



**All in a
Year's
Work
2018**



NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

The Commission in 2018

Chair: Douglas Fine • Vice Chair: Mark Klotz • Treasurer: Harry Stewart

Connecticut

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Representing Mr. Klee: Yvonne Bolton, Chief of the Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance
Representing Mr. Klee: Denise Ruzicka, Director of the Water Planning and Management Division at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Dr. Raul Pino, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
Representing Mr. Pino: Suzanne Blancaflor, Chief of the Environmental Health Section
Direct Appointment of the Governor: Arnold Bevins, Mark Zessin

Maine

Paul Mercer, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Co-Representing Mr. Mercer: Don Witherill and Brian Kavanah, acting co-directors of the Bureau of Water Quality
Ricker Hamilton, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
Representing Mr. Hamilton: Nancy Beardsley, Director of the Division of Environmental Health
Direct Appointment of the Governor: Travis Noyes, Brian Tarbuck, David Van Slyke

Massachusetts

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Representing Mr. Suuberg: Douglas Fine, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Water Resources
Dr. Monica Bharel, Commissioner, Department of Public Health
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

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Representing Mr. Scott: Rene Pelletier, Director of Water Division
Direct Appointment of the Governor: Thomas Ballesterio, Frederick McNeill, Nelson Thibault, Robert Varney

New York

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Representing Mr. Seggos: Mark Klotz, Director of the Division of Water
Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner, Department of Health
Representing Dr. Zucker: Dr. Roger Sokol, Director of the Bureau of Water Supply Protection
Direct Appointment of the Governor: Robert Breault, Richard Lyons

Rhode Island

Janet Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Representing Ms. Coit: Alicia Good, Assistant Director of the Office of Water Resources
Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, Department of Health
Representing Dr. Alexander-Scott: June Swallow, Chief of the Office of Drinking Water Quality
Direct Appointment of the Governor: Russell Chateaufeu, Janine Burke-Wells

Vermont

Emily Boedecker, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Representing Ms. Boedecker: Peter LaFlamme, Director of the Watershed Management Division
Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner, Department of Health
Direct Appointment of the Governor: David Deen, James Ehlers, Dennis Lutz

Membership as of September 30, 2018. Michael Kuhns (Maine), Eugene Forbes (New Hampshire), and Richard Kotelly (Treasurer) also served on the Commission in fiscal 2018.

From the Chair

Looking back at the work of NEIWPCC over the last year, I am impressed and humbled by the breadth of the Commission’s efforts to serve our member states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Much of the Commission’s work is dedicated to protecting our interstate waters. The Commission runs or supports strong programs in the regions of Lake Champlain, Narragansett Bay, Long Island Sound, and elsewhere for environmental monitoring and research, and public outreach and education. In the last year, this included releasing robust health assessments of the Narragansett and Champlain watersheds, and hosting a high-level meeting between state and EPA personnel on continuing progress to reduce nutrient loading into Long Island Sound.

The Commission also continues to play an essential role in training and conferences. Last year, NEIWPCC hosted national and regional conferences on nonpoint source pollution and underground storage tanks, as well as a research conference for Lake Champlain. NEIWPCC continues to train wastewater professionals region-wide, with special responsibilities in Maine and Massachusetts. Last year, the Commission again offered the Youth and the Environment Program in Lowell, now in its twenty-seventh year.

Throughout the Northeast, we are experiencing sea level rise, periods of more-severe drought, and more frequent and intense storms. NEIWPCC helps our states address the impacts of climate change. Commission employees continue to help New York recover from Superstorm Sandy, and NEIWPCC is helping us better understand and track harmful algae blooms that are on the rise due to warmer temperatures and increased nutrient pollution.

Finally, the Commission plays an essential convener role for the northeast state water programs. NEIWPCC brings together personnel from the states and our EPA partners to ponder shared problems and to collaborate on solutions. This last year has seen beneficial dialog on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, innovative approaches to managing stormwater, and on advancing effective underground storage tank programs, to name a few. And, through our joint comments to Congress and others in Washington, the Commission amplifies the voice of each state.

This year, the Commission has again shown that we make more progress when we work together as a region. In 2019, NEIWPCC will continue to help the northeast states make real strides in improving water quality and building capacity among the states, the EPA, and our many partners.



Douglas Fine

Douglas Fine
Commission Chair

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The Clean Water Workforce

In 2018, NEIWPCC celebrated its fiftieth year of providing wastewater and environmental training opportunities to operators in its member states.

In fiscal 2018, NEIWPCC:

- delivered 293 days of training for 2,922 participants
- offered 155 classes through 9 training programs (below)
- awarded 28,096 training hours
- certified 464 new wastewater operators (437 in Massachusetts, 27 in Maine)
- re-certified 4,463 current operators (4,129 in Massachusetts, 334 in Maine)

Training days and hours are shown on a timeline that begins on the next page.

Classes teach basic math, industrial and municipal wastewater treatments, laboratory skills, and advanced topics to prepare current operators for grade-level exams.



Training Programs

- Regional environmental training (all NEIWPCC states)
- Wastewater Operator Training and Certification (Massachusetts)
- Wastewater Management Training Program (Massachusetts)
- Title 5 Training and Certification (Massachusetts)
- Operator Training and Certification (Maine, through the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee)
- Management Candidate School (JETCC, Maine)
- Wastewater Operator School (JETCC, Maine)
- Contract Wastewater Operator Training (privately by company)

wastewater operators must complete twenty training contact hours (Massachusetts) and eighteen hours (Maine) prior to renewing their licenses.

The Commission similarly trains and certifies onsite system inspectors and soil evaluators in Massachusetts under Title 5, the state sanitary code.

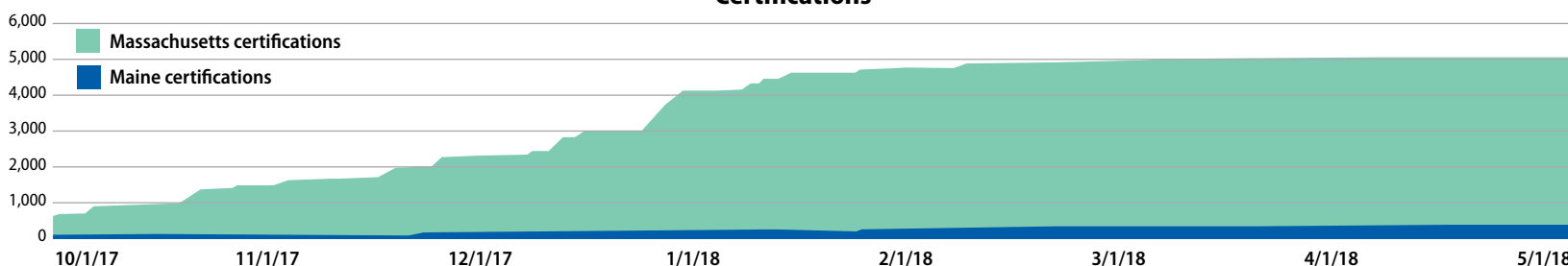
Nonpoint Source Training Center

Also, the Commission's South Portland office supports the Maine DEP's Nonpoint Source Training Center with training, outreach, and administrative tasks. In fiscal 2018, NEIWPCC assisted with six in-person trainings (306 students), three online trainings (125 students), and a self-paced program (10 students).

Certification and Renewals

In Maine and Massachusetts, NEIWPCC develops and delivers wastewater training programs and administers each state's wastewater operator certification and renewal program. Current

Certifications



October 1

AT THE START OF FISCAL 2018, the Commission had just met in Boston and elected Douglas Fine, Mark Klotz, and Richard Kotelly as chair, vice chair, and treasurer, respectively.

More than a hundred researchers and students had just attended a daylong NEIWPCC workshop in Rhode Island on the significance of phosphorus in estuaries.

601 Massachusetts wastewater operators had already renewed their state certifications with NEIWPCC in advance of a December 31 deadline.

The Commission was seeking to fill two staff positions.

A Day in the Life in October

Every year in October, the Hudson River Estuary Program teams up with partner organizations to organize A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor. The hands-on event brings thousands of students, from New York City to Troy, in direct contact with the river and its ecosystem.



