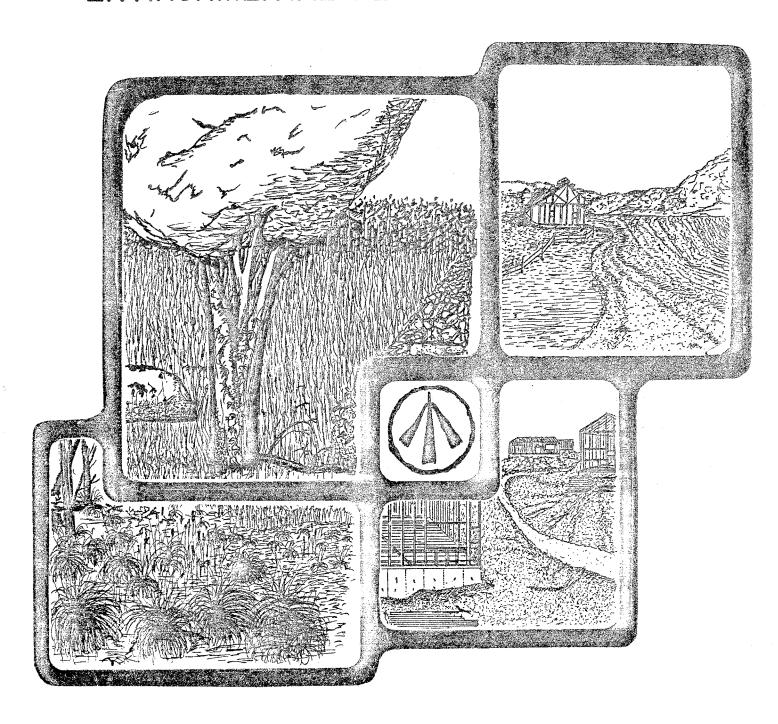
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT



FRASH POND STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

KING'S MARK
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

KING'S MARK ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

FRASH POND STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT JANUARY 1983



King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area Environmental Review Team Sackett Hill Road Warren, Connecticut 06754

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team operates through the cooperative effort of a number of agencies and organizations including:

Federal Agencies

U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

State Agencies

Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Health
University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service

Local Groups and Agencies

Litchfield County Soil and Water Conservation District
New Haven County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hartford County Soil and Water Conservation District
Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District
Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
Valley Regional Planning Agency
Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
Southwestern Regional Planning Agency
Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency
Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
Capitol Regional Council of Governments
American Indian Archaeological Institute
Housatonic Valley Association

 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}

FUNDING PROVIDED BY
State of Connecticut

POLICY DETERMINED BY

King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
Executive Committee Members

Victor Allan, Chairman, Bethlehem Harold Feldman, Treasurer, Orange Stephen Driver, Secretary, Redding Leonard Assard, Bethlehem Sam M. Chambliss, Ridgefield David Hannon, Goshen Irving Hart, New Hartford Frederick Leavenworth, Woodbury Jean Murkland, Roxbury John Rabbe, East Hartford Mrs. Julia Wasserman, Newtown John McCormick, Derby

