



**NE
IW
PCC**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





BEST FOOT FORWARD



Since our inception in 1947, NEIWPCC has grown, adapted, and changed. Yet we have always remained true to our fundamental mission of cooperation, partnership, and service to our member states.

A signature project of the past two years has focused on how to present NEIWPCC to our partners, allies, and others today so everyone has a clear understanding of who we are and what we do. The results of this project did not roll out until 2020, but the bulk of the work took place in fiscal 2019.

Our new logo highlights the breadth of our work, which has long addressed whole watersheds, including wetlands, forests, and agriculture. We have doubled down on our name and shall be known simply as NEIWPCC (pronounced NŪ•Ē•PIK) from now on. New statements of purpose and focus emphasize collaboration and partnership.

None of these values are new to us. These changes are not so much a break with the past as a new expression of the spirit of collaboration that has always lived at the heart of our interstate compact.

At NEIWPCC, we engage across political boundaries and shared regions, ecosystems, and areas of expertise. We unite with everyone concerned about clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

We measure our work by the values of leadership, collaboration, education, service, and science. The main divisions of our work are the sections of this annual report.

Last year, we developed new ways of telling our story through a process that engaged NEIWPCC's governing commissioners and members of the staff, and also many of the people with whom we work.

The participants in these discussions described NEIWPCC in similar ways: as a valued partner, gap-filler, and bridge builder; intelligent, collaborative, responsive, and resourceful.

The coming year will see every member of our NEIWPCC family using our new communications tools to build on these important and productive relationships.

Mark Klotz, Chair

The NEIWPCC staff works in state offices across the region, in the headquarters of place-based programs such as those for the Lake Champlain basin and the Narragansett Bay estuary, and in NEIWPCC's offices in Lowell and South Portland.

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VISION

Clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

VALUES

Leadership • Collaboration
Education • Service •
Science





OUR NEW LOOK

There are seven shapes for our member states, suggesting ever-changing blue shorelines, healthy green ecosystems, and warm sunny skies.

The open spaces between the color swashes are inspired by charts and topographic maps. These spaces also represent the multiple entry points for our work and pathways into our friendly, welcoming community.





WHERE WE SERVED

NEIWPCC IN 2019

State and Watershed Programs

The Lake Champlain Basin Program works with government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Québec, and with nonprofits, local communities, and individuals, to coordinate and fund efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin’s water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources.

The Hudson River Estuary Program and the **Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve** work together to protect their estuary. The Estuary Program helps people enjoy, protect and revitalize the Hudson River and its valley. The Reserve emphasizes education, outreach, training, stewardship, and restoration.

The Long Island Sound Study and its local and state partners protect and improve the health of Long Island Sound. The Study’s management plan for the estuary includes research, monitoring, and public education and outreach.

The Peconic Estuary Program supports sound science, strong partnerships, community leadership, and effective communication to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary and its watershed.

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is a catalyst for scientific inquiry and collective action that restores and protects water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in the bi-state Narragansett Bay region.

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, a project of NEIWPCC’s South Portland office, provides training for wastewater and drinking-water operators in Maine.

State Support

In fiscal 2019, NEIWPCC staff members worked with state departments in capitols in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island, and in other state office locations in Massachusetts and New York.

● Projects

86 locations of 172 projects that NEIWPCC administered or managed through contracts or other agreements (page 19). *An additional 12 projects with no particular geographical scope are not shown.*

■ Training

61 training locations that were the sites of 110 wastewater and onsite training classes (page 12).