The Measure of Narragansett Bay

On October 23, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program releases its landmark study of the estuary that will inform the work of the program and its partners for years to come. The study is the most comprehensive scientific assessment of the estuary's health to date.

The *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed* technical report combines the work of numerous research partners in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. While most of the bay is in Rhode Island, 60 percent of the watershed lies within Massachusetts.



1
110 One hired, 110 considered

Print or e-publication

Webinar

Workgroup

Project ends

Project ends
(with quality assurance project plan)

Training class

Training hours per week

NEIWPCC's
Internet Water
Report, or iWR,
is published
quarterly.



iWR



Hudson



JETCC

The Hudson
River Estuary
Program
publishes
Hudson Rivernet
almost every
week.



Hudson



Monitoring

LCBP announces \$860,000
for "Best Management
Practices for Pollution
Reduction" and "Phosphorus
Load Reduction Projects for
Agricultural Sources."

Sixteen wastewater operators spend the
day disassembling and reassembling
a centrifugal pump in the "Teardown,
Assembly, and Hydraulic Properties of
Centrifugal Pumps" class offered at
the Burlington, Vermont,
Wastewater Treatment Facility.



Hudson

The Hudson River
National Estuarine
Research Reserve's
Turkey Point tide station
is added to NOAA's
monitoring network.