STAFF ADMINISTRATION PROVIDED BY

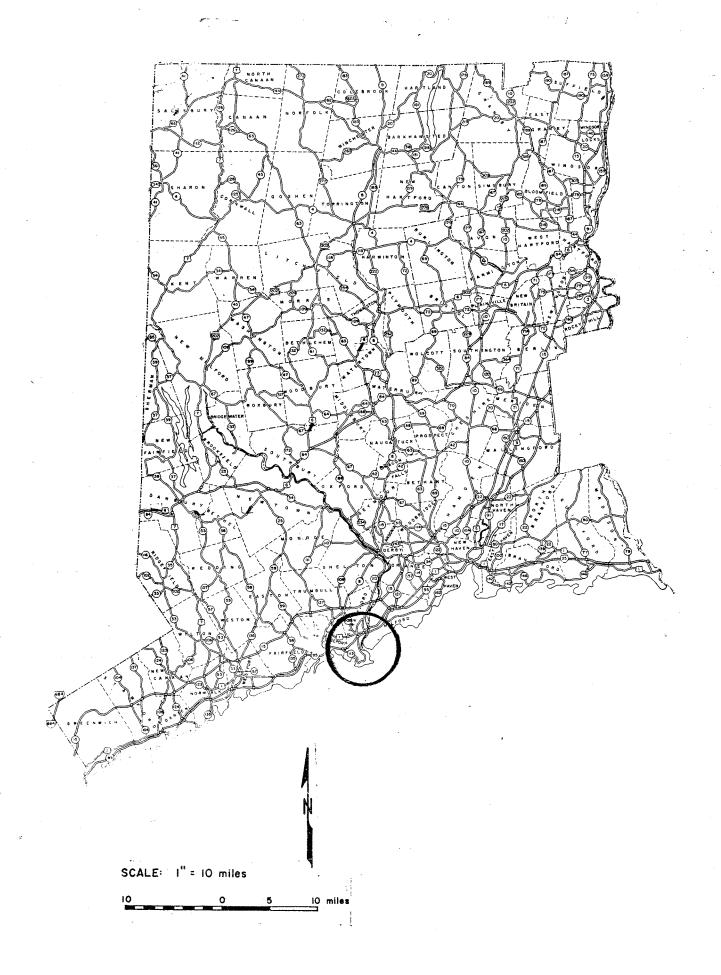
Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

Lee Rand Burne, Chairman Charles A. Boster, Director Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator Sandra Bausch, ERT Cartographer Irene Nadig, Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I.	INTRODUCTION 1
II.	HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE
III.	DRAINAGE SYSTEM 7
IV.	GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FRASH POND ECOSYSTEM 8
٧.	FISHERIES9
VI.	THE ORIGIN OF HYDROGEN SULFIDE IN FRASH POND10
VII.	POTENTIAL FOR RESTORATION & PROBLEM SOLUTIONS11
VIII.	ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS12
	LIST OF FIGURES
1	TOPOGRAPHIC MAP 2
2	BATHYMETRIC MAP 3
3	OUTLET CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS.

LOCATION OF STUDY SITE



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

ON

FRASH POND STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

I. INTRODUCTION

The preparation of this report on Frash Pond was at the request of the Stratford Town Manager. In recent years, during the summer period, there have been problems of hydrogen-sulfide being generated within Frash Pond. This condition has led to very strong odors as well as the death of aquatic organisms. The town is interested in correcting this problem and the Town Manager requested this ERT study to: 1) determine the cause(s) of hydrogen sulfide generation in the Pond, and 2) receive guidance on how best to manage the situation.

Frash Pond is located in the southern portion of town and is about 25 acres in size (see Figure 1). According to a bathymetric map prepared in 1978, Frash Pond has a maximum depth of 41 feet (see Figure 2). The Pond is bordered on the south and east by Access Road and Main Street (Route 113) respectively. A manmade ditch connects Frash Pond to the tidally influenced Great Meadows wetland. There are no tributaries to the embayment.

Land use to the east of Frash Pond is commercial (see Figure 1). To the north and west of the Pond, the primary land use is multi- and single-family housing. South of Frash Pond is the Stratford Airport Complex and a few small agricultural fields.

The King's Mark Executive Committee considered the town's request for an ERT study of Frash Pond, and approved the project for review by the Team.

The ERT met and field reviewed the area on November 4, 1982. Team members participating on this review included:

Robert Kortmann.....Limnologist.............Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc.

Bill McCann......Conservation Administrator....Town of Stratford

Bob Orciari......Fishery Biologist............Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection

