



Little Gull Island in 2012.



Aerial view of Little Gull Island with seals. Courtesy of Google Maps



Picture of Little Gull Island Light and original lighthouse in 1869. Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

The Fate of Little Gull Island to Be Decided in a Few Days

Little Gull Island, located between Plum and Fishers Islands in Long Island Sound, is among a group of former Coast Guard lighthouse properties being sold by the General Services Administration (GSA). Though only one acre in size at high tide, Little Gull, with her neighboring islands, is vitally important to wildlife, serving as a stopover for migrating birds and seals and as a safe place for nesting and foraging in the nutrient-rich waters surrounding the islands. We must do all we can to protect Little Gull Island from development.

Please join the New London Maritime Society, in partnership with Save the Sound, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Quebec-Labrador Foundation and several environmental foundations and organizations in an **urgently important letter writing campaign to tell the GSA that you support the preservation of Little Gull Island and its lighthouse.**

Only a few days remain. Who will be the new owner of Little Gull Island? You can help decide!

Deadline: December 10, 2012

The public auction ended on October 17 with a high bid of \$381,000. The above consortium of historical and environmental organizations raised and bid over \$150,000 to purchase *and preserve* Little Gull Island. The GSA assured supporters of this campaign that their decision will take into consideration *the most qualified to preserve.*

How to Help: Send Your Comments to the GSA Now!

The final decision on this auction will be made in mid-December. Submit your comments via email to gabrielle.sigel@gsa.gov by December 10. Please e-mail a copy of your letter to nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com so they will know what GSA is hearing from the public.

Talking Points

Little Gull Island belongs in the public realm under the stewardship of the New London Maritime Society. We fear a bidder may be planning to place wave-energy turbines in the waters off Little Gull Island that would negatively impact its fragile habitat and those of nearby Great Gull and Plum Islands. See <http://www.yourpublicmedia.org/content/wmpr/tidal-energy-production-begins-maine-may-come-long-island-sound> and <http://www.rnp.org/node/wave-tidal-energy-technology#impacts> to learn more.

Proper management of the island habitat is important for Little Gull and neighboring Great Gull & Plum Islands with their populations of endangered bird species and seals. Little Gull Island is part of a local habitat comprised of Little Gull, Great Gull and Plum Islands, one that, if managed correctly, would support the populations of two endangered bird species: the piping plover and the roseate tern (see photos below) . Little Gull may also be a seal rookery (see photo on page 1). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to manage the property's habitat if we win the GSA auction.

Little Gull Island's historic lighthouse deserves to be preserved for future generations. Little Gull has an historic lighthouse on it, established in 1806, that deserves preservation. The New London Maritime Society is willing to take on that responsibility; it has 29 years of experience preserving New London's 1833 U.S. Custom House. As one European visitor to our lighthouse noted: "Lighthouses are to maritime America what cathedrals and castles are to Europe" – a part of the living fabric of this nation.

Thank You!

Read more about Little Gull Island at <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=742>



Little Gull Island is in the extreme upper right-hand corner of this map.



Above: Roseate tern
Below: Piping plover



GOSA News will support the mission and purpose of the Groton Open Space Association by publishing electronic newsletters that will inform the public of past, present and future GOSA activities and threats to the health of open space. **GOSA News** will also serve as a link to the GOSA website <http://gosaonline.org/> for additional information and as a link to other key sites. Our mission is to inform and inspire the public to become actively involved. We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be sent with the writer's name, address and daytime phone number via e-mail to: gosamail@gmail.com.

GOSA Mission and Purpose

To work to promote conservation, environmental preservation, open space and recreational areas in Southeastern Connecticut.

To educate the public about the value of open space, conservation and environmental preservation.

To enlist public support and funding to promote, acquire or maintain open space for public use, alone or in cooperation with local, state or federal agencies, or with other nonprofit organizations. GOSA is a nonprofit tax exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

GOSA News Staff

Editor: Eugenia Villagra

Associate Editors: Lillian Kezerian, Patty Oat, Elizabeth Raisbeck

Layout: Eugenia Villagra

Layout Designers: Eugenia Villagra, Rusty Warner

Contributor: Eugenia Villagra

GOSA News Contact Information: gosamail@gmail.com

Membership

To join, send a check to GOSA and include your name, address and e-mail. Annual dues are \$10 per year.

Groton Open Space Association, Inc.
PO Box 9187
Groton, CT 06340-9187

E-mail: gosamail@gmail.com