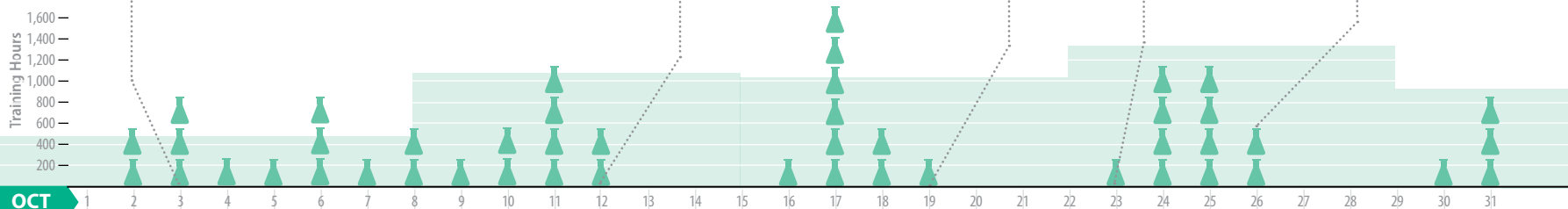
NPDES



Tanks



Stormwater

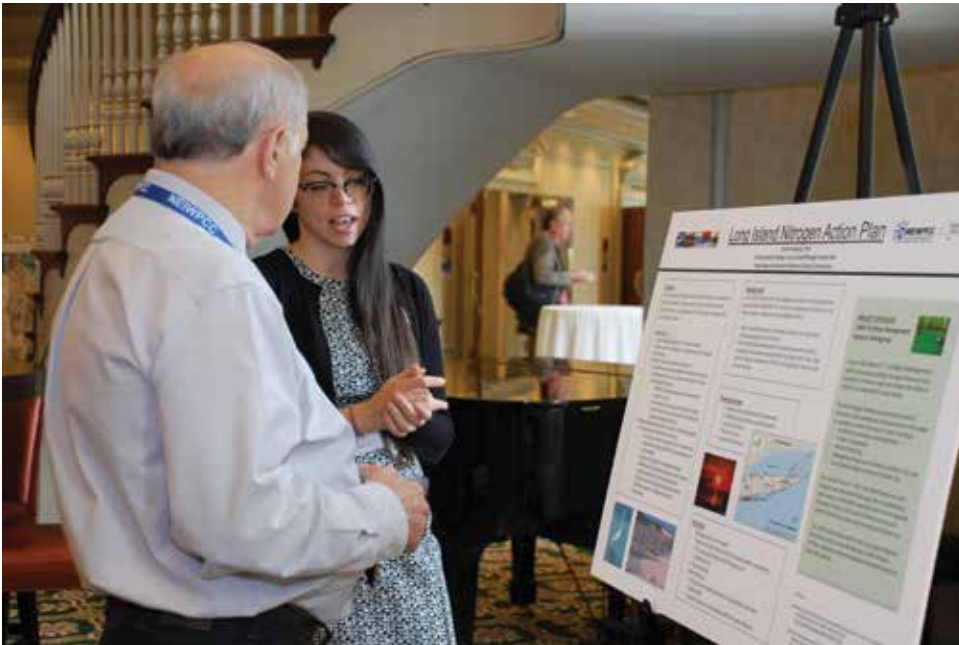


Nitrogen Reduction

The Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan focuses on reducing nitrogen loading to the groundwater and surface waters of Long Island.

In the photo below, NEIWPCC staff member Kristin Kraseski, who coordinates programs for LINAP, describes the group's efforts at a poster session on November 2.

Water reuse is one strategy to reduce nitrogen loading. In fiscal 2018 Kraseski developed a step-by-step guide to the permit process for various types of reuse projects for publication in early fiscal 2019.



Planting Resilience

In Plainfield, Vermont, volunteers of all ages plant native trees along a stream as part of a town-wide resilience project. The Lake Champlain Basin Program funded the project with a grant, which ended on November 30, 2017.



The Long Island Sound Study publishes *Sound Bytes*, featuring news of efforts to protect the sound.

Start date for the Maine Management Candidate School.

¡Viva el Peconic! The Peconic Estuary Program publishes both Spanish and English editions of its e-newsletter.

Training for inspectors on manifolded underground storage tank systems.

Commission letter to Congress on the need to keep invasive-species protections in the Coast Guard Authorization Act.



LISS



Hudson



Training



PEP



Tanks

Research Quality

Throughout the year, NEIWPCC manages projects that involve collection or analysis of environmental data for decision-making. Each of these is subject to a quality assurance project plan, or QAPP, that is created before a project begins. QAPPs require the staff and contractors to collect and analyze project data in ways that are scientific, consistent, and well documented.

These plans ensure the reliability and usefulness of the work. QAPPs typically specify such things as how project data will be collected and how often, how tools are to be used, and details about each study location.

In fiscal 2018, NEIWPCC helped to develop QAPPs for thirty-one projects. These include an effort in which volunteers track occurrences of aquatic invasive species in the backcountry of the Adirondacks. In another project, environmental professionals are helping Montpelier, Vermont, to identify places where roof drains can be disconnected from the combined sewer system to cost-effectively reduce combined sewer overflows.

The timeline below and on other pages shows the end date of each QAPP-supported project with a green dot. ●



LUSTLine

Twice a year the Commission publishes *LUSTLine*, a national newsletter for those who oversee policy, inspections, and programs for underground storage tanks.

The publication delivers tanks news with lively enthusiasm and has been a NEIWPCC project since 1985.

The December, 2017, issue focuses on containment sumps, which keep leaks and spills separate from the surrounding soil and groundwater. Other stories look at insurance and controlling tank corrosion, among other topics. A column by the head of the EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks discusses upcoming compliance deadlines.

Other recent issues have explored tank inspections, redeveloping abandoned gas stations, and site assessment.



Thirty-two wastewater students learn about chemical and biological phosphorus removal and the effects on wastewater treatment plant operations. The class is held on December 6 in Kingston, N.Y.