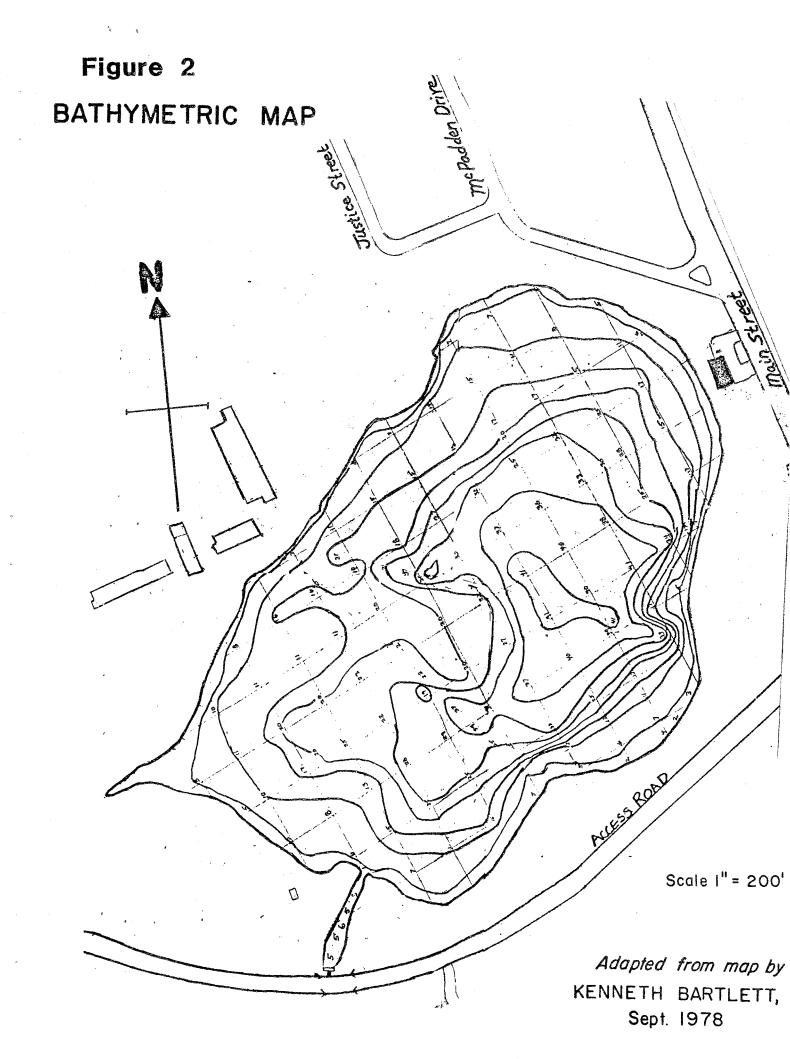
Peter Rich......Limnologist...........University of Connecticut

Ron Rosza.......Coastal Ecologist.............Conn. Dept. of Environmental Protection

David Thompson.....District Conservationist..........USDA Soil Conservation Service

Figure 1 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP





Prior to the review day, each team member was provided with a summary of the proposed project, a checklist of concerns to address, a bathymetric map of the Pond and a topographic map of the subject area. The day of the field review, Team members met with representatives from the Town of Stratford to discuss the Frash Pond situation, review the results of previous water quality testing and analysis at Frash Pond, and tour the Frash Pond area. Following the field review, individual reports were prepared by each team member and forwarded to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report presents the team's findings. It is important to understand that the ERT is not in competition with private consultants and hence does not perform design work or provide detailed solutions to development problems. The ERT concept provides for the presentation of natural resources information and preliminary land use analyses. All conclusions and final decisions rest at the local level. It is hoped the information contained in this report will assist the Town of Stratford in making environmentally sound decisions regarding Frash Pond.

If any additional information is required, please contact Richard Lynn, (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, Sackett Hill Road, Warren, Connecticut 06754.

* * * * *

II. HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

Frash Pond, as illustrated on an 1886 Coast and Geodetic Survey Map, is located at the northern perimeter of Great Meadows Marsh. This map indicates that the southerly portion of the pond was in contact with the tidal wetland, but the majority of the pond was encircled by outwash plain. However, to the south of the pond in 1923 was small farmland parcels suggesting that Frash Pond was not in direct contact with Great Meadows but actually separated by upland soil. This would be consistent with the historic name Fresh Pond as recorded on a number of historic maps.

At some undetermined point, the pond was connected via a ditch to Great Meadows. The 1886 map illustrates a linear tidal ditch which connected Fresh Pond to a meandering tidal creek to the south. This may have represented an error of the map, although linear ditches in that period were often utilized to demarcate property boundaries.