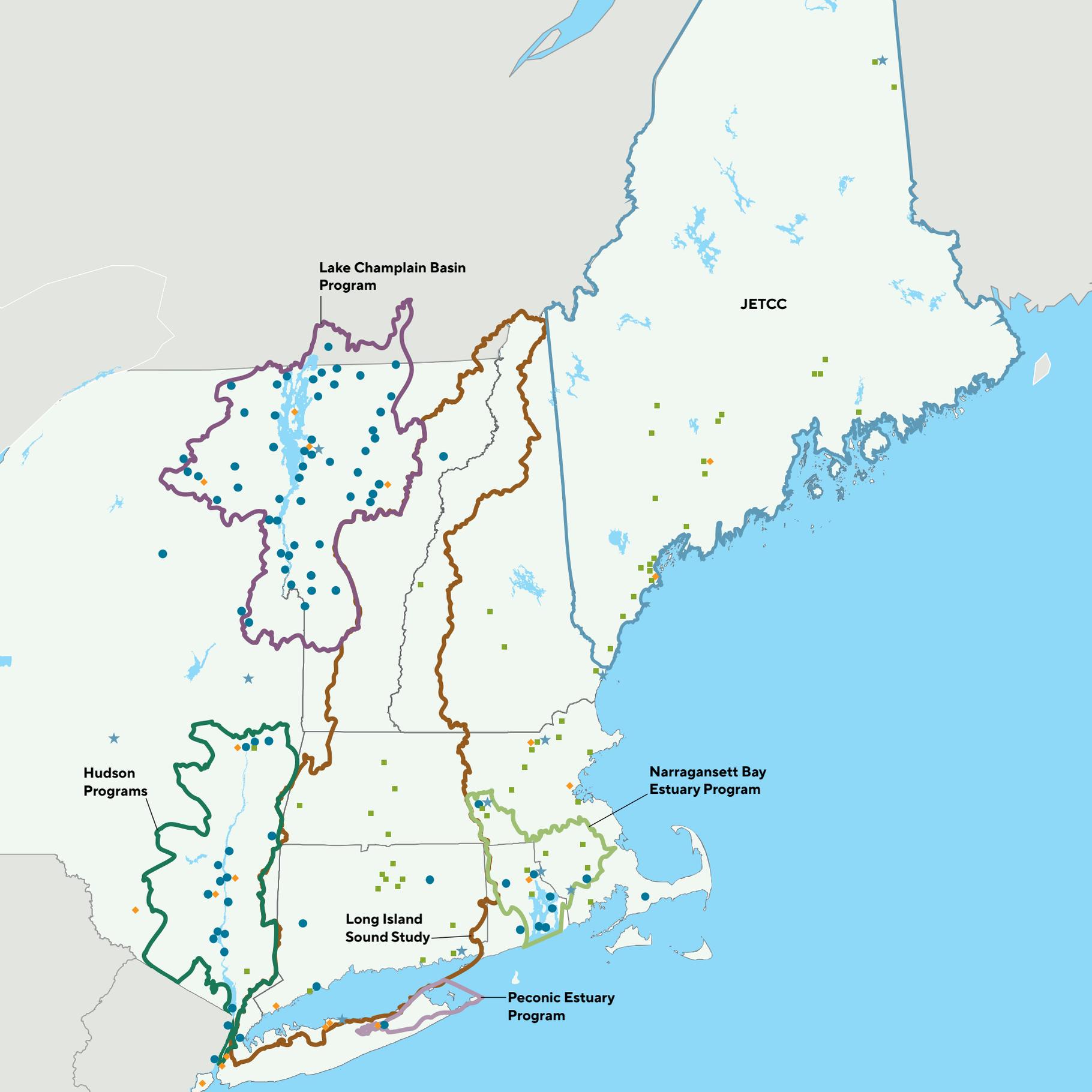
★ Events

10 locations of 35 conferences, workshops, and other events planned by the NEIWPCC staff (page 8). *Numerous educational and outreach events are not included.*

◆ Staff

21 offices where more than one hundred members of the NEIWPCC staff were based (page 18).





Lake Champlain Basin Program

JETCC

Hudson Programs

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Long Island Sound Study

Peconic Estuary Program



CONNECTIONS

COMMISSIONERS AND WORKGROUPS

We engage and convene water quality professionals and other stakeholders across the Northeast to collaborate on clean water and environmental science challenges across shared regions, ecosystems, and areas of expertise.

Meetings of NEIWPCC's governing commissioners and workgroups are working sessions where key state employees and others collaborate with each other and their federal counterparts on the water issues that face our member states.



OUR WORKGROUPS IN 2019

- Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- JETCC Board
- Massachusetts Training Advisory Committee
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Northeast Aquatics Biologists
- Onsite Wastewater
- Residuals
- Source Water Protection
- Stormwater
- Total Maximum Daily Load
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Volunteer Monitoring
- Wastewater Certification
- Wastewater Trainers Forum
- Water Quality Standards
- Water Resource Adaptation and Climate Change
- Wetlands

Highlight: PFAS

Environmental and public health concerns with PFAS “forever chemicals” dominated conversations within the water sector in 2019. It was a recurring topic during many meetings of NEIWPCC’s workgroups and commissioners.

In Rhode Island in May, 2019, NEIWPCC convened environmental agency officials from our member states to discuss common issues and concerns, and to explore steps the region can take to address PFAS contamination in water. Topics included risk communication, data gaps in understanding the spread of PFAS, and the kinds of efforts needed to inform decision making.

One result of that meeting has been joint work—supported by Dr. Christina Stringer, a NEIWPCC program manager—between New Hampshire and Vermont to collect and share scientific data about PFAS contamination.

