seawalls, and other artificial dune construction as a means of beach stabilization. Additional threats include off road vehicles and natural factors, such as predators.

Seabeach amaranth facilitates beach growth by trapping wind blown sand and assisting in the production of dunes. It has been recorded that in a few months, a cluster of amaranth plants can build a dune 18" high and 12' across. As with the federally protected piping plover, seabeach amaranth does need to meet certain criteria prior to delisting. This will occur when seventy five percent of the sites with suitable habitat within at least six of the nine historically occupied states are occupied by seabeach amaranth populations for ten consecutive years (USFWS, 1996).

The Town of Southampton is also home to seabeach knotweed. Sharing several similarities with seabeach amaranth, knotweed is faced with many of the same threats. As a result, populations within its range are beginning to decline. Considered a rare plant in New York State, the presence of this species bares significance in terms of its current status. Present from July to as late as November on both the ocean and bay sites, seabeach knotweed plants are identified and counted. The number of plants observed is estimated when plants are found in large clusters.

In total, the 2009 Threatened and Endangered Species Program confirmed the fledging of 40 piping plovers from the 43 nests and re-nests managed by the Southampton Town Trustees. The 33 total nesting pairs of piping plovers produced a final productivity of 1.21 for the 2009 season. Least tern pairs were estimated at 366 and produced approximately 186 fledges, the most ever recorded. A total of 252 seabeach amaranth plants were also counted along with an estimated 7117 seabeach knotweed plants. Although the seabeach amaranth numbers exceeded those for 2008 (68), not all of the plants were counted and many of those that were may not have germinated. During the week of our survey, the Atlantic coast was hit by the side effects of Hurricane Bill and the remaining plants were wiped out before they could be counted. Sites were checked again afterwards, but no regrowth was observed.

**Ocean Sites:** (See attached maps for nesting locations)

**Southampton Beach** contains three sub-sites based on the location of road accesses. At approximately 3.5 miles, this is the largest site monitored by the Trustees and is located within the Village of Southampton. Southampton Beach also provides some of the widest beach located within the Town and supplies suitable habitat to all the T&E Species present. Off road vehicle traffic and beach raking are the largest concerns at this site.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 1.50

**Shinnecock East County Park to Road D:** One piping plover nest was located within this area of Southampton Beach. This nest was of concern due to its location so close to the picnic area. This area is open to ORV access every day, year round. Sadly on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, the 4 chicks were found to the west of the protective fencing (in the picnic area) and staff witnessed one of the chicks being attacked and killed by three dogs on long leashes. The three remaining chicks moved back east into the ORV closure. Three days later only one chick was remaining and was observed bleeding from its leg. Over the course of time this chick learned how to function with just one leg and successfully fledged.

No least tern activity or seabeach knotweed was present within this sub-site. One seabeach amaranth plant was located.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 1 Fledge  
**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Road D to Halsey Neck Lane:** This sub-site was the most productive for Southampton Beach. However, it is also one of the most difficult to manage. Although there is minimal public access, residents often walk dogs in this area with disregard to the string fencing. In addition, driving is a constant issue at this site and fencing needed repair on almost all visits. Fortunately, of the six nesting pairs that were present, five of them successfully fledged 10 chicks. This is an increase from only three fledges last year. Interestingly enough, the first pair located at this sub-site laid two nests. After losing three of their chicks, the pair was recorded brooding the one remaining chick while attending to their second nest. The nest wasn't laid until the remaining chick was near fledging. Sadly, the second nest did not hatch after being incubated for 34 days and was abandoned and predated shortly thereafter.

There were 11 least tern nests located within the same fencing as the plovers. Of these 11 nests, 6 tern chicks fledged. This sub-site also had the largest number of seabeach amaranth found throughout the whole town with 222 plants, 137 of which were in one large cluster.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 6 Pairs, 10 Fledges  
**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.67

**Halsey Neck Lane to South Main St:** The beach that lies within this area includes the very popular Coopers Beach and the Southampton Bathing Corp. This area is a high use site and as a result struggles with an increase in predators. In addition, beach raking is also used to maintain the beach, which removes food sources and shelter for both the piping plovers and least terns.

This year a resident in the area also erected bird deterrent speakers. When contacted, she stated that she did not want her walkway blocked and that was why she had put them up. They were not effective as the pair nested directly in front of it and she was kind enough to take them down after being contacted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

There was one nesting pair of plovers located within this sub-site which successfully fledged 1 chick. An agreement was worked out with the Village to allow beach raking in front of Coopers Beach to continue two times a week, with the presence of a Coastal Steward.

A least tern colony of 21 nests was also recorded at this location. Of these nests, 12 chicks fledged. Nineteen amaranth plants were also located in this sub-site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 1 Fledges  
**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Gin Lane Beach** is located within the Village of Southampton. This site does not have a lot of suitable habitat and no piping plover or least terns were recorded here. Six seabeach amaranth plants were documented.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges  
**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Old Town Beach** is the easternmost site located within the Village of Southampton. The beach profile at this site makes it excellent habitat for all T&E Species located within the Town. Although eroded to the extreme west and east ends, the beach located in the middle is wide, with sparse vegetation throughout. The erosion is beneficial as it limits the amount of vehicles that access the site. After suffering loss due to vandalism last year, we were able to successfully fledge one chick from two nesting pairs of piping plovers this season. Another pair was recorded setting up territory to the east when one of the adults was found dead. No other birds were seen in this area afterwards.

No least terns or seabeach knotweed were present at this site. Four seabeach amaranth plants were counted.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 2 Pairs, 1 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.50

**Watermill Beach** is located within the Town of Southampton and is broken up into three separate sub-sites based on the names of the town run beaches. Fowlers, Flying Point, and Scott Cameron (Mecox) compromise a total of five access points, four of which are designated public beaches with lifeguards on duty. As a result, this is a high use site and struggles with unleashed dogs, predators and ORV access.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 1.29

**Fowlers Beach:** This site was home to two pairs of piping plovers both of which nested early in the season. Both of the pair's first attempts were abandoned. Only one of the pairs renested, but the nest was found predated the day the enclosure was to be erected. This year the site was also the hotspot for surfing. This brought with it larger crowds than usual, including a local surf school, to this otherwise quieter location. Although they were very respectful and helpful at times, the increase in ORV traffic was significant.

No least tern or seabeach knotweed was recorded at this site. One small amaranth plant was located.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 2 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Flying Point Beach:** Flying Point did not have any nesting plovers this year. One pair was observed setting up territory and even scraping before a dead adult was located while monitoring. No birds were recorded at this site after that point.

No tern activity or plants were recorded at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Scott Cameron Beach:** The westernmost and easternmost boundaries of this site are Town Parks and Recreation managed beach areas, and therefore high in human activity. As a result, the birds often nest in a .4 mile stretch between these sections. Although the majority of the residents at this site are extremely supportive and understanding, considering the extent of fencing erected, some vandalism did occur. One resident repeatedly took down fencing prior to being contacted by the Bay Constables.

Another incident occurred when a different resident had a beach party without proper permits. Coastal Stewards were called in last minute to work at the event and make sure the chicks that were present were safe.

During the winter/spring, a large feral cat colony in the area was dismantled and cats were humanely trapped and released elsewhere. Unfortunately, two of the five nesting pairs did lose nests due to predation by cats and did not re-nest. Of the remaining three pairs, nine chicks successfully fledged.

