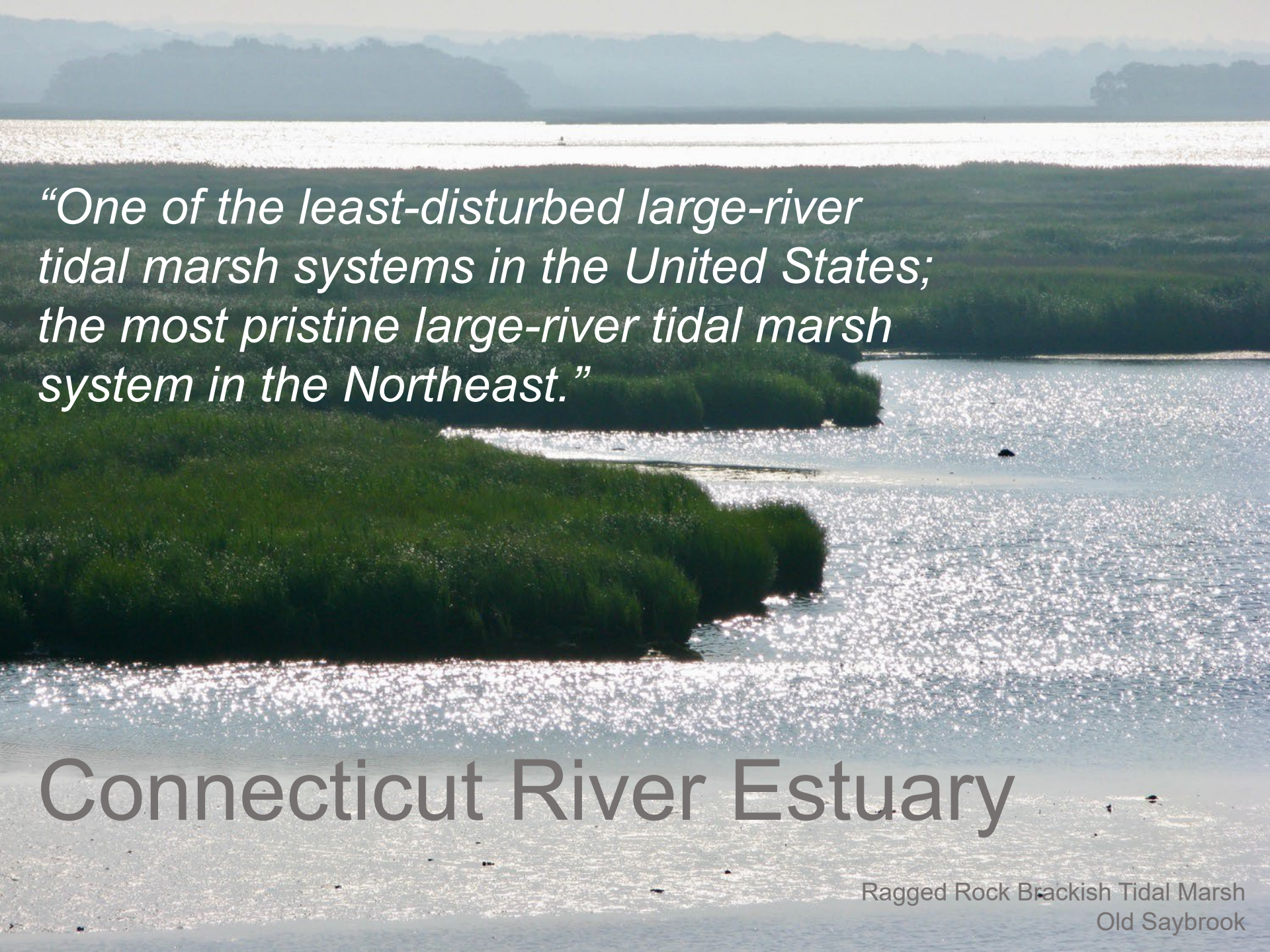


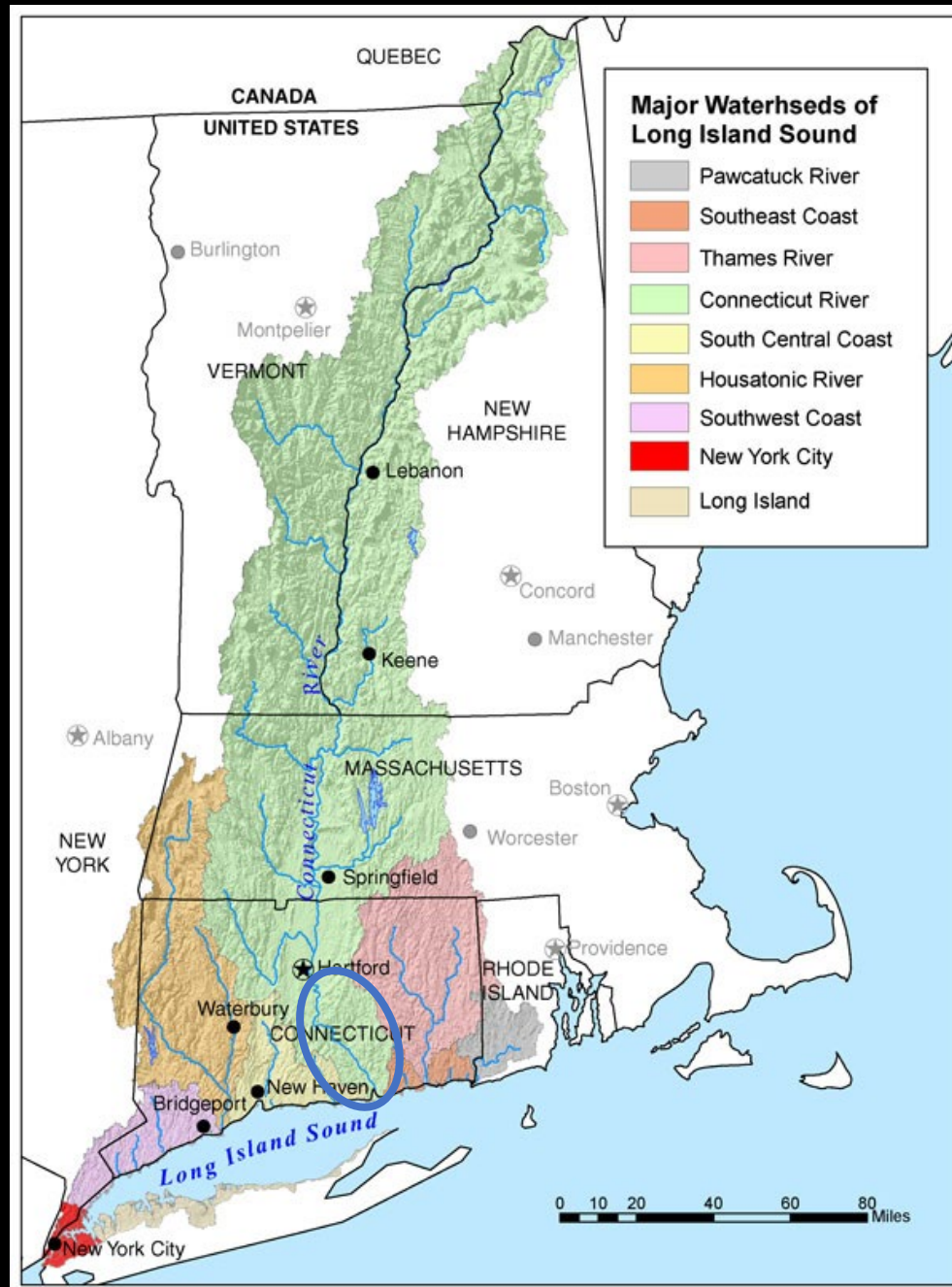


“One of the least-disturbed large-river tidal marsh systems in the United States; the most pristine large-river tidal marsh system in the Northeast.”

Connecticut River Estuary

Ragged Rock Brackish Tidal Marsh
Old Saybrook

Connecticut River Estuary at Long Island Sound



Salt, Brackish, Freshwater Tidal marshes and shallow riverine systems



Connecticut River Estuary Designations

1. *1973 CT River Gateway Conservation Zone (Gateway Commission)*
2. *1987 Estuary of National Significance, Long Island Sound (National Estuary Program)*
3. *1991 Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge*
4. *1993 The Nature Conservancy Last Great Place*
5. *1994 Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar International Convention*
6. *1998 American Heritage River, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*
7. *2007 State of Connecticut Greenway along the estuary of the Connecticut River*
8. *2008 Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act*
9. *2012 National Blueway America's Great Outdoors Initiative*
10. *[Spring 2022] National Estuarine Research Reserve site (NERRS) Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*



CT Audubon

Federally Threatened
Piping Plover
Charadrius melodus

Federally Threatened
CT Endangered
Puritan Tiger Beetle
Cicindela puritana



USFWS/Susan Wojtowicz



CT River Conservancy

Federally Endangered
Shortnose Sturgeon
Acipenser brevirostrum

Vulnerable

Spongy Arrowhead
Sagittaria Montevedensis
ssp spongiosa



State Endangered:
Parkers Pipewort
Eriocaulon Parkerii



CT Special Concern:
Mudwort
Limosella subulata



CT Special Concern
Golden Club
Orontium aquaticum



Tape Grass
Vallisneria americana



Emerging Wild Rice

Zizania aquatica

Whalebone Cove, Hadlyme
Freshwater Tidal Marsh



Long-leaved Pondweed

Potamogeton nodosus

Salmon Cove

A photograph of a pond or estuary. In the foreground, a large, dense clump of green hydrilla is being pulled out of the water, revealing its root-like structures. To the left, a black pipe extends into the water. The background is filled with various green aquatic plants, including some with broad, arrow-shaped leaves. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