OUR COMMISSIONERS

Chair: **Mark Klotz**

Vice Chair: **Peter LaFlamme** • *Treasurer:* **Harry Stewart**

Connecticut

Katie Dykes, Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms Dykes: **Yvonne Bolton**, Chief of the Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

Representing Ms Dykes: **Denise Ruzicka**, Director of the Water Planning and Management Division at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Renée Coleman-Mitchell, Public Health Commissioner

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Michael Bisi**, **Denis Cuevas**, **Jane Stahl**

Maine

Gerald Reid, Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Mr Reid: **Brian Kavanah**, Director of the Bureau of Water Quality

Jeanne Lambrew, Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner

Representing Ms Lambrew: **Nancy Beardsley**, Director of the Division of Environmental Health

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Travis Noyes**, **Brian Tarbuck**, **David Van Slyke**

Massachusetts

Martin Suuberg, Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Mr Suuberg: **Kathleen Baskin**, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Water Resources

Monica Bharel, Public Health Commissioner

Representing Dr Bharel: **Jana Ferguson**, Director of the Bureau of Environmental Health

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Paul Hogan**, **John Sullivan**, **F. Adam Yanulis**

New Hampshire

Robert Scott, Environmental Services Commissioner

Representing Mr Scott: **Thomas O’Donovan**, Water Division Director

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Thomas Ballestero**, **Frederick McNeill**, **Nelson Thibault**, **Robert Varney**

New York

Basil Seggos, Environmental Conservation Commissioner

Representing Mr Seggos: **Mark Klotz**, Director of the Water Division

Dr Howard Zucker, Health Commissioner

Representing Dr Zucker: **Roger Sokol**, Director of the Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Richard Lyons**

Rhode Island

Janet Coit, Environmental Management Director

Representing Ms Coit: **Alicia Good**, Assistant Director of the Office of Water Resources

Dr Nicole Alexander-Scott, Health Director

Representing Dr Alexander-Scott: **June Swallow**, Chief of the Office of Drinking Water Quality

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Janine Burke-Wells**, **Russell Chateaufeuf**

Vermont

Emily Boedecker, Environmental Conservation Commissioner

Representing Ms Boedecker: **Peter LaFlamme**, Director of the Watershed Management Division

Dr Mark Levine, Health Commissioner

Representing Dr Levine: **Lori Cragin**, Director of the Environmental Health Division

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Dennis Lutz**

Commissioners at the end of fiscal 2019. Robert Klee, Raul Pino, Arnold Bevins, Suzanne Blancaflor, and Mark Zessin of Connecticut; Paul Mercer, Ricker Hamilton, and Don Witherill of Maine; Douglas Fine of Massachusetts; Rene Pelletier of New Hampshire; Robert Breault of New York; and David Deen and James Ehlers of Vermont also served as commissioners in fiscal 2019.



A BANNER YEAR FOR EVENTS

NEIWPCC hosts conferences and workshops that cross ecosystems and state boundaries. At these events, state and EPA officials, and other environmental partners, learn about water quality and water resource protection projects, policy updates, and new research and technologies.

Our staff at place-based programs also help organize events for water quality professionals working in their watersheds.

NEIWPCC conferences typically include one or more days of presentations and panel discussions. They often end with an immersive field trip.



State of the Watershed Events, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program | Oct. 2018 | Worcester, Massachusetts

The NBEP's 2018 State of the Narragansett Bay and its Watershed technical report is having an impact as practitioners and activists alike use it to guide their work to protect the bi-state watershed.

In fiscal 2019, the NBEP held two workshops on "The State of the Taunton River" and "The State of the Blackstone River," both sub-basins of the Narragansett watershed.

National Nonpoint Source Training Workshop | Nov. 2018 | Colorado Springs, Colorado

This national workshop, for state, EPA, and tribal nonpoint source managers, focused on implementing and updating Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source management plans.

Champlain National Heritage Partnership Summit, Lake Champlain Basin Program | Nov. 2018 | Burlington, Vermont

Input from stakeholders who participate in this annual event informs management decisions for the national heritage area, which includes the entire Lake Champlain Basin in Vermont, New York, and Quebec.

NEBAWWG-MAWWG Joint Meeting | Nov. 2018 | Cooperstown, New York

NEIWPCC co-hosted a summit for its New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup and the group's mid-Atlantic counterpart. Topics ranged from improving aquatic connectivity to creating GIS story maps. The event included field trips to local wetland reserves.

Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference | Feb. 2019 | Saratoga Springs, New York

NEIWPCC, with support from members of its new aquatic biologists workgroup, hosted this regional event for the first time in 2019. Topics included harmful algal blooms, freshwater mussel restoration, road salt pollution, fish monitoring, and macroinvertebrate assessments.





Because most monitoring and other fieldwork takes place from May through October, March and April are NEIWPCC's conference season. In fiscal 2019, we held or supported five events in six weeks.



Long Island Sound Research Conference | Mar. 2019 | Port Jefferson Harbor, New York

This biennial conference is the premier venue for scientists and other practitioners to share current science relating to the sound, issues facing the health of the watershed, and what's being done to address those issues. James Ammerman, a NEIWPCC staff member who is the staff scientist at the Long Island Sound Study, sits on the steering committee that helped organize the event.