Scott Cameron was home to a decent size tern colony of 50 nesting pairs. Of those nests, 22 successfully fledged. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed plants were recorded.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 5 Pairs, 9 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.80

**Sam's Creek Beach** is a small .6 mile site located between Jobs Lane and Ocean Rd. This site was home to one pair of nesting piping plovers and successfully fledged two chicks. Located within this site is the Bridgehampton Club. Employees of this establishment were extremely helpful and assisted in the digging up and repairing fencing. No least tern activity, seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was present at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 2 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 2.0

**Sagaponack Lake Beach** is separated into two sub-sites with the lake acting as the divider. Usually the lake cut is not maintained (open) during the breeding/germination season. However, this year the cut had to be opened due to the high amount of rain during the month of June. As a result of the high water, many of the early least tern nests located in this area were getting washed out. Once it was opened the area returned to being excellent habitat and a convenient food source. On any given day a number of different shorebird species can be observed.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Sagaponack Lake West:** This sub-site had one pair of nesting plovers. Although all of the chicks did hatch, they did not survive past two days. During the first week of June a cold front came through and most likely was responsible for the death of all 4 chicks in such a short time. No least tern activity, seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was present at this sub-site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Sagaponack Lake East:** The westernmost section at this sub-site is the area located by the lake. This area was home to one pair of plovers that fledged 3 chicks. The easternmost section which suffered from erosion last year built up quite a bit this season. As a result, one pair was found nesting on the beach as opposed to high up in the dunes and successfully hatched all four chicks. Unfortunately none of them survived. After losing one early on, the remaining three were lost at 19 days. Although the cause is not known and no dead birds were found, the fenced area was driven through and there was evidence of more than one vehicle doing donuts throughout. This may be a factor in the death of these older chicks.

Sagaponack Lake also produced the largest least tern colony with the most successful number of tern fledges within the town. There was an estimated 120 nests producing 75 fledges, all within the fencing by the lake. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was found.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 3 Pairs, 3 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach** was a huge success this year after suffering from severe erosion and the loss of the only nest found there during the 2008 season.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 2.67

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach West:** This site had no activity of any T&E species otherwise located in the Town of Southampton

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach East:** Three pairs of piping plovers nested at this sub-site. One of the nests was located directly east of Peters Pond Lane while the other was closer to Town Line Rd. The remaining nest was located only after the chicks were observed. They were originally found directly in front of Peters Pond Ln and could possibly have been from the western sub-site. However, they did spend the remainder of their time much further east of where they were originally found.

Fifteen tern nests were located directly east of Peters Pond Ln as well. These produced a total of 10 fledges. No seabeach amaranth or knotweed was located.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 3 Pair, 8 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 2.67

**Bay Sites:** (See attached maps for nesting locations)

**Red Cedar Point** is located on a private residence in which the homeowner has given the Trustees permission to access the property and manage any T&E species present. This site is closed to driving and is not open to the public. Unfortunately the homeowners are often not present and the site was being accessed by both beachgoers and kite surfers. Predation is also a very big problem at this site. Of the three nesting plover pairs, there were a total of seven nests, only one of which successfully hatched any chicks and produced two fledges. The remaining nests were all predated either prior to completing the clutch or in once case, even when an enclosure was up.

Three least tern nests were located at this site very late in the season. Of these nests, two chicks successfully fledged. One seabeach knotweed plant was found at this site and no seabeach amaranth was present.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 3 Pairs, 2 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.67

**Red Creek Pond:** After locating the first piping plover nest ever recorded at this site last year, no birds were recorded for the 2009 season. This site is located within a private residence and although access is limited some illegal beach driving and bonfires

do occur. No least tern activity, seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was found at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Squires Pond** had one nesting piping plover pair. The nest was found with four eggs and predated only a week later. This site is very popular with dog owners and unleashed dogs were often found running around in and out of fencing. Another issue is the use of this site for horseback riding. No least tern activity, seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was found at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Meschutt Beach East** did not have any T&E species present this season. This site does not have any suitable habitat as most of it is bulkheaded. In addition, it is very heavily used for recreational purposes. This includes boating activity and beachgoers to the Peconic Beach Club.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Canoe Place Beach:** Although there is some suitable habitat at this site, it is limited. The area is also heavily used by the residents of the private community the beach borders. No birds have ever nested here in the past and no vegetative species were recorded as well.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Fish Cove/North Sea Harbor** is two separate sites within the same vicinity. Fish Cove is located along Noyack Rd and is very small. This site is used extensively by ORV's and the sand is very firm and not suitable. The North Sea Harbor site is a small island located within the harbor. There is currently no suitable habitat at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Towd Neck** is the largest bay site monitored by the Southampton Trustees and is broken up into two sub-sites with the inlet into North Sea Harbor as the divider. Both sub-sites are high use areas but vary in regard to beach profile. The greatest threat facing Towd is the use of recreational vehicles.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.50

**Towd Neck West:** No T&E species were present at this site. Two immediate threats to successful nesting at this sub-site are human activity and a lack of suitable habitat. Approximately ¼ of this site is bulk headed with the tide reaching the bulkhead, while the remainder is heavily used by ORV traffic. However, birds were observed feeding at the inlet on many occasions.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Towd Neck East:** This site is different from the western sub-site in that most of the habitat here is suitable for nesting plovers and terns. Fencing here is often a

challenge as Towd Neck East is buffered by residences, all of which have individual access to the beach. All string fencing is put up in an attempt to leave every walkway open. Although this is not always possible, residents' access to the beach is never blocked off completely.

Two pairs of piping plovers nested at this sub-site. The first pair lost all four chicks within the first five days. One chick was found dead and autopsied. A cold front that came through during the beginning of June was found to be the cause. This pair renested but none of these chicks survived. The second pair lost its first nest to predation but successfully fledged one chick after renesting.

A least tern colony was also located at this site with an estimated 105 nests, producing 51 fledges. In addition, an astounding amount of seabeach knotweed was found throughout the entire stretch of Town Neck East. Individual counts were not possible and the total was estimated at 5200 plants. No seabeach amaranth was found.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 2 Pairs, 1 Fledge

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.50

**Wooley Pond** is separated into two sites due to the inlet into the Pond. Both sub-sites have limited suitable habitat and therefore no piping plovers or least terns have ever been recorded nesting here. In addition, the site to the east was not accessible. Fifty two seabeach knotweed plants were located at the western sub-site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Roses Grove and Fresh Pond** both have a lack of suitable habitat for piping plover and least tern nesting. This may be a result of the extensive use of bulkheading and steep slope of the beach profile. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed were recorded either.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Pine Neck** had one pair of nesting piping plovers this year. Although all four chicks hatched, they did not survive due to the cold front in the beginning of June. This site is a peninsula and therefore a high use area for recreational boaters. Beach driving is also an issue of concern and ORV restrictive fencing was erected early in the season. Unfortunately it was not respected and either driven around/over or altogether removed. It is suggested that a more sturdy fencing structure be erected at this site to discourage such behavior.

Two least tern nests were observed, but both nests were lost prior to hatching. Five seabeach knotweed plants were located at Pine Neck. No seabeach amaranth was recorded.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Long Beach** is one of the more difficult sites to manage. Approximately one mile long, the site is a public beach run by the towns' Department of Parks and Recreation. The high level of human activity is a major threat to the nesting shorebirds at this site. Long Beach is particularly crowded on weekends and holidays. Another threat to nesting

at this location is predators such as gulls, crows and unleashed dogs. The parking lot also runs parallel to the beach, making it difficult to prohibit beach driving once chicks are present. The one pair of piping plovers present this year nested to the east where heavy brush helps deter beach driving. Unfortunately, the adults incubated the nest for 41 days prior to abandoning it.

