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Mike Gerel

Program Director, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Mike Gerel joined NEIWPCC in 2019 to lead the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. NEIWPCC serves as the institutional host of the NBEP, which protects and preserves Narragansett Bay and its watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality, and promote community involvement. As program director, Mr. Gerel oversees the NBEP's operations and leads the development and implementation of initiatives and partnerships related to such matters as stormwater mitigation, habitat protection, and climate change.



Mr. Gerel, who has New England roots, directed water programs on the West Coast for Sustainable Northwest and other organizations, following seven years as a staff scientist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He has more than twenty-five years of experience in ecosystem-based planning and restoration, facilitation and collaborative governance, and public policy.

He has held scientist and management positions with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sustainable Northwest, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and other nonprofit groups, as well as with government agencies and private consultants.

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program is part of the National Estuary Program, a national network of 28 programs that was created in 1987 under the Clean Water Act. Each of the programs is associated with an estuary designated by the U.S. Congress to be of critical importance. The NBEP and the other 27 programs work for collaborative solutions for their respective estuary by engaging state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities in planning and management decisions and actions.

Education:

MS, Environmental Science, Johns Hopkins University
BA, Biology, Minor in Business Administration, University of Richmond (Va.)
Graduate, Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia