**LISMaRC Phase II Select Biogenic Feature Abundance in the Long Island Sound Cable Fund Initiative Phase II area of eastern Long Island Sound during SEABOSS Operations (2017-2018)**

**METADATA**

**Dataset Originator**: *University of New Haven, Christian W. Conroy; University of Connecticut, Peter Auster*

**Publication Date**: *6/30/2021*

**Dataset Title:** *LISMaRC Phase II Select Biogenic Feature Abundance in the Long Island Sound Cable Fund Initiative Phase II area of eastern Long Island Sound during SEABOSS Operations (2017-2018)*

*Filename: LISMaRC_BenthicEcology_2017_18_EpifaunaSeaBossBlockSite_SelectFeature.shp*

**Online Linkage:** *http://www.marine-geo.org/portals/lis/*

**Abstract:** *The shapefile includes sample block- (SB) and site-specific (NB) percent cover of select biogenic features. Feature percent cover were assessed for images collected during USGS SEABed Observation and Sampling System (SEABOSS) in November and December 2017 and May 2018. These are the complete records of block- and site-level feature abundance.*

**Dataset purpose:** *This dataset provides detailed information on the epifaunal communities in the Phase II study area which can be used to map the spatial characteristics of these communities relative to several environmental features to meet the Long Island Sound Cable Fund's goal of ecological characterization of the Long Island Sound sea floor in conjunction with habitat mapping efforts.*

**Time period of content:** *These data were collected during May 2018.*

**Dataset Status**: *Complete*

**Update Frequency**: *None Planned*

**Theme Keywords**: *Benthic ecology, Epifauna, diversity, habitat, seafloor imaging, SEABOSS, ROV, Connecticut, New York, Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, estuary, Long Island Sound Mapping and Research Collaborative, LISMaRC*

**Access Constraints**: *none*

*Data are provided with the express understanding that they will not be sold to third parties or included in commercial databases.*

*Users are strongly encouraged to contact the original investigators responsible for data made available on this site. Where appropriate, researchers are also encouraged to consider collaboration and/or co-authorship with original investigators.*

*Data should not be used for navigation purposes.*

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**Dataset Credit:** *The Long Island Sound Mapping and Research Collaborative (LISMaRC). LISMaRC is the University of Connecticut, the University of New Haven and the US Geological Survey. Funding provided by the Long Island Sound Seafloor Mapping Fund administered cooperatively by the EPA Long Island Sound Study and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).*

**Data Quality Considerations**: *see below*

**Attribute accuracy**: *All attributes were evaluated during data processing and analysis as standard quality control to ensure attributes contain accurate and relevant information and values.*

**Completeness**: *The information provided on epifaunal communities is complete*

**Positional accuracy**: *Shapefile object locations correspond to sample sites (NB) and the centroids of sample blocks (SB). Block and site locations were selected with the overall objective to sample as many of the different seafloor habitats that were evident in the side scan mosaic that had been previously developed for the study area.*

**Process Steps**: *Abundance was summarized as block- and site-specific mean percent cover of select biogenic features was determined in images each analyzed image (n=1197). Images were captured using the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Seabed Observation and Sampling System (SEABOSS; Valentine et al. 2000) between November 28 and December 3, 2017 (n = 602) May 8 and 15, 2018 (n = 595) on the RV Connecticut.*

*SEABOSS captured orthogonal images of the seafloor. These images were analyzed for percent cover of all living seafloor species (excluding fish) and biogenic features. Percent cover was quantified using a grid of square cells overlaid on each image (n=216 grid cells). Within each grid square, organisms and biogenic features were identified to lowest possible taxonomic level. The sum of these grid cells for each image and organism or biogenic feature is reported in this dataset.*

**Attributes:**

*Name: Sample block or site.*

*trrst___: Mean percent cover of terrestrial vegetation.*

*Und_S__: Mean percent cover of whole shell and shell pieces.*

*Zstr_s_: Mean percent cover of drift Zostera marina.*

*smpld_: Sample blocks and sites sampled.*

**Metadata reference**: *Christian W. Conroy, University of New Haven, cwconroy@newhaven.edu*