A least tern colony also nested in the string fencing to the easternmost area. There was an estimated 39 nests in which 8 chicks fledged. Although no seabeach amaranth was located at this site, 203 seabeach knotweed plants were counted.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Short Beach** does not contend with a lot of the problems faced by Long Beach. Although relatively close, few beachgoers are found here and the use of recreational vehicles is not a concern as the access is blocked by pilings. In addition, there are limited homes located here. Unfortunately, the presence of predators, specifically crows, is an extremely large issue. No piping plovers were recorded at this site.

No least terns or seabeach amaranth were located at this site. There were 61 seabeach knotweed plants recorded.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Genet Creek** had never been monitored prior to last year. This year a four egg nest was located and successfully fledged two chicks. This is a great site as it is very secluded and is not open to beach driving. The only concern here is the number of hawks that were observed in the area.

Twenty nine seabeach knotweed plants were recorded. No least tern or seabeach amaranth was found.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 2.0

**Middle Pond** is the only site located along the Shinnecock Bay System. It is a narrow, secluded beach that is not highly trafficked by people and there is no access for ORV's. Although this site once produced fledges on a consistent basis, there has been no breeding plovers or terns since 2004. This is thought to be the result of an increase in predators and the overgrowth of vegetation where suitable habitat existed.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

## **PIPL Nests and Chicks:**

For the 2009 season, 33 breeding piping plover pairs produced 43 nests (including renests). Within those nests were a total of 152 eggs, out of which 89 (58.6%) successfully hatched. Of the remaining 63 eggs, 40 (63.5%) were lost to predation, 13 (20.7%) were abandoned, 5 (7.9%) were washed out and 5 (7.9%) failed to hatch. Overall, 24 (55.8%) of the 43 nests hatched eggs. (See Table 2)

Having suffered from vandalism to exclosures early on last year, we did not end up using many in fear that more nests would be lost in this manner. Unfortunately, a very large number were predated as a result. Concluding that the benefit outweighed the risk, exclosures were used on as many nests as possible this season. This proved quite advantageous as 32 (56.1%) more eggs hatched than the previous year. Of the 18 nests that were exclosed, 17 (94.4%) of them successfully hatched, while one was predated even with the exclosure up. There were many instances in which the nest was either predated prior to the clutch being complete or found predated the day the exclosure was to go up. A number of nests were also located alongside/around snow fencing so that an exclosure could not be erected.

Out of the 89 eggs that successfully hatched, 49 (55.1%) of them did not reach fledge status while the remaining 40 (44.9%) did. The overall productivity of the 33 pairs was then 1.21. This number is the first increase in productivity since 2004, when numbers began decreasing over a five year time frame (See Graph 2). Even with this welcomed increase, more chicks died than survived. There are many factors that can contribute to this, which can include lack of habitat, increase in predators and a lack of understanding by beachgoers. It is the goal of the Southampton Town Board of Trustees Threatened and Endangered Species Program to work with participating agencies and the residents to recover all T&E species located within the town.

## **Acknowledgements**

We at the Southampton Town Board of Trustees would like to thank all those individuals who helped make the 2009 Threatened and Endangered Species Program a success. Thank you to the Marine Maintenance Division, the Bay Constables, the lifeguards at the Bridgehampton Club, Joe Janssen of the Nature Conservancy, Steve Sinkevich of USFWS, Chip Hamilton and Michelle Gibbons of the NYSDEC, James Gromely and Ross Baldwin with the Towns GIS Dept., NYSDEC Officer Liza Bobseine, Dick McIntyre of the Stony Brook Southampton Marine Center and Carolyn Spilman of Audubon New York. Special thanks go out to our volunteers Kathleen and Ken Conrad, Kenneth Wiley and Barry Udelson all of whom were a tremendous help.

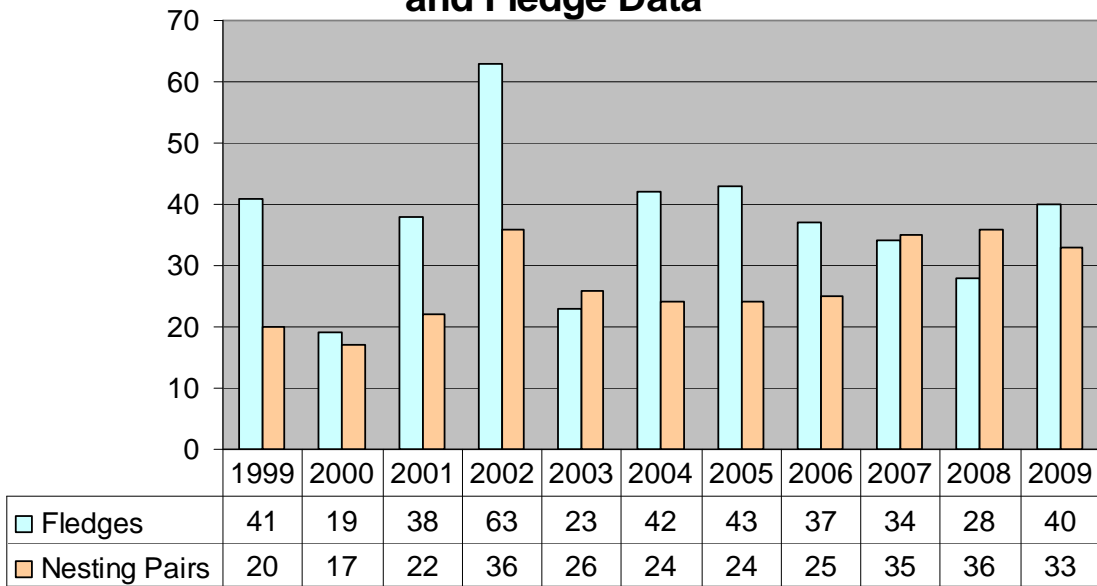
Table 1. Piping Plover Pairs and Productivity for 2009

Site Name/ Location	No. Nesting Pairs	No. Nests	No. Eggs	No. Chicks	Hatch Rate (Chicks/ Eggs)	No. Fledges	Fledge Rate (Fledges/ Chicks)	Productivity (Fledges/ Pairs)	No. Times Site Visited
<b>Atlantic Ocean Nesting Sites</b>									
<b>Village Beaches</b>									
1. Southampton Beach	8	9	35	24	0.69	12	0.50	1.50	46
a) County Park Boundary to Rd D	1	1	4	4	1.00	1	0.25	1.00	32
b) Rd D to Halsey Neck Ln	6	7	27	18	0.67	10	0.56	1.67	46
c) Halsey Neck Ln to S. Main St	1	1	4	2	0.50	1	0.50	1.00	29
2. Gin Lane Beach <i>S. Main St to Old Town Rd</i>									10
3. Old Town Rd Beach <i>Old Town Rd to Fowlers St</i>	2	2	7	3	0.43	1	0.33	0.50	38
<b>Town Beaches</b>									
4. Watermill Beach	7	10	33	11	0.33	9	0.82	1.29	44
a) Fowlers Beach <i>Fowlers St to Flying Pt Rd</i>	2	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	24
b) Flying Point Beach <i>Flying Pt Rd to Dune Rd</i>									19
c) Scott Cameron Beach <i>Dune Rd to Jobs Ln</i>	5	7	22	11	0.50	9	0.82	1.80	44
5. Sam's Creek <i>Jobs Ln to Ocean Rd</i>	1	1	4	4	1.00	2	0.50	2.00	22
6. Sagaponack Lake Beach <i>Ocean Rd to Gibson Ln</i>	3	3	12	12	1.00	3	0.25	1.00	36
7. Fairfield Pond Lane Beach <i>Gibson Ln to Town Line Rd</i>	3	3	12	12	1.00	8	0.67	2.67	12
<b>Total for Ocean Nesting Sites</b>	24	28	103	66	0.64	35	0.53	1.46	208
<b>Peconic Bay Nesting Sites</b>									
8. Red Cedar Pt	3	7	17	4	0.23	2	0.50	0.67	21
9. Red Creek Pond									7
10. Squires Pond	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	9
11. Meschutt Beach East									1
12. Canoe Place Beach									2
13. Fish Cove/N. Sea Harbor									2
14. Towd Neck	2	4	16	12	0.75	1	0.08	0.50	28
15. Wooley Pond									2
16. Roses Grove									2
17. Fresh Pond									2
18. Pine Neck/Mill Creek	1	1	4	4	1.00	0	0	0	16
19. Long Beach	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	60
20. Short Beach									13
21. Genet Creek	1	1	4	3	0.75	2	0.67	2.00	38
<b>Shinnecock Bay Nesting Sites</b>									
22. Middle Pond									3
<b>Total for Bay Nesting Sites</b>	9	15	49	23	0.47	5	0.22	0.56	206
<b>Totals for All Sites</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>414</b>