Northeast Regional Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course & Equipment Exhibition | Apr. 2019 | Groton, Connecticut

This triennial event served at once as a conference, a school where wastewater professionals earned training credit hours, an exhibit of the latest technologies, and a celebration of the decentralized wastewater treatment field.

Thirtieth Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference | April 2019 | Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Water quality practitioners in the region celebrated thirty years of nonpoint source pollution management under the Clean Water Act and explored new challenges to the field, like the impacts of climate change.

NEIWPCC staff members plan and facilitate several webinar series for water quality professionals. In fiscal 2019 we offered:

- 3 National 303(d) TMDL webinars
- 2 UST Inspector Training webinars
- 1 LUST Corrective Action webinar
- 5 New England Wetlands webinars
- 2 Research webinars
- 6 Hudson River Sustainable Shoreline Designs

North Country Convention | Apr. 2019 | Presque Isle, Maine
See page 12.

State of the Blackstone Watershed | Apr. 2019 | Worcester, Massachusetts
Second of two "State of the Watershed" events, opposite.

March

April

May

June

July



PROTECTION

We conduct research into water-related topics, monitor environmental factors, and fund such work by others.

We also implement and fund environmental restoration and other on-the-ground projects.

Monitoring and Assessment

Projects we conducted, managed, and/or funded during the fiscal year include:



Coordinating

Rhode Island's summer water quality monitoring program

Sampling

macroinvertebrates and assessing habitat to create an index of biotic integrity for non-tidal streams in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts

Surveying

the habitat health of Narragansett Bay's benthic zones as an indicator for watershed recovery

Monitoring

tidal marsh resiliency to sea level rise in the Long Island Sound and Hudson River estuary

Coordinating

a continuous water quality and meteorological monitoring network on the Hudson River

Analyzing

the pollutant loading to the Lake Champlain basin since 1992

Storms and Stormwater

In the Northeast, climate change means more precipitation and more frequent and intense storms. NEIWPCC helps our region address combined sewer overflows, the impacts of natural disasters and flooding, and the increasing pollutant loading to our watersheds caused by stormwater runoff and coastal erosion.

NEIWPCC's five-year role supporting the New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy ended last year as the program scaled back.

The Peconic Estuary Partnership's homeowner rewards program and community workshops incentivized people to plant native plants and install rain gardens and rain barrels, in order to reduce fertilizer use and stormwater runoff.

NEIWPCC staff members continued to monitor and review New York City's efforts to comply with requirements of a consent order related to combined sewer overflows. The monitors also assisted NYSDEC with its ongoing review of the city's stormwater management plan.

From rain gardens to retrofits to salt application reduction, the LCBP funded several projects this year to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff in the Champlain basin.

Protecting Water

- protecting watersheds from aquatic invasive species
- conducting research and creating resources to help our states explore innovative solutions to pollutant loading. Projects included nutrient bioextraction and reusing treated wastewater effluent on golf courses
- mapping, modeling, and funding design and construction for habitat restoration, flood mitigation, and living-shoreline projects

In the States

Environmental permitting, regulatory expertise, monitoring, and technical and administrative assistance: these are just some of the ways NEIWPCC's environmental analysts in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York supported state drinking-water and source-water protection programs.

Research Quality

If a project we manage collects or analyzes data for decision making, we require a quality assurance project plan, or QAPP.

Quality assurance means the project is conducted in ways that are scientific, consistent, and well documented, and the work is reliable and useful. QAPPs typically specify such things as how project data are collected and how often, how tools will be used, and details about each study location.

During the fiscal year, NEIWPC helped to develop QAPPs for twenty-nine projects. One governs field activities in which volunteers catch, count, and release migrating eels in the Hudson River estuary. Another project used environmental DNA to detect the presence of invasive quagga mussels in the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain.





TRAINING

We develop, coordinate, and conduct training courses that serve water quality professionals regionally and nationwide.



WASTEWATER PROFESSIONALS: PUBLIC HEALTH HEROES

The number one priority of a wastewater operator is to ensure the water entering a treatment facility leaves cleaned and sustainable.

A chief element of our work is to provide training for these public health heroes. We've been training and supporting the wastewater workforce for more than fifty years.

Collaborating with state agencies, wastewater associations, and industry leaders helps us understand current and emerging issues, and influence our course offerings. New classes offered in 2019 included a training that addressed PFAS in biosolids and a class that will be offered again on the pretreatment and pollution prevention of brewery discharges.