Three significant activities modified the hydrology of the northern reaches of Great Meadow by 1934. The first was construction of a trolley line between Bridgeport and Stratford which occupied virtually the same location as the present day Lordship Boulevard. To accommodate the trolley, fill was placed directly on the tidal wetland in order to elevate the trolley above the influence of general tidal activity. Three small tidal passages were installed below the trolley corridor in order to preserve the tidal connection between the northern meadows and the main southern wetlands.

Construction of a narrow, meandering sod dike located approximately 1/4 mile south of Lordship Boulevard and still visible today, was the second significant activity. The purpose of this structure is unknown but is apparently contemporaneous to the diking and disposal of dredged material located northeast of Pleasure Beach. The dike also served to reduce the tidal exchange to the northern reaches of the marsh. Lastly, construction of the airport, to the southeast of Frash Pond and north of the trolley line resulted in the destruction of a substantial area of Great Meadow.

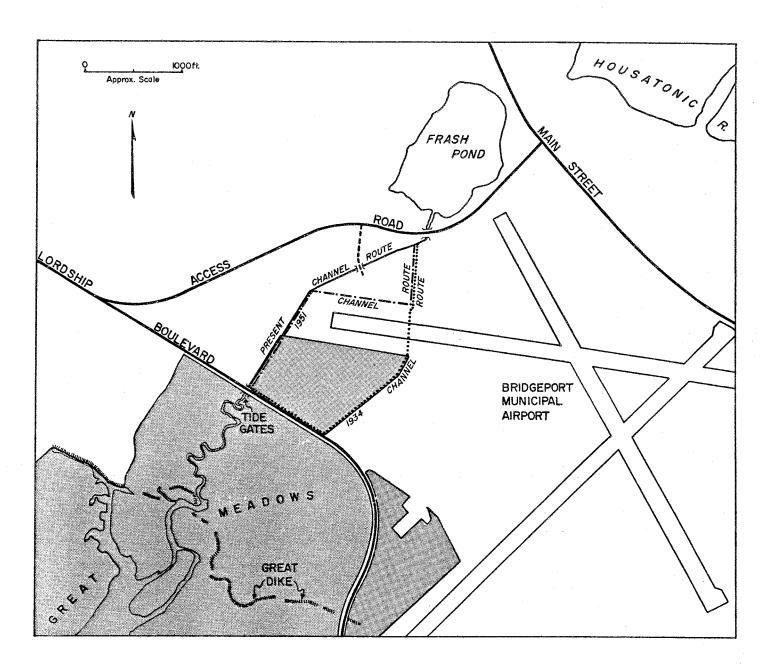
In 1934, Frash Pond was drained by a ditch almost 3000' long, but the discharge point was approximately 1000' feet to the east of the current outlet through Lordship Boulevard (see Figure 3). This ditch was obviously a man-made structure given its linear configuration and the fact that it crossed natural, meandering ditches. Parallel to and on either side of the trolley line was constructed extensive drainage channels which intersected the Frash Pond ditch.

Land use in 1934 was predominatly of a rural, primarily agricultural, nature. The pond was encircled by farmland and industrial facilities were limited to a small Sikorsky Plant located on the east side of Main Street.

By 1951, the land use was changing rapidly. North and west of the pond, an army barracks was constructed containing approximately 60 buildings. Construction of residential homes had increased rapidly in the neighboring watershed. Except for a field located between Frash Pond and the intersection of Main Street and Access Road, farmland had undergone a marked reduction and was located primarily

Figure 3

OUTLET CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS



REGULATED TIDAL WETLANDS

south of Access Road. Access Road had been constructed prior to 1951 and served to link Lordship Boulevard to Main Street on the south side of the pond. Though the Sikorsky facility had expanded substantially, virtually no industrial facilities had been constructed in Great Meadows or immediately north of Lordship Boulevard.

The Frash Pond ditch was rerouted in 1951 resultant to the westward expansion of an airport runway. The outlet was relocated to its present day location and followed its present course with the exception of the north side of the runway, where it paralleled the runway. The ditch was then reconnected to the original segment of the creek system to the pond. Later the ditch was redesigned such that a single linear ditch was constructed between the western end of the runway and Access Road (see Figure 3).