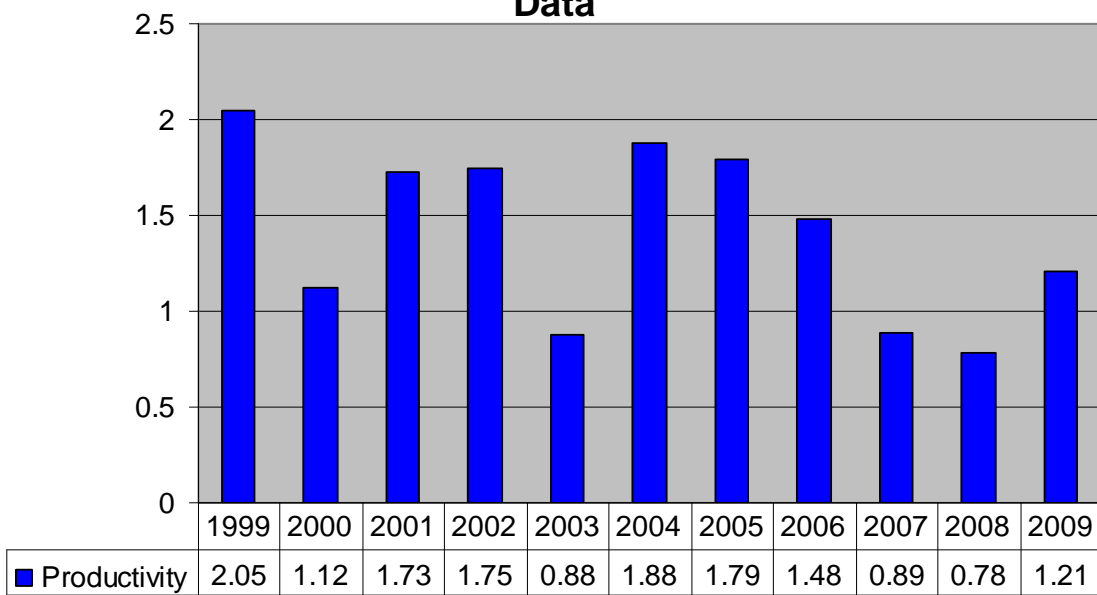
**Table 2 Outcome of All Laid Piping Plover Eggs**

33 Nesting Pairs			
	Laid 43 total nests		
		W/a total of 152 eggs	
		63 unhatched (41.4% of all eggs didn't hatch)	
		40 eggs predated (63.5% of all eggs predated)	
		13 eggs abandoned (20.7%)	
		5 eggs overwashed (7.9%)	
		5 failed/unhatched (7.9%)	
		89 eggs hatched from 24 nests (58.6% of all eggs hatched)	
		40 Fledged (44.9%)	
		49 Did Not Fledge (55.1%)	

**Graph 1: Historical Piping Plover Nesting Pairs and Fledge Data**



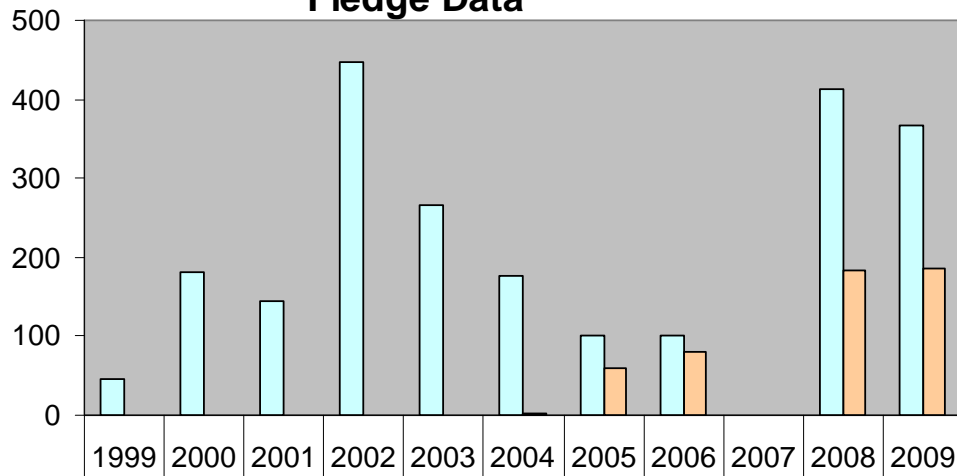
**Graph 2: Historical Piping Plover Productivity Data**



**Table 3 Least Tern Pairs and Productivity 2008**

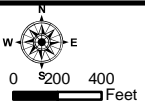
<b>Site Name/ Location</b>	<b>No. Nesting Pairs</b>	<b>No. Fledges</b>	<b>Productivity (Fledges/Pair)</b>
<b><u>Atlantic Ocean Nesting Sites</u></b>			
<b>Village Beaches</b>			
1. Southampton Beach	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0.56</b>
a) County Park Boundary to Rd D			
b) Rd D to Halsey Neck Ln	11	6	0.55
c) Halsey Neck Ln to S. Main St	21	12	0.57
2. Gin Lane Beach <i>S. Main St to Old Town Rd</i>			
3. Old Town Rd Beach <i>Old Town Rd to Fowlers St</i>			
<b>Town Beaches</b>			
4. Watermill Beach	<b>50</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.44</b>
a) Fowlers Beach <i>Fowlers St to Flying Pt Rd</i>			
b) Flying Point Beach <i>Flying Pt Rd to Dune Rd</i>			
c) Scott Cameron Beach <i>Dune Rd to Jobs Ln</i>	50	22	0.44
5. Sam's Creek <i>Jobs</i> <i>Ln to Ocean Rd</i>			
6. Sagaponack Lake Beach <i>Ocean Rd to Gibson Ln</i>	120	75	0.63
7. Fairfield Pond Lane Beach <i>Gibson Ln to Town Line Rd</i>	15	10	0.67
<b>Total for Ocean Nesting Sites</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0.58</b>
<b><u>Peconic Bay Nesting Sites</u></b>			
8. Red Cedar Pt	3	2	0.67
9. Red Creek Pond			
10. Squires Pond			
11. Meschutt Beach East			
12. Canoe Place Beach			
13. Fish Cove/N. Sea Harbor			
14. Towd Neck	105	51	0.49
15. Wooley Pond			
16. Roses Grove			
17. Fresh Pond			
18. Pine Neck/Mill Creek	2	0	0.00
19. Long Beach	39	8	0.21
20. Short Beach			
21. Genet Creek			
<b><u>Shinnecock Bay Nesting Sites</u></b>			
22. Middle Pond			
<b>Total for Bay Nesting Sites</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>Totals for All Sites</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0.51</b>

**Graph 3: Historical Least Tern Nesting Pair and Fledge Data**



□ Nesting Pairs	45	181	145	447	267	177	102	101		413	366
□ Fledges						2	60	80		183	186





# SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE) SHINNECOCK EAST TO ROAD D

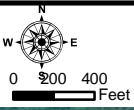
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Town of Southampton  
Department of Geographic Information  
Systems  
September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery

★ Plover Nests

☐ Least Tern Colony





# SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE) ROAD D TO HALSEY NECK LANE

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# SOUTHAMPTON BEACH (VILLAGE) HALSEY NECK LANE TO S MAIN ST

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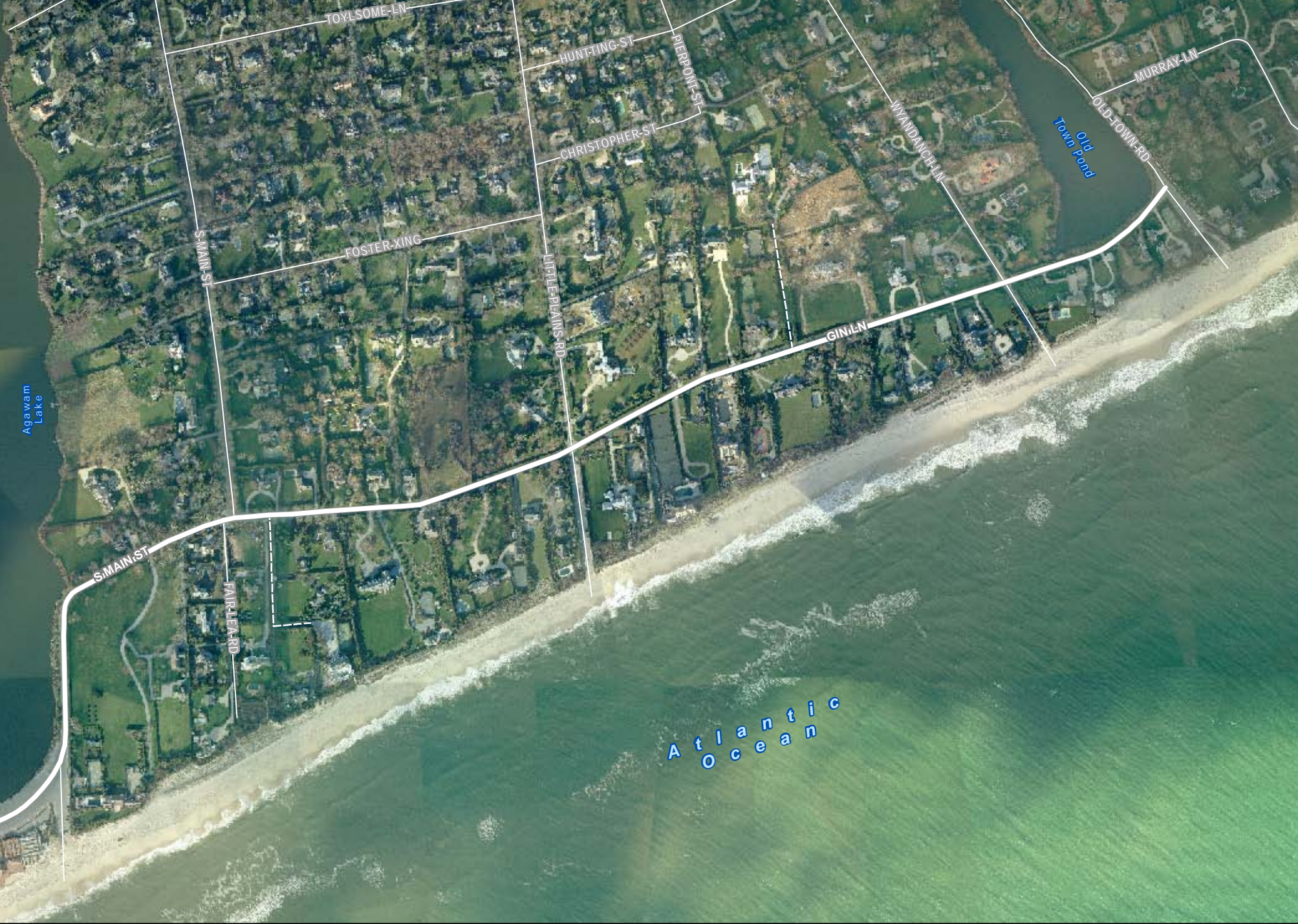
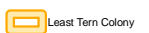


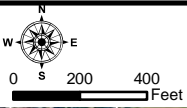


# GIN LANE BEACH (VILLAGE) SOUTH MAIN ST TO OLD TOWN RD

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Department of Geographic Information  
Systems  
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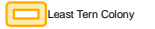
# OLD TOWN ROAD (VILLAGE) OLD TOWN RD TO FOWLERS ST

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Plover Nests



Least Tern Colony





# WATER MILL BEACH FOWLERS ST TO FLYING PT RD

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★ Plover Nests  
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# WATER MILL BEACH FLYING POINT RD TO DUNE RD