In fiscal 2019 NEIWPCC:

- ▶ offered 110 training classes
- ▶ enrolled 2,443 participants
- ▶ awarded 29,910 total training contract hours

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING, CERTIFICATION, AND RENEWALS

Wastewater treatment facilities are technical in nature and require staff that have the knowledge and capability to operate them, in any condition.

On behalf of the states of Maine and Massachusetts, NEIWPCC develops and delivers wastewater training programs and administers each state's wastewater operator certification and renewal program. Through these state contracts in fiscal 2019, we certified 39 new operators, granted 5 licenses through reciprocity, and renewed 283 licenses in the state of Maine. In Massachusetts, where there are more than 5,000 wastewater operators, and the renewal process spans over two fiscal years, NEIWPCC certified 355 new operators, renewed 449 licenses, and granted 8 through reciprocity.

A PATH TO LEADERSHIP

Keeping our water clean requires commitment and a clear path for leadership. For the last ten years, NEIWPCC has hosted management training programs for wastewater professionals in Maine and Massachusetts, and provided support to similar programs in Connecticut and Rhode Island. These programs provide the necessary skills in both wastewater and leadership that help operators attain their professional development goals. The Maine Management Candidate School also accepts drinking-water and other water quality professionals into its program.

NORTH COUNTRY CONVENTION

In order to meet the training needs of wastewater and drinking water professionals in Maine's remote Aroostook County, NEIWPCC's Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee holds the North Country Convention every other year in Presque Isle. More than 185 people participated in the April, 2019, event, which awarded a total of 1,119 training contact hours.

TITLE 5 AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

In Massachusetts, NEIWPCC coordinates onsite wastewater training and certification for soil evaluators and system inspectors and has been doing so since 2004.

The programs train and certify designers, engineers, members of local boards of health, and others to make decisions regarding onsite septic systems in accordance with Title 5 of Massachusetts law.

In 2019, NEIWPCC entered into another five-year contract with the state to continue running these programs.

In total for the fiscal year, NEIWPCC provided classes, seminars, field sessions, and examination days towards Title 5 training for more than two hundred individuals.

Title 5 soil evaluators and system inspectors must renew their certifications every three years. This fiscal year, NEIWPCC renewed certification for 920 soil evaluators and 886 system inspectors. In addition, 82 and 71 candidates became newly certified as evaluators and inspectors, respectively.





EDUCATION

We fund and/or staff programs that engage the public through events, exhibits, web and print publications, and other outreach activities.

Here are just some of the highlights from fiscal 2019.

YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS

NEIWPC’s youth programs in New York City and in Lowell, Massachusetts have long provided teenagers with summer jobs that expose them to the wastewater industry and other environmental fields. In the summer of 2019, NEIWPC held another program in Lawrence, Massachusetts, for the first time.

SALMON

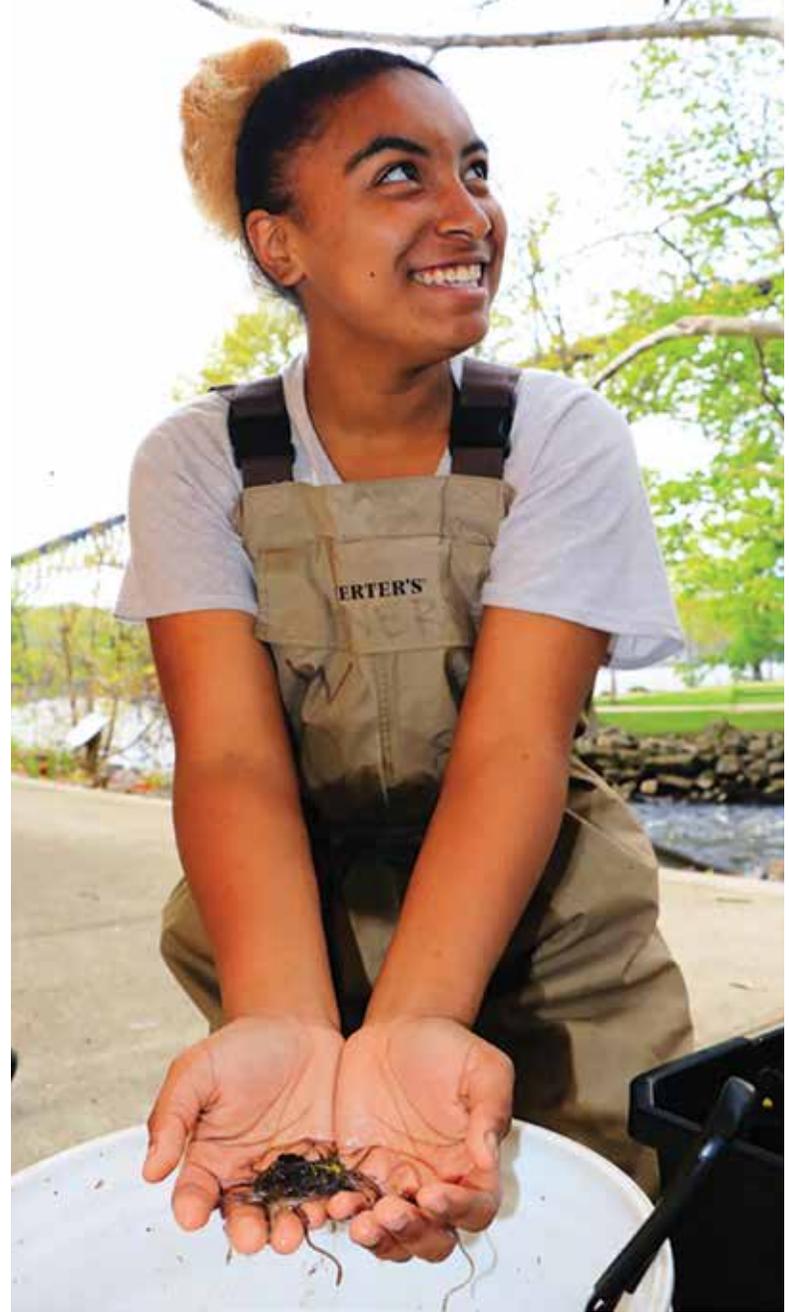
The Lake Champlain Basin Program last year teamed up with local and regional organizations to celebrate the International Year of the Salmon and the fish’s importance to the basin. Work included creating interpretive exhibits showcased around the Champlain region and a three-part video series highlighting salmon restoration efforts.

The LCBP staff runs, participates in, and/or funds many programs to increase education and engagement around protecting the basin. Other activities included: staffing the Resource Room at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain; training teachers to educate their students about the watershed; and producing a video series.

DON'T TRASH THE SOUND

Robert Burg, a NEIWPC information officer at the Long Island Sound Study, reached 135,000 people on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in the summer of 2019 through the #DontTrashLISound social media campaign. LISS and its partners also held informational events and beach cleanups to motivate the Long Island Sound community to “Break the Single-Use Plastic Habit” and “Protect Our Wildlife.”

Burg also worked on a community-based social marketing pilot campaign to reduce lawn fertilizer use.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Every spring, students and trained volunteers count and release young American “glass” eels caught in nets at the mouths of Hudson River tributaries, sending them along their migration upstream.

The population of American eels, in the Hudson River estuary and elsewhere, is severely diminished compared to historical levels. Overfishing, habitat loss, water pollution, and climate change are all factors contributing to this decline.

In 2019 volunteers caught more than 240,000 glass eels—a big jump from the 145,000 or so caught in 2018. More years of counting will show what significance there is in that jump, but the data collected by the Hudson River Eel Project over the last twelve springs show an overall positive trend in the number of eels caught.

Also in 2019, NEIWPCC helped add transparency and legitimacy to this volunteer-collected dataset, by establishing a quality assurance project plan for the program.

Sarah Mount, a NEIWPCC environmental analyst at the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, coordinates the Hudson River Eel Project. This annual effort is just one of many NEIWPCC-supported citizen science projects.

Many NEIWPCC staff members at place-based programs hold trainings, workshops, and events to involve community members in collecting information about water quality and aquatic life important to their watersheds. Drawing on youth and other volunteer networks yields valuable data and simultaneously fosters an informed and engaged community.



OTHER CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

- A Day in the Life of the Nissequogue River
- River herring monitoring in the Long Island Sound watershed
- The Great Hudson River Fish Count
- A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor
- Alewife monitoring, horseshoe crab monitoring, and terrapin turtle monitoring in the Peconic Estuary





ENGAGEMENT

We actively represent the interests of member states at meetings with federal and state officials and in regional and national water and wastewater associations.

The staff was active in many regional organizations in fiscal 2019:

- Serving on the governing boards, and the working committees, of many state and regional organizations of water-quality professionals. Committee topics include wastewater operator certification, residuals, and workforce development
- Sitting on the Association of National Estuary Programs Board and on several Restore Americas Estuaries committees
- Being a committee member for the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, the Peconic Estuary Program, and the Long Island Sound Study
- Serving on the Southeast New England Program Steering and Policy committees, and the Monitoring and Ecosystem Services subcommittees
- Treasurer for the New England Estuarine Research Society
- Assisting the Interstate Council on Water Policy’s Legislation and Policy Committee
- Serving on the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Board of Directors
- Co-chairing the Massachusetts Training Advisory Committee

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The members of the NEIWPCC staff give their all each day in service to our vision of clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast. This commitment to NEIWPCC’s mission ensures our success and the wellbeing of each member of our team.

