

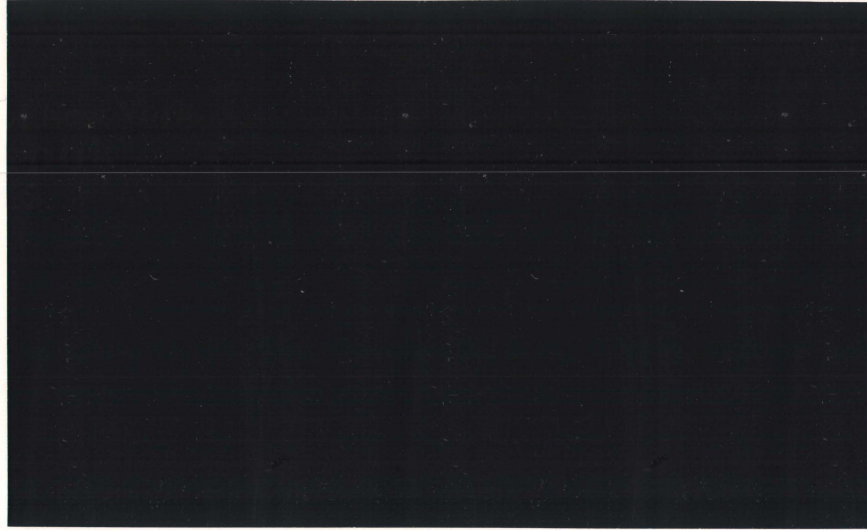
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MORICHES INLET: REPORT OF A WORKSHOP  
held at the  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
on  
29 October 1981

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MORICHES INLET: REPORT OF A WORKSHOP  
held at the  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
on  
29 October 1981

J. R. Schubel

*25 February 1982*

*The workshop was supported by the Town of  
Brookhaven and the Marine Sciences Research Center.*

Working Paper #6

Reference 82-1

Approved for Distribution

*J.R. Schubel*

J. R. Schubel, Director

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INTRODUCTION

On 29 October 1981 a Moriches Inlet workshop was held at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the request of Joel Lefkowitz, Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven. The workshop agenda is included in Appendix A to this report. Each governmental agency that has a management responsibility for Moriches Inlet and/or Moriches Bay was invited to send a representative to the Workshop. The agencies represented are listed in Table 1 and all attendees are listed in Appendix B.

The goal of the workshop was to clarify the position, or at least the perception, of each of the agencies on the desirability of having an inlet at Moriches; and if one was desirable, what some of its characteristics should be.

This report is a brief summary of the proceedings of the workshop. It was written with due consideration for the discussions which occurred during the workshop, but it should not be interpreted as a report which has been endorsed in full by the participants since not all have reviewed it.

Jeffrey Kassner, Bay Management Specialist of the Town of Brookhaven, presented an excellent history of Moriches Inlet. The history was prepared by Jeffrey Kassner and John Black and is available from Jeffrey Kassner, Town of Brookhaven, Environmental Protection Department, 475 East Main Street, Patchogue, New York 11772.

The governmental agencies represented and their positions on these questions are summarized in Table 1.

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Some general conclusions:

- All agencies represented agreed that an inlet at Moriches is important to maintenance of water quality in Moriches Bay and to the living marine resources. When water exchange between the Bay and the ocean has been restricted, water quality has deteriorated and marine life has been adversely affected. When exchange has been good, water quality has been high and finfish and shellfish relatively plentiful. Above some threshold of exchange the Bay's marine resources may be adversely affected because of physiological effects of increased salinity and because of invasion of predators from the sea.
- All agencies represented supported strongly the desirability of having an inlet at Moriches.
- The Town, County, and State contend that since the presence of an inlet is important for the maintenance of water quality and for the Bay's living marine resources its usefulness to society should be maximized and assert that this would be achieved by having the inlet safe for navigation at all stages of the tide.
- Brookhaven Town, Suffolk County Department of Planning, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation supported strongly the desirability of having a safe navigable inlet and felt costs to ensure it were justifiable.

- The National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Administration were not opposed to having the inlet navigable, but were not unconvinced that a navigable inlet was necessary for environmental reasons. If it were shown to be important economically, none of these agencies would object so long as it had no unacceptable environmental or ecological effects.
- The present configuration of back bay channels, shoals, and islands probably will make stabilization of the inlet at its present location difficult.
- If the inlet were relocated, for example to the area breached recently, initially it might be more stable than an inlet at the present location, but that condition could, and probably would, change with the formation of a new flood tidal delta and shoaling of channels.
- Studies should be conducted to assess the effects of different channel configurations and different back-Bay bathymetries--including islands--or circulation within the Bay and through the inlet, on the salinity regime, on the distribution of living marine resources, and on erosion of the margins of the Bay.
- All agencies represented support stabilization of the inlet to keep it open and navigable.
- All agencies represented would support controlled modifications to the bathymetry of the Bay itself if

needed to maintain a navigable inlet. These modifications could include dredging the flood tidal delta and Bird Island.