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☐ Least Tern Colony





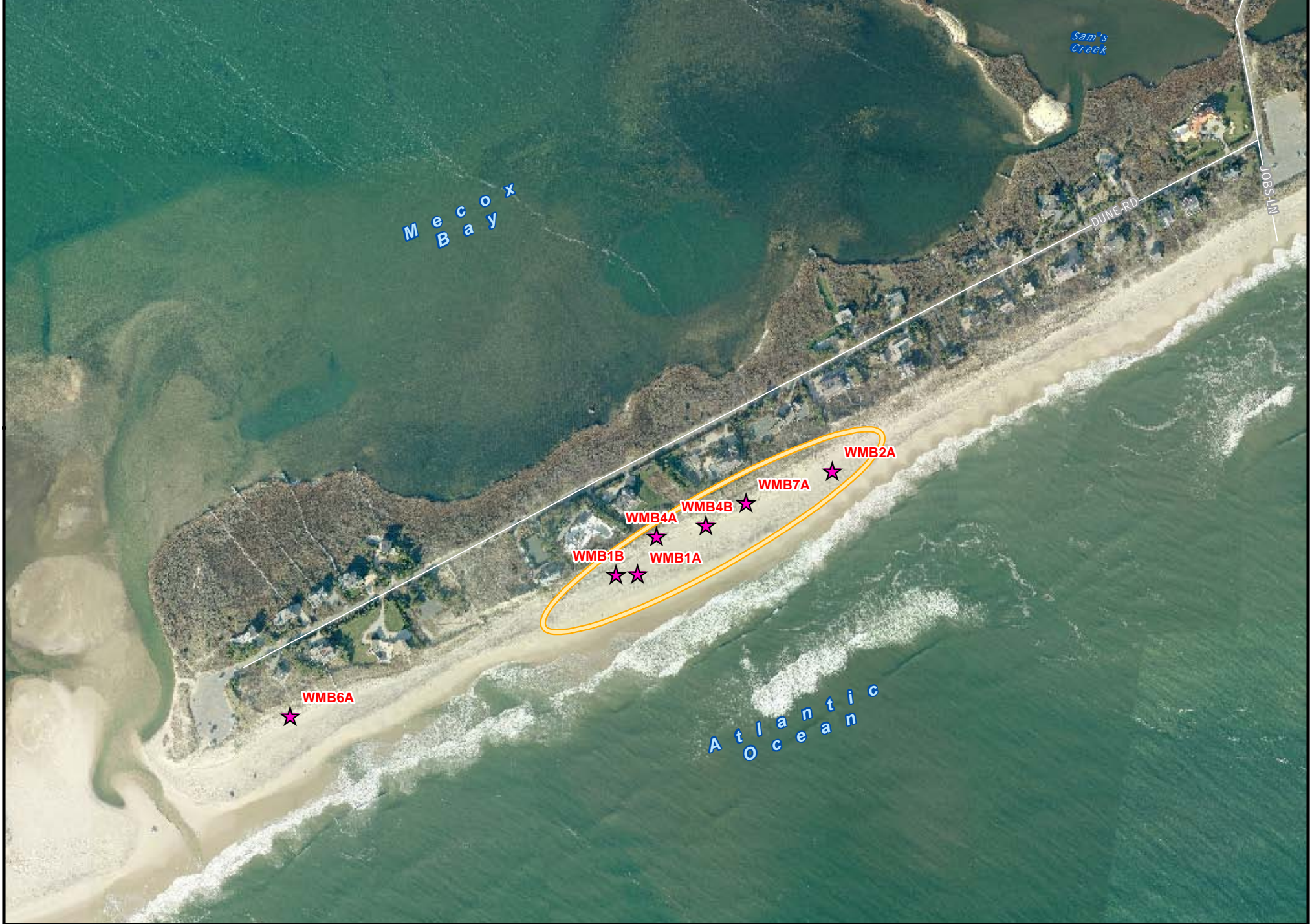
# WATER MILL BEACH DUNE RD TO JOBS LN

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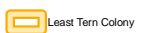


# SAM'S CREEK / MECOX BEACH

## JOBS LANE TO OCEAN RD

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# SAGAPONACK LAKE (WEST)

## OCEAN RD TO SURFSIDE DR

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# SAGAPONACK LAKE (EAST)

## SAGG MAIN ST TO GIBSON LN

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# FAIRFIELD POND LANE BEACH (WEST) GIBSON LN TO PETER'S POND

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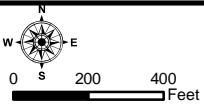
★ Plover Nests

☐ Least Tern Colony



Atlantic  
Oceanic

FAIR2A  
★



# FAIRFIELD POND LANE BEACH (EAST)

## PETER'S POND LN TO TOWN LINE RD

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FAIR1A

FAIR2A

Atlantic  
Ocean

Peter's  
Pond

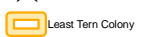


0 200 400 Feet

# RED CEDAR POINT FLANDERS

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0 200 400 Feet

# RED CREEK POND HAMPTON BAYS

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★ Plover Nests

☐ Least Tern Colony





0 200 400 Feet

# SQUIRES POND HAMPTON BAYS

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SQUIRES1A

Peconic Bay

Squires Pond

WEST LANDING RD

RETIRE-M

EAST LANDING RD

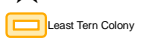
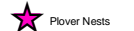


0 200 400 Feet

# MESCHUTT BEACH HAMPTON BAYS

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Great  
P e c o n i c B a y



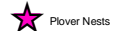


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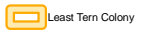
# CANOE PLACE BEACH HAMPTON BAYS

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Systems  
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Plover Nests



Least Tern Colony

Great  
Peconic Bay

Shinnecock  
Canal

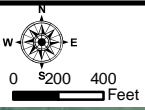
BAYVIEW AVE

SUNSET AVE - CR 62



SHINNECOCK PL

HAMPTON PL

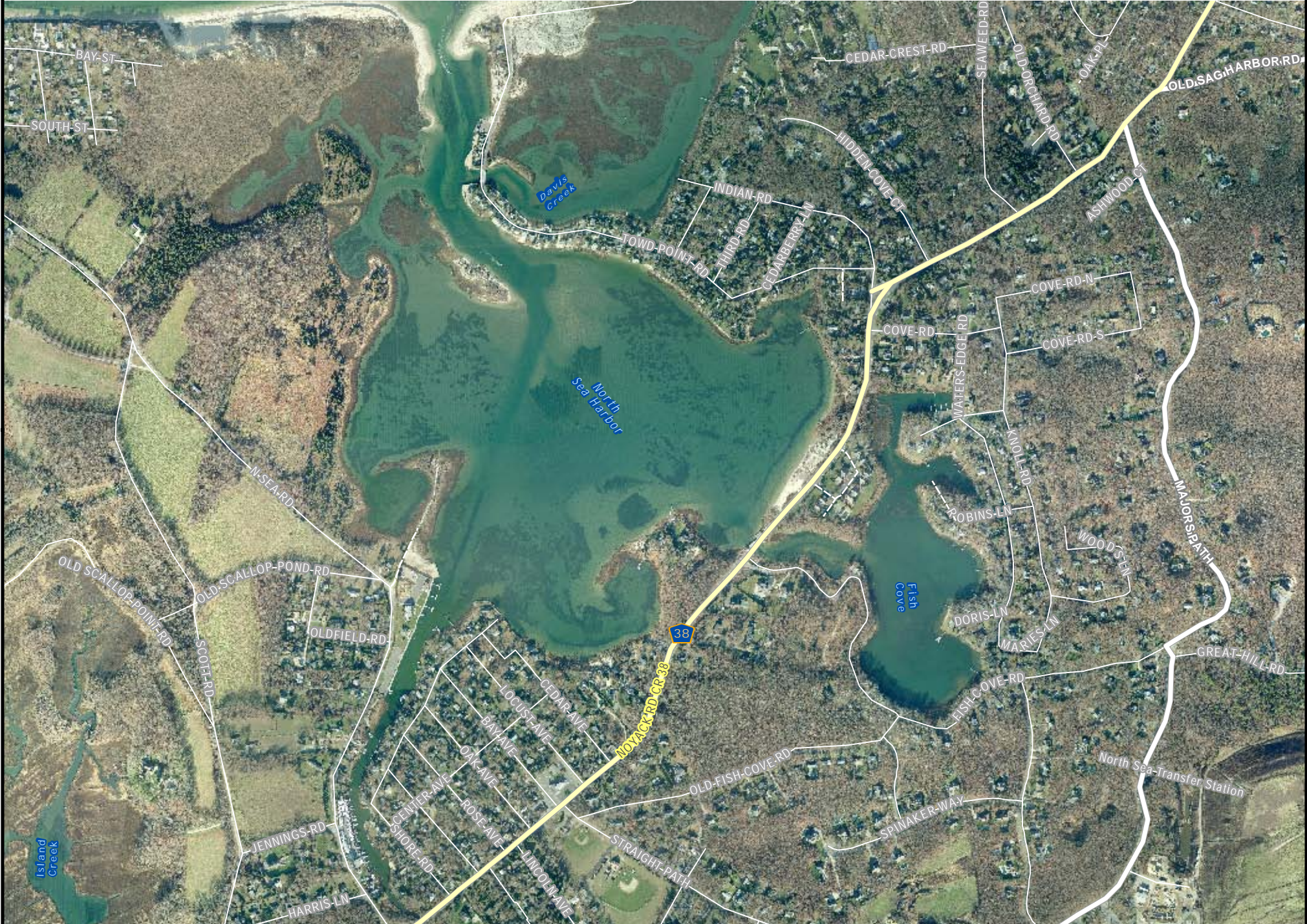
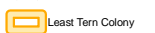


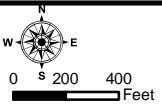
# FISH COVE / NORTH SEA HARBOR

## NORTH SEA

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Systems  
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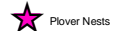


# TOWD NECK (WEST)

## WEST COW NECK POINT TO TOWD POINT

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September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery



Plover Nests



Least Tern Colony

Little  
Peconic Bay

COW-NECK RD.