Mosquito Control Practices

In 1932 ditchingof the Great Meadow marshes was initiated. By 1934 significant areas of wetland north of the aforementioned sod dike had been ditched. The rectangular peat blocks, excavated from the ditches, were placed side by side in a row adjacent to each ditch. A 1935 report of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station of New Haven (Botsford, 1936) refers to the following activities conducted aside from ditching: "closing break in sod dike; repairing dike; digging outlet channel; and installing tide gates." Obviously, the repairs of the dike were for the purpose of mosquito control but its original function is still unknown. Work on the Meadows was discontinued until 1937 at which time the tide gates were installed and operative. Obviously, if these gates affected Frash Pond, then tidal flushing of the pond was reduced in whole or part. Also in 1937 the break in the sod dike had been closed and the foundation for a new dike had been laid. The 1938 hurricane caused several large breaks in the Great Dike (Botsford 1939). Total cost for mosquito control activities in Great Meadow as of 1938 slightly exceeded \$200,000.

III. DRAINAGE SYSTEM

As noted earlier, the primary drainage ditch connecting Frash Pond to the tidal portion of Great Meadow has been relocated several times. Also, the Great Dike has several large breaks and probably does not significantly modify tidal flushing between the dike and Lordship Boulevard. Currently, the ditch measures 3000' in length by an average width of 20'. The ditch is connected to Great Meadow via twin 36" cement box culverts located below Lordship Boulevard. On the seaward side is suspended tide gates which close on a flood tide thereby preventing the ingress of tidal waters into Frash Pond ditch. During an ebb cycle the gates open to facilitate drainage of water from Frash Pond and a neighboring residential/industrial area. This essentially creates a unidirectional flow into Great Meadow from Frash Pond. However, the 'seal' on a tide gate is never complete and will invariably leak some tidal water during a flood tide. At the time of the Environmental Review Team's field survey, one gate was obviously not functioning properly and was transmitting a considerable volume of tidal water into the Frash Pond system.

The ditch connection below Access Road is preserved by twin, concrete box culverts. Approximately 1000' feet southwest of this, the ditch is crossed by a farm road. Below this dirt road are three corrugated metal culverts, the central one being larger.

To the west of the ditch and parallel to Lordship Boulevard is an old drainage channel which receives stormwater runoff from the adjacent industrial and residential area. This discharges into Frash Pond ditch on the north side of Lordship Boulevard. Depending upon the tidal cycle and amount of rainfall, some stormwater may ultimately enter Frash Pond. Stormwater drainage during an ebb cycle will inevitably discharge into Great Meadows. The only other stormwater discharge into Frash Pond is a concrete culvert located below Main Street approximately 400-500' north of the intersection of Main Street and Access Road.

IV. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FRASH POND ECOSYSTEM

Frash Pond is currently an estuarine system subject to tidal activity, the degree of which is a function of the tide gates. There is some evidence to suggest that Frash Pond was once a freshwater system, hence the historic name Fresh Pond. According to the so-called "Venice System" of classifying water according to salinity, Frash Pond is a mixohaline (0.5 to 30 parts per thousand, ppt) type. Based upon the findings of Bartlett (1978)*, the pond is specifically a mesohaline (5 to 18 ppt) type. Thus it is transitional between fresh water and full strength seawater.

Given the restricted nature of tidal flushing, it is reasonable to expect in a small body of water that salinity values will increase from spring to summer as a result of higher summer temperatures and prolonged evapotranspiration. The addition of rainwater during the cool fall and spring months coupled to reduced transpiration by plants should be manifest in salinity values less than summer values. It is also obvious from Bartlett's (1978) study*that salinity increases with depth from approximately 5 ppt at the surface to 18 ppt in bottom waters.

Frash Pond is very deep for a near coast pond with greatest depths in excess of 40 feet (see Figure 2). The pond is probably a glacial kettle. A glacial kettle is a relict of the retreat of a glacial ice mass which left fragments, of often very large ice blocks, imbeded in the soil south of the glaciers margin. As the ice blocks melted, a pond was formed.

