



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

*JANUARY 16, 2004*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER  
(202) 225-3826**

### **BISHOP SECURES \$100,000 FOR PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM**

**Riverhead, NY**—In an event at the Atlantis Marine World Aquarium in Riverhead, Congressman Tim Bishop announced a \$100,000 federal grant for the Peconic Estuary Program Office. The funding will help the Program to implement its Management Plan, which is a long-term vision to protect the Peconic Estuary. Bishop was joined at the event by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Riverhead Supervisor Phil Cardinale and other leaders. Bishop secured the funding in the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

“The Management Plan represents a process where our community came together and developed a long-term vision to protect the Peconic Estuary,” Bishop said. “I believe in that vision and I am glad to help secure funds to make the plan a reality.”

The goal of the Management Plan is to both protect the Estuary as well as to maximize opportunities for community use and recreation. This additional funding will help to implement portions of the plan such as improving public education outreach and hiring additional staff.

“I want to thank Congressman Bishop for securing these funds so that the partnership that has been working together over the last decade to provide for the long-term protection of the Peconic Estuary can continue its work,” Levy said. “These funds are an important demonstration of Congressman Bishop’s personal commitment to and the federal government’s continued support for protecting and preserving this nationally significant water body and its surrounding watershed.”

The Peconic Estuary is one of just 28 estuaries nationwide in the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary Program. The Estuary spans from Riverhead to Plum Island on the North Fork and Montauk Point on the South Fork.

In a 1993 Nature Conservancy study, more than 1,100 establishments were identified as “estuarine dependent” and gross revenues for these establishments exceeded \$450 million per year. More than 7,300 people are employed in these businesses, with a combined annual income of more than \$127 million, demonstrating the need to protect this vital natural resource.

An estuary is a semi-enclosed coastal body of water that connects to the open sea. It is a transition zone where saltwater from the ocean mixes with freshwater from rivers and land. Estuaries are among the most productive of the earth’s systems. More than 80 percent of all fish and shellfish species use estuaries as a primary habitat or as a spawning and nursery ground. Estuaries also provide feeding, nesting, breeding and nursery areas for a wide variety of animals.

# # #