Our relationship to our member states allows us to engage with the states on national and regional issues. We bring regional perspectives to national conversations about water, and we bring to our states information and ideas from national and regional organizations of administrators, policy makers, and practitioners around water quality.

Members of the staff, and our governing commissioners, are active in national and regional associations, bringing issues from the Northeast to the ongoing conversation. In turn, the staff brings information and contacts back to the states in workgroup meetings, webinars, and events.

NEIWPCC plays a role in regional and national conferences. For the past three years we have run a national training conference for nonpoint-source-pollution program administrators on behalf of the EPA. Our planning for the 2020 National Tanks Conference, which we have run since 2005, began in fiscal 2019.

We also held a training workshop on Section 303(d) requirements of the Clean Water Act.

These events build on our expertise, but also enrich the region’s engagement on these issues at the national level.

Members of our staff are active in regional and national organizations. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) and as a member of the Water Environment Federation’s (WEF) House of Delegates.

This year I participated on many WEF leadership teams and serve as the Community Leadership Council’s Community of Practice Director for Leadership Development and Recognition and as the vice chairperson of WEF’s Government Affairs Committee.

Being engaged in our water program efforts locally, regionally, and nationally allows our team an opportunity to develop a sense of connection: to NEIWPCC, our member states, and other organizations sharing our vision and values. We are outspoken on behalf of our states and have our collective finger on the pulse of water program efforts in the nation. NEIWPCC is well positioned to continue its hard work.

Susan J. Sullivan
Executive Director

In fiscal 2019, NEIWPCC collaborated as planning team members, hosts, and/or sponsors for these events:

- A regional PFAS Science Conference, spearheaded by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association and including other interstate organizations
- The Environmental Law Institute's National CWA 303(d) Training Workshop
- A special source water protection priorities session at the New Hampshire Source Water Protection Conference (May 2019)
- The thirty-ninth annual symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (November 2019) in Burlington, Vermont, with Vermont DEC and the New England Chapter of NALMS
- ACWA Nutrients Permitting Workshop Series, TMDL Modeling Workshop, and its 2020 Stormwater Roundtable



SPEAKING UP FOR THE STATES

NEIWPCC writes comment letters in federal rulemakings and on other issues.

Section 404 Discharge 1/11/2019

We continue to be concerned that there is no dedicated funding at the state level for the §404 program assumption. The states appreciate the flexibility that partial assumption would provide; however, the potential for confusion to permittees who work with several states needs to be addressed.

Waters of the U.S. Jurisdiction 4/12/2019

The proposed definition... would lead to removing federal protection from portions of the waters within a watershed, which is ill-advised. We encourage the use of peer-reviewed scientific studies and fundamental hydrologic principles as critical sources in determining which waters to regulate....

A "desk" review of maps and data alone—as this revised definition seems to suggest—is an inadequate method to determine whether or not a water is jurisdictional.

Budget 4/26/2019

NEIWPCC opposes the president's proposal to reduce the current level of funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by nearly twenty-five percent. These cuts will directly impact states' ability to access and utilize the resources necessary to implement critical programs in water infrastructure and water protection.

Section 401 Certification 5/24/2019

Limiting the states' authority under CWA §401 to protect state water resources and provide critical input on the impacts of federal permits and licenses is not appropriate and violates the CWA. States have a unique understanding of waters within their jurisdiction and are best positioned to provide that input via the CWA §401 certification process.



OPERATIONS

THE PEOPLE BEHIND CLEAN WATER

Stories from staff members who reached significant milestones in fiscal 2019

"[Working for] NEIWPCC provides me the opportunity to combine my passion for teaching and decades of wastewater process control experience. It's a blessing to wake up each morning eager to help others."
Don Kennedy, NEIWPCC Headquarters (20 years)

"I see lightbulbs going off all the time. 'I didn't know a dragonfly spends most of its life underwater.' Or 'You mean, every time I wash my fleece plastic goes into the lake?' More often, the learning is subtle. 'Hmm, street runoff carries nutrients? How is that?' Our visitors take away what I tell them and ponder it."
Cynthia Norman, NEIWPCC/Lake Champlain Basin Program, Resource Room (15 years)

"As a writer and editor, I regularly share stories of interesting work happening in our member states. My aim is always the same: to use current work to motivate future work."
Anna Meyer, NEIWPCC Headquarters (5 years)

"Without my skillset, countless hours of staff time would be required. Prior to my developing a key database, my coworkers spent hundreds of hours a year extracting and formatting data."
David Welch, NEIWPCC/Maine Drinking Water Program (10 years)

"I love helping people with the [wastewater] certification and renewal process. It is rewarding to guide individuals to beneficial training or the resources they need."
Spring Connolly, NEIWPCC/JETCC (10 years)