The principal vegetation of the pond consists of a wetland border dominated by the tall marsh grass called Reed (Phragmites australis). This very productive grass also borders the entire ditch system. The only aquatic vegetation observed in November was Widgeon Grass (Ruppia maritima) and algae. The former is common in low salinity or brackish waters such as occur in Frash Pond.

A few invertebrates were casually observed during the site inspection. These are barnacles (<u>Balanus</u> ssp), and shells of the following clams: soft clam (<u>Mya arenaria</u>) and oysters (<u>Crassostrea virginica</u>). At least near the outlet of Frash Pond, locally extensive deposits of soft calm shells attest to local concentrations

^{*} Bartlett, K. 1978. A Preliminary Investigation of the Geochemical Parameters of Frash Pond. Unpublished.

of live clams. It is probably the case that the clams primarily inhabit the shallow edges of the pond. Barnacles were noted affixed to culverts, rocks and especially the stalks of Reed growing near the water edge.

Although the pond appears to be dominated by salt water influence, (as indicated by abundance of barnacles, presence of the algae Enteromorpha), the Pond does probably see significant fresh water inputs at times (as indicated by the "mottling" marks on the culvert headwalls). The pond does experience brackish water flushing on a tidal cycle and, as pointed out during the review team discussion, much of the water that flows in and out of Frash Pond on a tidal cycle is essentially the same piece of water. In other words, water that is stored throughout the drainage systems between Frash Pond and the Long Island Sound is pushed into the pond during high tide and flows back into these drainage systems during low tide. In addition to the response to fluctuating tidal level, the pond also experiences rather large storm runoff pulses, particularly during storm events that are short in duration, intense, and occur during the high tide cycle. This configuration of Frash Pond, tidal mud flats, Long Island Sound, and storm water drainage, undoubtedly results in enormous organic loads to Frash Pond in both particulate and dissolved forms.

The episodes of odor problems experienced in the vicinity of Frash Pond are symptomatic of the excessive organic loading which presumably consumes all of the oxygen in much of the water column and proceeds to anaerobic decomposition resulting in large accumulations of reduced sulfide. Frash Pond stratifies both thermally (density differences due to temperature) and by salinity gradients (density differences due to salt water underlying fresh water). The specific arrangement of salinity boundaries, temperature/density boundaries, and oxidation/ reduction boundaries are crucial to the understanding of the mechanisms which create the potential for the hydrogen sulfide odor problem. Judging from the appearance of water within Frash Pond, and water which moves between Frash Pond and the surrounding tidal flats, is is suspected that rather intense surface heating during short calm periods in the summer, followed by disruption of these very shallow thermal gradients, is what is directly producing the hydrogen sulfide release to the atmosphere, and hence the observed problem of sulfide odor. The ultimate cause, however, is the excessive organic loading of the Frash Pond ecosystem which leads to excessive sulfide accumulations within the pond.

V. FISHERIES

Frash Pond is a brackish body of water having salinities that are generally above the tolerance levels of freshwater species of fish. White catfish may be the exception, in that they are known to inhabit brackish waters of coastal streams and protected estuaries. Frash Pond may at varying times be inhabited by a variety of marine and anadromous fish species, such as white perch, blue-back herring, alewives, mummichogs, striped killfish, sheepshead minnow, Atlantic silverside, tidewater silverside, fourspine stickleback, ninespine stickleback, hogchocker, and white flounder. The killifish, silversides and stickleback are small sized species and have some importance as prey for marine predatory fish. These small fish may be capable of completing all of their life cycles in Frash Pond. Alewives and blueback herring are of great importance in providing forage for marine sport fish. However, Frash Pond would not be used for spawning by these

species as blueback herring spawn in running water and alewives in ponds with little or no saltwater intrusion. Both winter flounder and white perch are important sport species. Spawning of winter flounder in Frash Pond may be possible, but the Pond's high salinity probably precludes spawning of white perch. American eels are a catadromous species that may reside (predominately smaller males) in Frash Pond for many years before emmigrating to sea to spawn.

