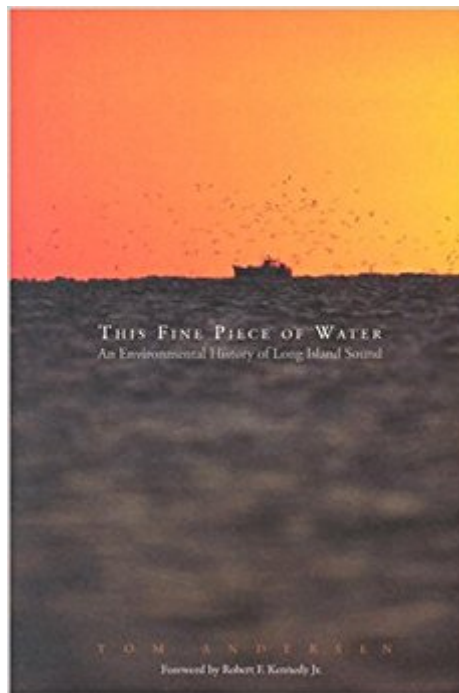




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# This Fine Piece Of Water: An Environmental History Of Long Island Sound



## Synopsis

Long Island Sound is not only the most heavily used estuary in North America, it is also one of the most beautiful waterways, with picturesque seascapes and landfalls. But centuries of pollution and other abuse have gradually been killing off its marine life and have pushed the Sound to the brink of disaster. This fascinating book traces the history of the Sound and its use as a resource from the time of contact between the Native Americans and Dutch traders through the suburban sprawl of recent decades and tells how a group of scientists and citizens has been working to save the Sound from ruin. Tom Andersen begins by describing the dramatic events of the summer of 1987, when a condition called hypoxia (lack of dissolved oxygen in the water brought about by a combination of pollution and other factors) killed large numbers of fish and lobsters in the Sound. He discusses how scientists first documented and explained the development of hypoxia and how research and cleanup are now being carried out to restore the Sound. Interweaving current events, natural history, and human history, Andersen presents a cautionary tale of exploitation without concern for preservation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Andersen has nicely wrapped 12,000 years of natural, social, and political history into this fine piece of work. I urge everyone with an interest in the natural and unnatural history of the Sound to read it."

"A superb example of environmental journalism. Thoroughly researched and elegantly written, it recounts a contemporary saga with nuance and high drama."-Philip G. Terrie, New York History ; "This is a murky story in the truest sense of the word, and Tom Andersen's reporting sheds some useful light."-Bill McKibben ; "Andersen has nicely wrapped 12,000 years of natural, social, and political history into this fine piece of work. I urge everyone with an interest in the natural and unnatural history of the Sound to read it."-Soundkeeper Terry Backer ; "Andersen turns a story of environmental degradation into a riveting saga full of hope. His scholarship is impressive; his style is clear; and the warmth with which he regards his subject is evident on every page."-Mary Parker Buckles, author of *Margins: A Naturalist Meets Long Island Sound*

Excellent book. I've lived on the shores of Long Island Sound most of my life and my great-grandfather and granduncle worked as Oyster men in late 1880's through 1930. I remember how bad it had gotten but never dreamed it was that bad. Terrific presentation.

I was taking a naturalist course and wanted to read about the tidal marshes. What I found in this book was so much more. It was very interesting reading about the history, the reasons for the depletion of the shellfish industry, etc. I was most impressed with Jeannette Semon, who pioneered the removal of nitrogen from sewage at plants the sound.

I live near and enjoy the Long Island sound on many levels recreationally. For anyone with a tie to the sound, this is a fascinating book. I give it only 4 stars only because a book of this nature can only be so much of a page turner. If you are environmentally conscious at all or have strong ties to the Long Island sound, I suggest you read this book.

L I Sound, a beautiful piece of water. Look east from the Throgs Neck Bridge and you'll see sailboats galore!

I hadn't had much interest in reading environmental or historical books. This changed that. Now, my interest and awareness in conservation, LIS, the fishing industry(recreational and commercial), has grown considerably. Too much detail to describe here. Read for yourself.I'm currently reading "Angling in the Smile of the Great Spirit", which is similar in some ways to this book, but discusses Lake Winnepesaukee. Also very good.

I came across this book while doing research for a segment that I was going to do for National Public Radio. Since I am only 15 I wasn't really around to witness the battle to save LIS, and I needed to know some history about the area from that time. This book helped the most out of all the materials that I read. It started by describing the time European sailors first laid their eyes on LIS to present day. He takes you on a journey through all of LIS history and presents every point of view when explaining the battle conservationists had to fight to get the government to cooperate. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in LIS. It is not a book that takes a lot of past knowledge to read, but very informative. Good work Mr. Andersen. A lot of work went into this book and it shows.

I read this book for a summer reading assignment. I began the book dreading it thinking that it would be unbearable boring and hard to get through, after all a book only on history of a body of water sounded quite boring. Fortunately i was pleasantly surprised when the book featured a interesting history of the inhabitants of the long island sound and not only facts about the LIS. The only critical thing i can say about this book is that it is at times repetitive and i felt like i had already been enriched enough as it was. The chapters on lobsters and oysters seemed to be continuing what had been said 10 pages earlier. These chapters were also jam packed with statistics which was good and bad but i ended up forgetting most of them as it was. All in all this book really made me feel like i needed to take an active part in helping the long island sound and helping to improve its beauty to what it was many many years ago. This book although not action packed was fulfilling and not a bad read even if you want to read it for joy.

I work for a water quality group of a Long Island Sound embayment, so this book had an interest to me before I'd even picked it up. I do a lot of reading on water quality and imagine my pleasant surprise to find this was not only fascinating and informative but well written and a good read. If you have an interest in the Sound, or even just live in its vicinity, you should put this book on your bucket list.

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