WEST ST.

CENTER ST.

BAY ST.

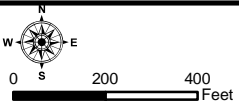
SOUTH ST.

N-SEA RD.

SCOTT RD.

Scallop  
Pond

North  
Sea Harbor

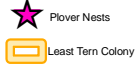


# TOWD NECK (EAST)

## EAST TOWD POINT (INLET) TO SCOTTS LANDING RD

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Department of Geographic Information  
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September 2009

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0 200 400 Feet

# WOOLEY POND (WEST) WEST SCOTTS LANDING TO BULKHEAD

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★ Plover Nests

☐ Least Tern Colony





0 200 400 Feet

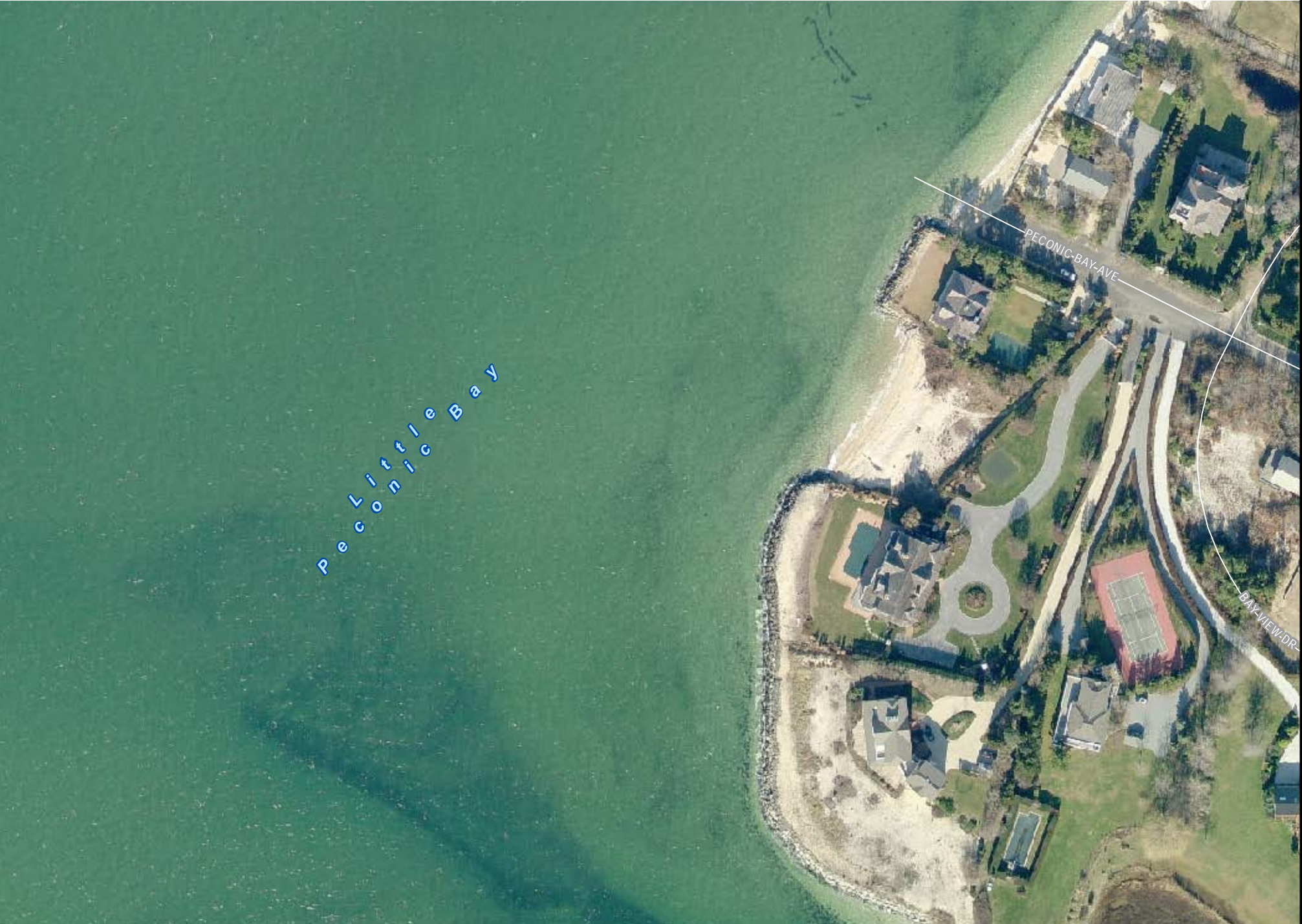
# WOOLEY POND (EAST) EAST/NORTH POINT TO PECONIC BAY AVE

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Department of Geographic Information  
Systems  
September 2009

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# ROSES GROVE

## PECONIC BAY AVE TO OAK GROVE RD

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☐ Least Tern Colony

P e c o n i c B a y

Fresh Pond

OAK GROVE RD

LAKE DR

EDGE MERE DR

HERNE PL

HAMPTON RD-N

SHORE DR

CROSS WAY

ROSE HILL RD

DORSETT RD

BAY WOOD DR

BEACH RD

BAY VIEW DR

MOYACK RD CR 38

38





0 200 400 Feet

# FRESH POND BULKHEAD TO LAKE DR.

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☐ Least Tern Colony

P e c o n i c B a y

Fresh Pond

OAK GROVE RD

E SHORE DR

E SHORE RD

LAKE DR

LAKE DR-N

RED CEDAR RD

BAY VIEW RD-W

FERN RD

BAY VIEW RD

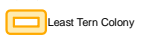


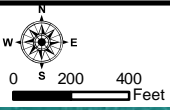


# PINE NECK / MILL CREEK NOYAC

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September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery

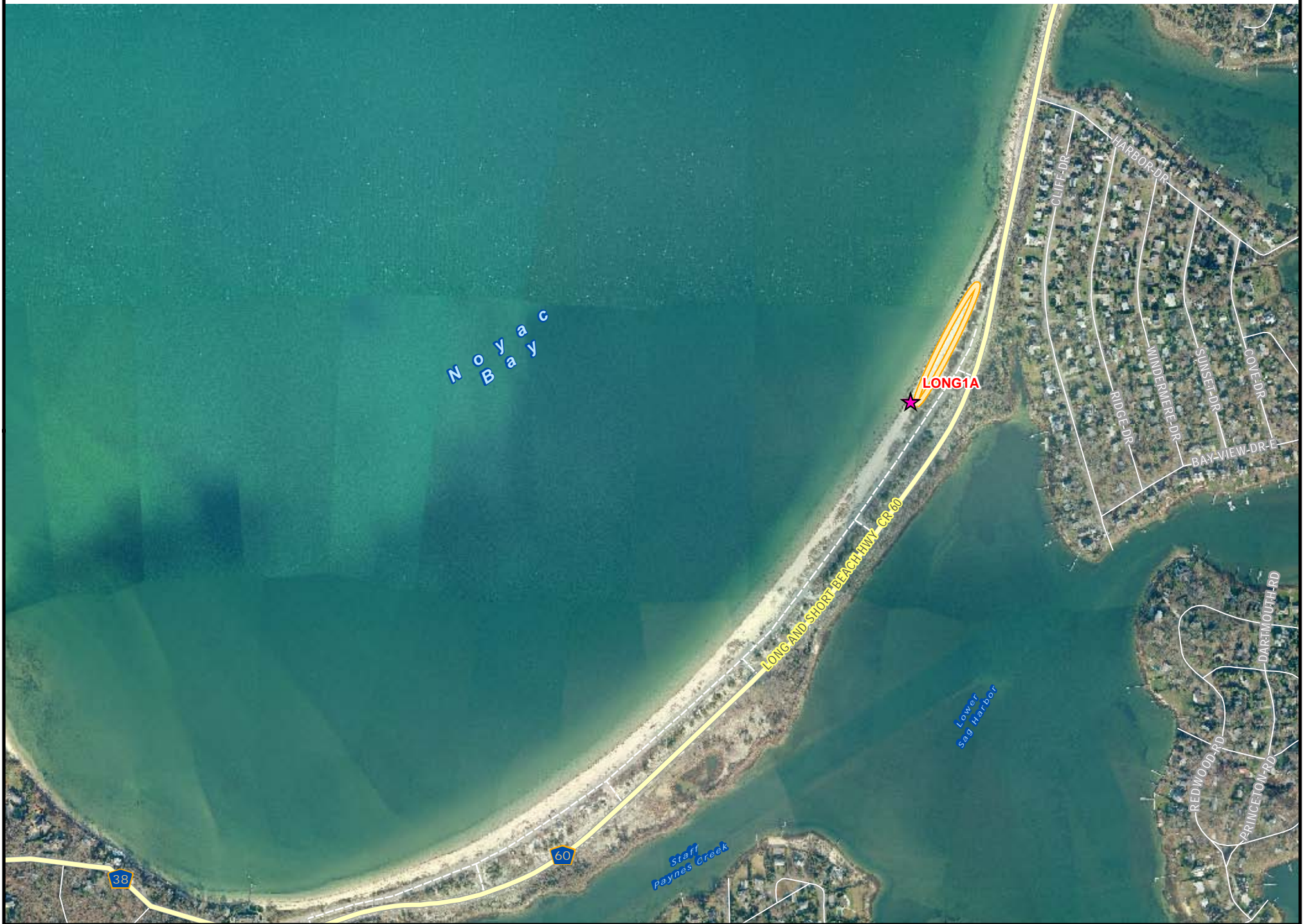
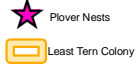




# LONG BEACH NOYAC / SAG HARBOR

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Town of Southampton  
Department of Geographic Information  
Systems  
September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery





0 200 400 Feet

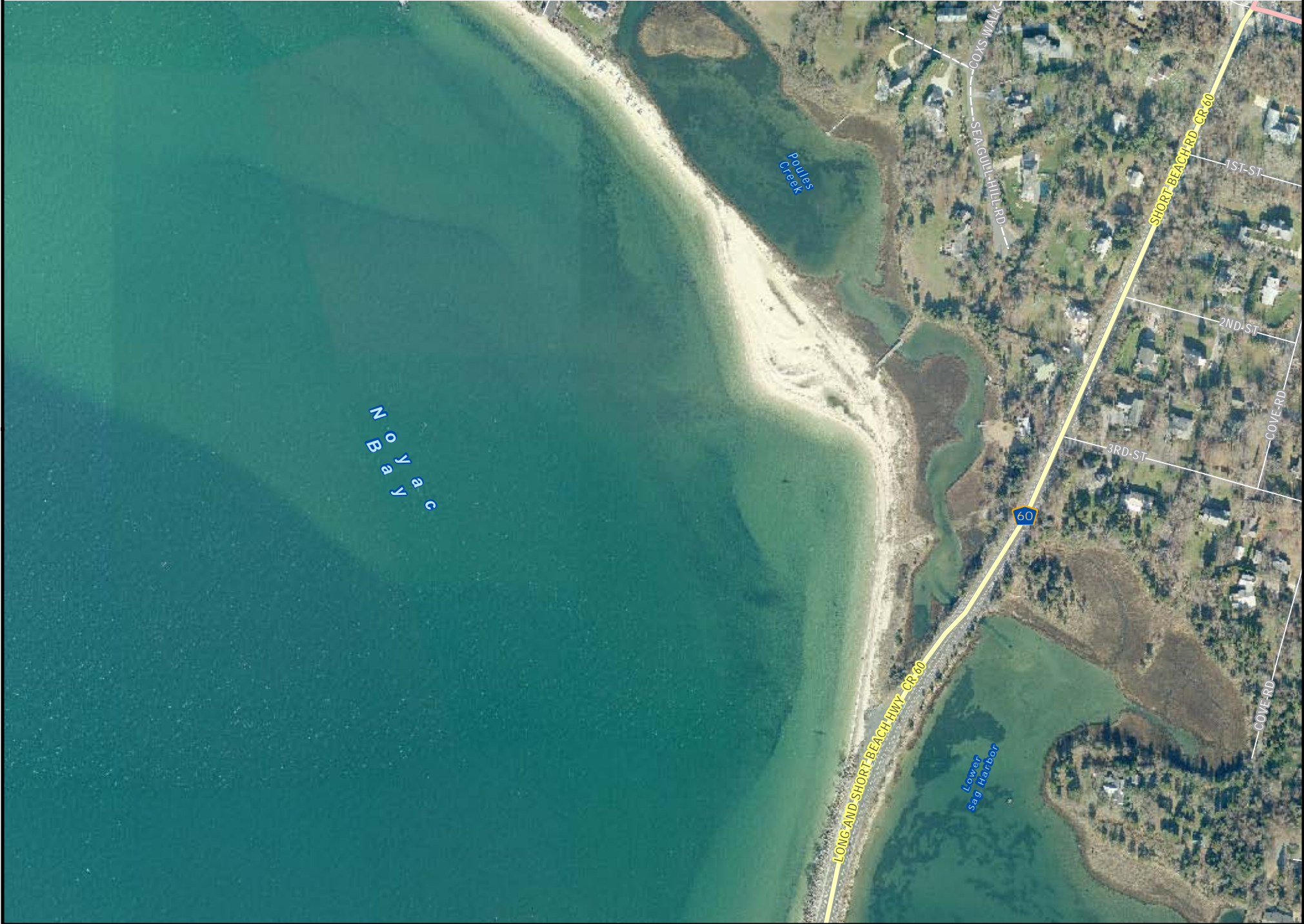
# SHORT BEACH NORTH HAVEN \ NOYAC

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Town of Southampton  
Department of Geographic Information  
Systems  
September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery

 Plover Nests

 Least Tern Colony

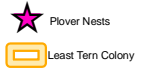




# GENET CREEK NORTH HAVEN

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September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery



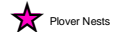


0 200 400 Feet

# MIDDLE POND SHINNECOCK HILLS

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Department of Geographic Information  
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September 2009

2008 Aerial Imagery



Plover Nests



Least Tern Colony