Staff Achievements

PROMOTED: Heather Radcliffe, Director, Water Resource Protection Division | Christina Stringer, Program Manager | Shelly Jenkins, Information Officer

DEVELOPMENT: Eric Howe was graduated from the Vermont Certified Public Manager Program | Vicky O'Neill completed the Leadership Development Program with the Center for Creative Leadership | Courtney Schmidt was graduated from the Leadership Rhode Island Program

ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD: Elizabeth Hornstein, Sarah Schaefer, Audra Martin, Christina Stringer, and Meg Modley Gilbertson

"My work involves protecting the safety of the NYSDEC Division of Water staff and striving to increase protection of New York's surface waters. As Health and Safety Coordinator, I provide information and resources needed to work safely while also ensuring compliance with NYSDEC stormwater program requirements."
Debra Hanas, NEIWPCC/NYSDEC (15 years)

"I see results in every project. I use my legal expertise in drafting over one hundred project agreements annually, totaling over four million dollars. I review and administer state contracts and other funding sources, and review event and conference agreements, ensuring they are protective of NEIWPCC and its partners."
Shelly Clark, NEIWPCC Headquarters (5 years)

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program brings people and science together to advance common goals to protect water, wildlife, and our way of life. As staff scientist, I convene scientific experts to inform key issues and synthesize data and information used by our partners in management and advocacy for their decision-making.
Courtney Schmidt, NEIWPCC/Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (5 years)



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The assets of NEIWPCC exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$3,501,391.

Financially, fiscal year 2019 was successful as revenue exceeded operating expenses. As a result, total net position increased by \$185,012 for the year ended September 30, 2019.

Lucia Walker, CPA
NEIWPCC Comptroller

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2019

Operating revenues

Federal Grants.....	7,236,961
Member State Support.....	160,053
State Contracts.....	4,327,850
Training.....	771,910
Interest income.....	41,307
Donated Services.....	618,947
Other Income.....	58,555
Other Contracts.....	2,606,954
MA and ME License Renewal Fees.....	251,185
MA and ME Certification Exam Fees.....	33,710

Total Operating Revenue..... 16,107,432

Operating Expenditures..... 15,964,686

Investment Income..... 42,266

Change in Net Assets 185,012

Workforce Development

Our Human Resources team works to build a more diverse and inclusive water quality workforce. This year the HR staff evaluated **2,026** applications, conducted **103** interviews, hired **49** new employees, and held **24** new-hire orientations.

Funding and Fueling Work Around the Region

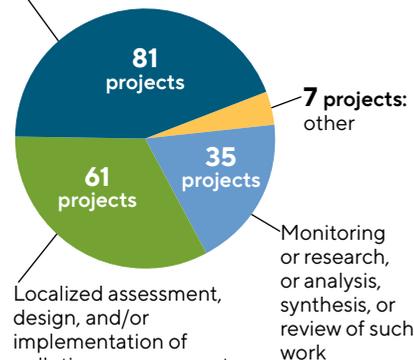
In fiscal 2019, the NEIWPCC staff oversaw **184** contracts, memorandums of agreement, and subawards related directly to specialized research, monitoring, assessment, outreach, and other tasks to assist NEIWPCC in achieving its goals.

The **119** different organizations that worked on these projects include universities, watershed alliances and other nonprofits, municipalities, conservation districts, and agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey.

These groups received grants through NEIWPCC or won bids for technical projects. The projects total **\$8,623,349** over their multi-year lives.

Projects Supported by NEIWPCC

Primarily outreach or public-education projects



Most Projects Span Multiple Years

40 ongoing projects ended in fiscal 2019. **126** projects began during the year and continued past the year's end. **5** began and ended last year. **23** both began before and continued after fiscal 2019.

A Broad Portfolio

52 projects addressed nutrient pollution. Of these, **9** focused on agriculture. **19** projects tackled aquatic invasive species. **25** projects concentrated on aquatic habitats and/or improving watershed connectivity. **18** had a cultural-heritage component. **11** projects included work on stormwater, sea-level rise, flooding, and/or climate change.

76 projects required quality assurance project plans under NEIWPCC's Quality Management Plan.

This annual report is a product of NEIWPCC, Suite 410, 650 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01854
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Photos by NEIWPCC's Lowell and South Portland staffs and also courtesy of NEIWPCC staff members and others at the Lake Champlain Basin Program (cover, page 11), the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve and Hudson River Estuary Program (cover, pages 11, 14, 15), the Long Island Sound Study and NYSDEC (pages 14, 15), and the Peconic Estuary Program (page 10).

The map on pages 4-5 was created by Megan Lung of NEIWPCC and the Hudson River Estuary Program, and by Newcomb Studios.

Thanks to the entire NEIWPCC staff and to our partners for assistance with this report.



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NEIWPCC is a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality.