The presence of, and alarming increase in *Hydrilla*, is unprecedented in the Connecticut River estuary

Approaching 1,000 acres of hydrilla extending over 50+ miles from southern MA to Old Lyme in CT

Hydrilla verticillata

- Stems easily broken off; can float and establish downstream (and travel in with the tide)
- Capable of existing as a free-floating mat at the surface
- Stems have been known to grow up to 30 feet long
- Requires very little light to succeed



Native Waterweed (*Elodea* sp)

Impenetrable surface
vegetation can

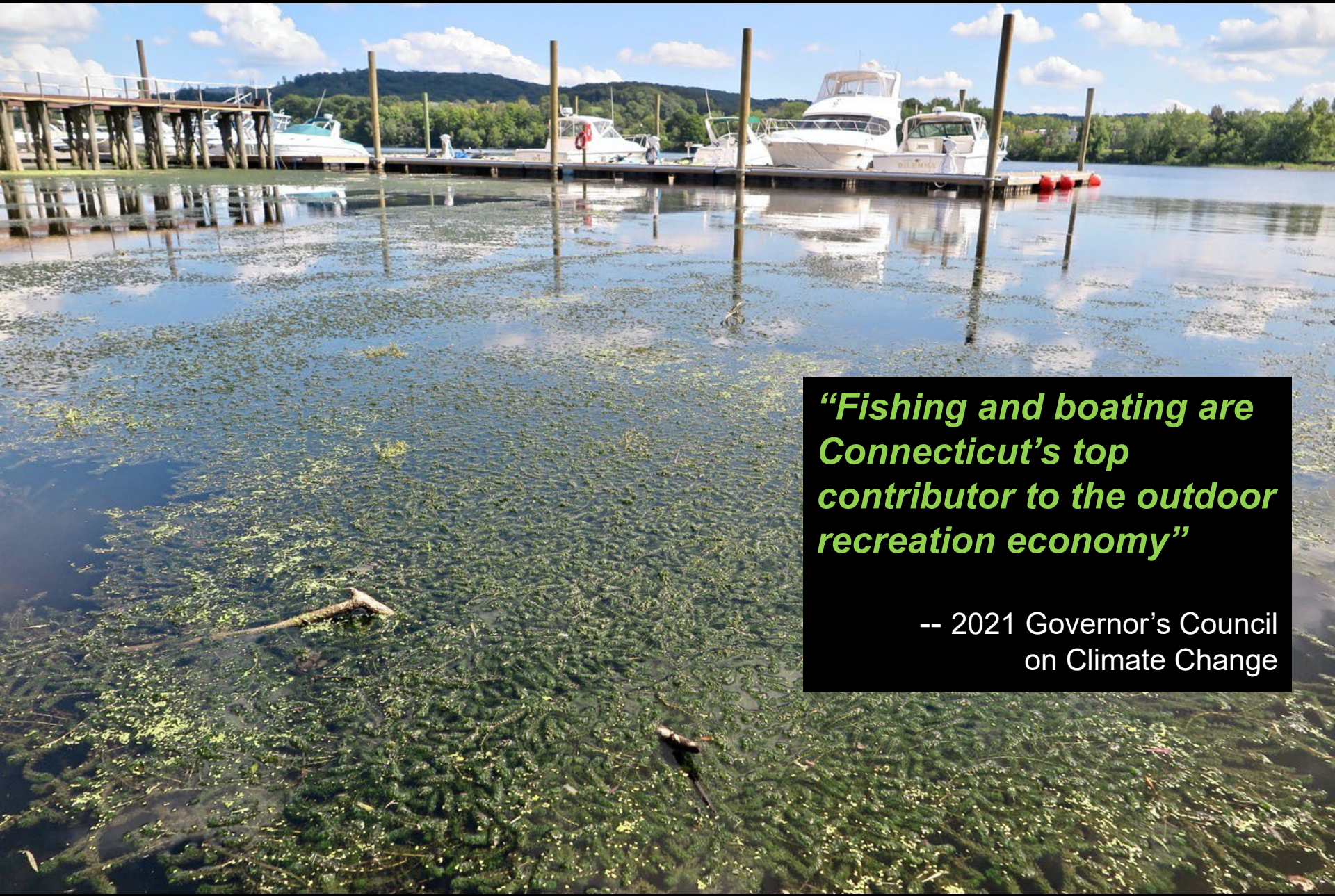
- increase water temperature
- raise pH
- lower dissolved oxygen
level