Under the existing brackish conditions in which natural tidal flows are altered by self-regulating tide gates, fishing for both saltwater and freshwater species should be poor. The tide gates must severely limit the abundance of saltwater species, particularly anadromous forms, as fish may only be capable of passing through the gates and into the Pond during ebb tides. Fishing would be improved in Frash Pond if the tide gates were operated only during storms when surging flood tides are predicted. Operating the gates only when necessary may also cause the existing Phragmites marsh north of Lordship Boulevard to revert to a Spartina (salt-marsh cord-grasses) marsh, which would then have great value for fish production in Long Island Sound.

Aeration of the anoxic bottom waters of Frash Pond would improve the Pond's value as a fisheries resource by increasing useable habitat space and by preventing fish kills from oxygen depletion and the subsequent generation of toxic hydrogen sulfide. The fisheries resource could be better utilized if a small parking area and access for car-top boats or canoes were established and maintained. With adequate access, aeration of bottom waters, and intermittent use of tide gates, Frash Pond could become an important fisheries resource.

VI. THE ORIGIN OF HYDROGEN SULFIDE IN FRASH POND

Sulfur enters Frash Pond in the form of sulfate dissolved in seawater. Saltwater being denser than freshwater remains at the bottom of the pond even when the surface water is fresh. During the summer, solar heating at the surface further intensifies the density differences between the warm fresh water on top and the cold saltwater at the bottom. The strong density gradient drastically reduces mixing in the pond, causing the saltwater at the bottom to become stagnant. Isolated from the atmosphere, the bottom water rapidly gives up its dissolved oxygen to the respiration of organic matter in the pond sediments.

Respiration consists of two linked processes. First, organic matter gives up electrons as it is oxidized to carbon dioxide. Second, an electron acceptor receives those electrons and becomes reduced. In aerobic respiration the electron acceptor is oxygen, which is reduced to water. However, when ambient oxygen is exhausted, bacteria have the ability to continue oxidizing organic matter by using alternate electron acceptors. Sulfur is an excellent alternate electron acceptor for anaerobic respiration by bacteria. Initially sulfate can be reduced to elemental sulfur, and then elemental sulfur can be further reduced to sulfide. Both sulfur products bear upon the situation at Frash Pond.

First, elemental sulfur is very insoluble, and quickly precipitates out of water. This raises the possibility that the sediments of Frash Pond have been enriched in sulfur during various periods of its history. Second, sulfides are very insoluble in the presence of metals, precipitating as black metallic

sulfides which give marine muds their inky, blue-black appearance. Thus, the bottom of Frash Pond also may have been enriched in metals. These include potentially toxic heavy metals introduced from nearby landfills. Third, when sulfide is more abundant than the constituents with which it is insoluble, sulfide appears as soluble and volatile hydrogen sulfide. The evolution of hydrogen sulfide gas which calls attention to Frash Pond each summer is but the tip of the sulfur-cycle "iceberg" which operates in the depths of the pond all year.

To summarize, there are four basic components to the problem with sulfur at Frash Pond:

- Source of sulfur: Sulfate in seawater and, possibly, sulfur enriched sediments.
- Stratification: Chemical and thermal density gradients in the water column.
- Organic matter:
 The electron donor driving the reduction of sulfate to sulfide.
- Potential metal toxicity: Possible pollution from nearby landfills.

VII. POTENTIAL FOR RESTORATION AND PROBLEM SOLUTION

The long-term solution for Frash Pond is an integrated management plan which will bring each of the four above mentioned problem components under control individually, collectively, and economically. In the short-term the acute problem of hydrogen sulfide outbreaks probably can be brought under control with mechanical aeration/destratification of the surface water of the pond.

Implementing such a strategy should be done with caution, however. The strategy should stress getting dissolved oxygen into Frash Pond rather than purging hydrogen sulfide from the pond into the atmosphere. Such a system should be designed based on a thorough limnological evaluation, and should center on moving water rather than simply moving air bubbles vertically through the water column. Because it is unknown at present where the salinity boundary lies with respect to thermal boundaries and anoxic boundaries, it is impossible to be more specific about such restoration approaches as destratification at this time. However, the Team Liminologists believe the problem can be solved, and that the ultimate solution may involve a wind powered system so that there would be no annual energy cost and very low maintenance cost. It should be pointed out that implementing a system such as the one just briefly described without a thorough understanding of how the Frash Pond ecosystem works may result in a different problem, perhaps even more serious than the hydrogen sulfide odor.