- All agencies represented would accept the rock revetment on the Bay-side of the breach as a permanent feature, if it proves useful in arresting erosion.
- Any inlet plan should provide for by-passing of sand to the downdrift (western) side of the inlet.
- All agencies represented supported strongly the need to integrate plans for the inlet into a comprehensive management plan for the Bay, for its shoreline and for the South Shore barrier island system. Design and implementation of the inlet plan need not await completion of a comprehensive plan, however.



TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF AGENCY POSITIONS ON MORICHES INLET

Statement & Agency Position:

1. There should be a Moriches Inlet

- Agree strongly
- Agree moderately
- Neutral
- Disagree moderately
- Disagree strongly

2. There should be a navigable Moriches Inlet.

- Agree strongly
- Agree moderately
- Neutral
- Disagree moderately
- Disagree strongly

3. If there is to be a navigable inlet at Moriches, it should be stabilized.

- Agree strongly
- Agree moderately
- Neutral
- Disagree moderately
- Disagree strongly

	Agency						
	Town of Brookhaven	Suffolk County Department of Planning	N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	National Marine Fisheries Service	National Park Service	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Agree strongly	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Agree moderately							
Neutral							X
Disagree moderately							
Disagree strongly							
Agree strongly	X	X	X		X	X	
Agree moderately							
Neutral				X			X
Disagree moderately							
Disagree strongly							
Agree strongly	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Agree moderately							
Neutral							X
Disagree moderately							
Disagree strongly							

Appendix A

Agenda

Moriches Inlet Workshop

October 29, 1981

- 9:00 a.m. I. Introduction of Workshop  
Joel Lefkowitz, Supervisor,  
Town of Brookhaven  
J. R. Schubel, MSRC
- 9:15 II. A Brief History of Moriches Inlet  
Jeffrey Kassner, Town of Brookhaven, and  
J. A. Black, Suffolk County Community College
- 9:45 III. Agency Perspective on Moriches Inlet  
(20 min. each)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Gilbert Nercessian (or Designee)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
U.S. National Park Service, Fire Island  
National Seashore,  
Jim Allen (for Frank DeLuise and  
Joel Pickelner)
- National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Michael Ludwig
- N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental  
Conservation,  
A. S. Taormina (or Designee)
- Suffolk County, Dewitt Davies
- Discussion
- 12:00 p.m. IV. Catered Lunch
- 1:00 V. Workshop Sessions
- 4:30 VI. Plenary Session
- 5:00 VII. Adjourn

Appendix B

Attendees

Henrietta Acampora  
Brookhaven Town Hall  
South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

Jim Allen  
National Park Service  
North Atlantic Regional  
Office  
15 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109

Rosemary Bello  
Suffolk County Legislature  
4250 Veterans Memorial Hwy.  
Holbrook, N.Y. 11741

Duncan Schweitzer  
Moriches Inlet Project  
Corps of Engineers  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278

John A. Black  
Suffolk County Community College  
Selden, New York 11784

Len Bobinchock  
Fire Island National Seashore  
120 Laurel Street  
Patchogue, New York 11772

Henry Bokuniewicz  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

Harry Carter  
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Planning, Environment &  
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Suffolk County Planning Dept.  
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Robert Dean  
Dept. of Civil Engineering  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware 19711

Frank DeLuise  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, New York 11973

Joseph DiLorenzo  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

Vincent Donnelly  
Planning, Environment, and  
Development  
Town of Brookhaven  
Patchogue, New York 11772

Dallas L. Gatewood  
Newsday  
Long Island, New York 11747

Jack Glassman  
Town of Brookhaven  
Advisory Group  
136 Eleanor Avenue  
Mastic, New York 11950

John R. Guldi  
Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works  
Yaphank, New York 11980

Jeffrey Kassner  
Town of Brookhaven  
Environmental Protection Dept.  
475 East Main Street  
Patchogue, New York 11772

Joel Lefkowitz  
Town of Brookhaven  
38 Oak Street  
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Appendix B (Continued)

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Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

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SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

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Sea Grant  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

J.R. Schubel  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794

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New York State Department of  
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Albany, New York 12200

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Holbrook, New York 11741

Gary Zarillo  
Marine Sciences Research Center  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Long Island, New York 11794