Inhibited water movement
impacts gas exchange with the
surface atmosphere

Decomposing vegetation in the
fall can lead to low oxygen and
potentially anoxic (no oxygen)
conditions at depth



Salmon River Cove



***“Fishing and boating are
Connecticut’s top
contributor to the outdoor
recreation economy”***

-- 2021 Governor’s Council
on Climate Change





Fall Tree Swallow Congregation



River Tourism



Annual Shad Bake
CT River Museum
Essex



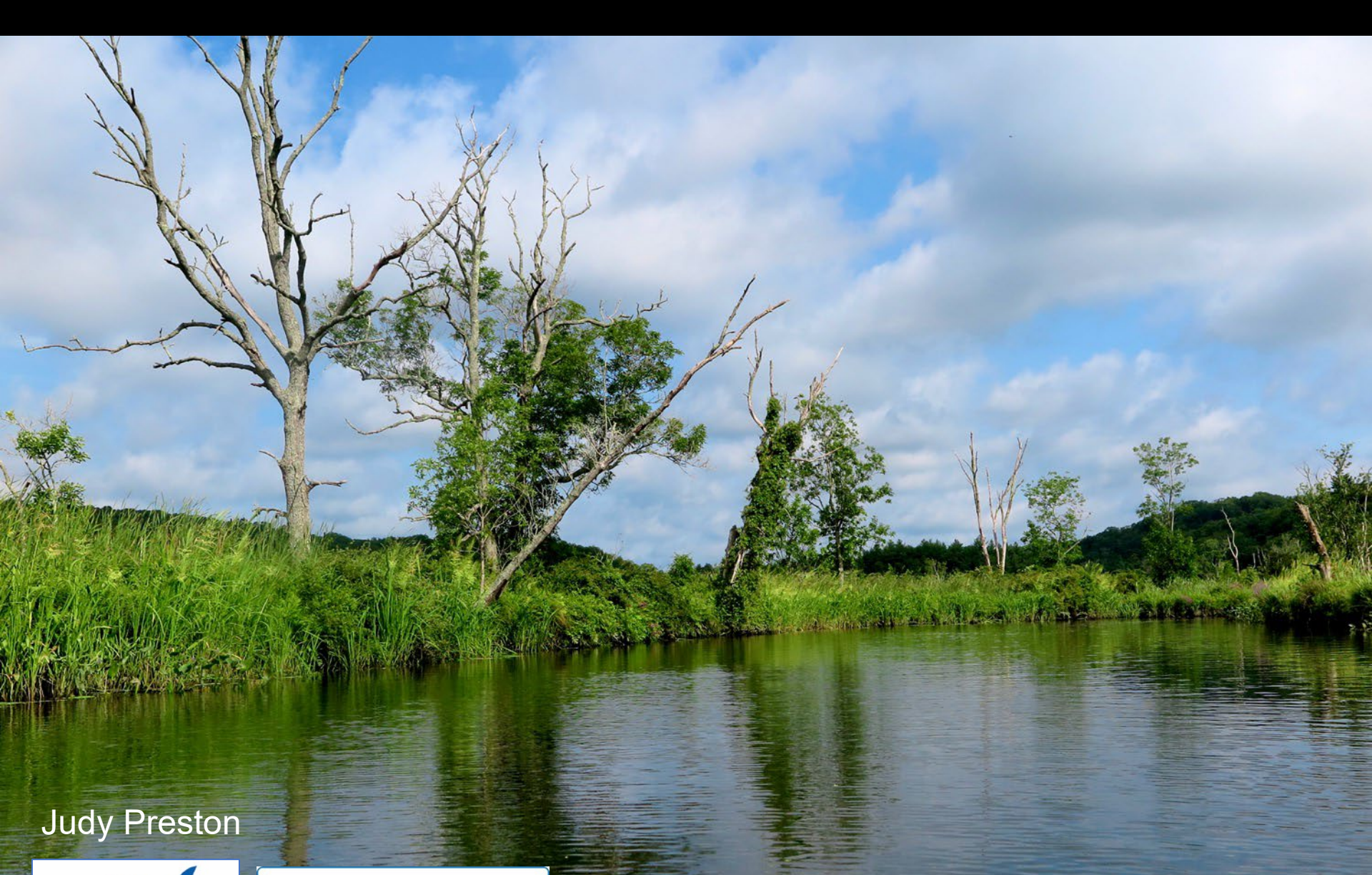
Of interest to local residents, municipalities and shoreline property owners, the loss of scenic amenities, in exchange for potentially harmful ones, can significantly impact property tax and tourism revenues



HYDRILLA

- Alters native habitats
- Impacts fisheries
commercial & recreational
boating & navigation
- Can affect local economies
housing values, property
assessments, tourism

Is extremely difficult and expensive to remove



Judy Preston