At least four specific issues must be addressed in the case of aeration/destratification:

l. Aeration/destratification may make the surface water saltier, creating an initial die-off of existing vegetation and animals, followed by re-colonization by more salt tolerant species in the pond and adjacent wetlands.

- 2. Aeration/destratification may cause some of the hydrogen sulfide presently in the depths of the pond to come to the surface in potentially troublesome concentrations. (This may be avoided by carefully planned timing of implementation.)
- 3. Aeration/destratification may create severe algal blooms in the pond. Research on the nitrogen and phosphorus content of the pond should be done to assess the danger of blue-green algal blooms.
- 4. A feasibility study must be done to provide data for the engineering of an aeration/destratification system.

Each of these issues is subject to State and Federal regulation. The review process may require additional information and research before implementation is permitted.

Several related issues are involved in the case of long-term management. For instance, the hydrology of Frash Pond and its adjacent wetland have been modified greatly. The current situation appears to make Frash Pond a catch basin for stormwater and debris when runoff from a major storm event exceeds the capacity of the tidal gates or when the storm occurs during high tide. Is this a function or a failure of design? In either case the effect upon Frash Pond is to increase the supply of organic matter driving the reduction of sulfur to sulfide. Similarly, the channel currently connecting the pond to Long Island Sound appears to optimize the delivery of organic matter and sulfur to the pond, and to minimize water quality both entering and leaving the pond. Manipulation of the tidal gate system as well as storm drainage modifications would likely be of benefit, particularly in the long term.

VIII. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS

In order to thoroughly evaluate the various causes of the hydrogen sulfide problem of the Frash Pond ecosystem, and to identify appropriate strategies for solving the problem (without inducing the other serious problems), the following information is needed: a) phosphorus and nitrogen budgets of Frash Pond (both internal and external), b) algal succession and productivity, c) organic loading, d) hydrologic assessment, e) definition of in-lake ecosystem structure: thermal stratification, salinity gradients, metabolic rates, chemical accumulation, vertical transport mechanisms, f) definition of the specific morphometry of the basin, g) sediment analysis for percentage organic matter, sulfur, and heavy metals, h) evaluation of other ecosystem parameters as warranted by results of field study, i) identification and evaluation of various methods for restoration and management of the systems.

The average cost for a diagnostic lake study in Massachusetts is approximately \$30,000. Lake studies conducted by other states under the Federal Clean Water Act (i.e., Clean Lakes Program) are generally in the same range of \$30,000 - \$40,000. Although Frash Pond is small in size, the ecosystem exhibits many complex interactions (e.g., tidal influence, excessive organic loads, etc.) which would require a great deal of field sampling, lab analysis, and data interpretation. However, there are several ways in which such a study could produce a specific recommendation to solve the hydrogen sulfide odor problem in the near future (probably within 1.5 years) at relatively low cost. These options include:

a) use of a graduate student intern from the University of Connecticut, b) contribution of in-kind services from the Town of Stratford (ca. 8 hrs. per month) for the purposes of allowing frequent sampling, particularly on a tidal schedule. Given these options Robert W. Kortmann, Ph.D. of Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. believes a study of the Frash Pond ecosystem, including identification and feasibility of an in-lake solution to the hydrogen sulfide problem and longterm management strategies, could be completed for less than \$20,000.

* * * * *

ABOUT THE TEAM

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of environmental professionals drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, recreation specialists, engineers, and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the aegis of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area - a 47 town area in western Connecticut.

As a public service activity, the team is available to serve towns and developers within the King's Mark Area --- free of charge.

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in the review of a wide range of significant activities including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrical developments, and recreation/open space projects.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental Reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality or the chairman of an administration agency such as planning and zoning, conservation, or inland wetlands. Requests for reviews should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter must include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner/developer allowing the team to enter the property for purposes of review, and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the team should address. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the King's Mark RC&D Executive Committee, the team will undertake the review. At present, the ERT can undertake two reviews per month.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact your local Soil Conservation District Office or Richard Lynn (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, P.O. Box 30, Warren, Connecticut 06754.