



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Bishop Appointed to Influential Panel to Determine National Coastal Policy**

*Water Resources Conference Will Negotiate New York Projects and Katrina Response*

**Washington, DC** — Congressman Tim Bishop was recently appointed as one of only ten members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the only northeastern representative, to the House-Senate conference committee negotiating the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2006. The bill governs the budget and operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees shoreline policy, including the Fire Island to Montauk Point reformulation study and the levee rebuilding/wetlands restoration project in the Gulf Coast.

Bishop has worked to establish himself as a national leader on shoreline protection. In March, he was one of only three legislators honored by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) with its "Friend of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association" award. Additionally, the House passed Bishop's bill, the BEACH Act, to improve the quality of coastal waters and restore the condition of the nation's beaches.

"Shoreline protection is not only important to Long Island's economy and environment, but as we learned since Hurricane Katrina, it can be a matter of life and death," Bishop said. "I was honored to be selected by the House leadership to serve on the conference committee. It is important that Long Island have a voice in that room."

Jerry Stoddard, President of the Fire Island Association, was pleased that Congressman Bishop was named to the conference committee. "This is great news for all coastal communities," Stoddard said. "At our summer meeting, Congressman Bishop said that he would try to be appointed as a conferee, and true to his word, he worked hard and succeeded."

The Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 2864) contains over \$12 billion for navigation, environmental or ecosystem restoration, and storm damage reduction projects throughout the country. The bill also funds important projects for Long Island such as a comprehensive watershed management and oyster restoration project for the Long Island Sound along with a plan to manage usable sediment in Fire Island Inlet. Although the Senate has not appointed conferees for this legislation, negotiations are expected to begin soon between the two houses of Congress.

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