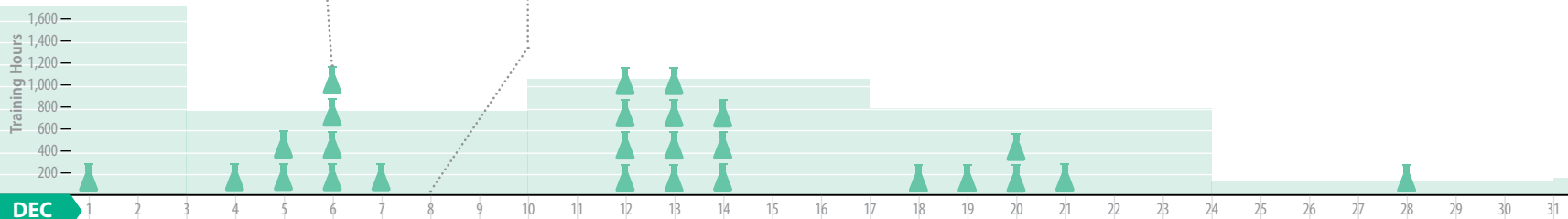
The Commission's fourteen active workgroups in fiscal 2018 were as follows:
Massachusetts Wastewater Training Advisory Committee • National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System • New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands
• Nonpoint Source Pollution • Onsite Wastewater • Source Water Protection
• Stormwater • Total Maximum Daily Load • Underground Storage Tanks
• Volunteer Monitoring • Wastewater Certification • Wastewater Residuals
• Water Quality Standards • Water Resource Adaptation and Climate Change



Commission Executive Committee meets in Lowell.



The Lake Champlain Basin Program's newsletter is *Casin' the Basin*. It brings Champlain news from around the watershed.





Commission Meeting

At its winter meeting, the first of three regular meetings during the year, the Commission discusses ways to support a new Congressional Infrastructure Caucus. Meeting in Lowell, the Commission hears news about litigation around proposed stormwater permits for Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and about a GIS database of wastewater infrastructure that was still under development.

Thirty-five Commissioners, five from each of the seven member states, are appointed by their respective governors. Appointees include state cabinet secretaries with responsibility for health and the environment. In January, the Commission also discussed and heard reports about plans to control nitrogen in Long Island Sound and pending federal regulations affecting wetlands.

Hands-On

January 18 marks the first meeting of JETCC's 2018 Wastewater Operator School to introduce basic concepts in the environmental field. Students met twice monthly through June 21. In the photo, instructor Ryan Staples of the Portland Water District prepares to lead a hands-on portion of the June 7 class on nitrification and denitrification. Learning as a class together provides support and community that is helpful for new operators.



NEIWPCC finishes certifying 4,133 Massachusetts wastewater operators who applied on time. An additional 597 late applications will also be processed through June.



USS



Hudson

Champlain research conference draws more than 200.



Annual Report, HREP

The Department of the Navy asked NEIWPCC to teach a three-day class in "Operations & Management of Wastewater Collection Systems" to eight of its wastewater staff at the Newport Naval Station. The class was one of fourteen contract classes delivered this fiscal year.



EPA Monitoring



IWR



Hudson

NEIWPCC's contract to assist Connecticut's State Water Plan ends.



NE FOA

— 1,600
— 1,400
— 1,200
— 1,000
— 800
— 600
— 400
— 200

Fish Passage

For more than a hundred years, river herring have been unable to migrate past the dam between Bear Lake and the Mill Neck that blocks the passage from the Long Island Sound to freshwater spawning grounds.

That ended on February 21 with the opening of a new fish passageway, the construction of which was partially funded by the Long Island Sound Study.



Mobilize the Students

In New York City, NEIWPCC helped Cafeteria Culture to mobilize elementary and middle-school students against aquatic trash. The knowledge and skills that students developed in the classroom, and the data they collected, empowered the students to create and use videos, posters, presentations, and social media to bring their findings to the community.

The trash assessment that followed found a 23 percent reduction in local street litter. The Commission awarded and administered this grant, which ended on February 28.



JETCC publishes news of its environmental training program for Maine in *NewsBrief*.



Annual eight-week operations and maintenance class begins for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission in Boston.



Windsurfing and other topics kick off the first of four evenings in the LCBP's annual Love the Lake series in Burlington.



The Commission's Environmental Training Program publishes the *Training News* four times a year.



Consultants prepared *Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management*, a guide for New York municipalities, through a contract with the LCBP that ended February 28.

Training Hours

1,600
1,400
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200

FEB

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



Fifty Years of Training Excellence

On March 11, 1968, thirty-seven wastewater operators attended the Commission's first wastewater training program.

That first year, Commission instructors held five week-long classes at Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield, Massachusetts.

Fifty years and thousands of classes later, NEIWPCC continues to lead in environmental education and training throughout the Northeast.

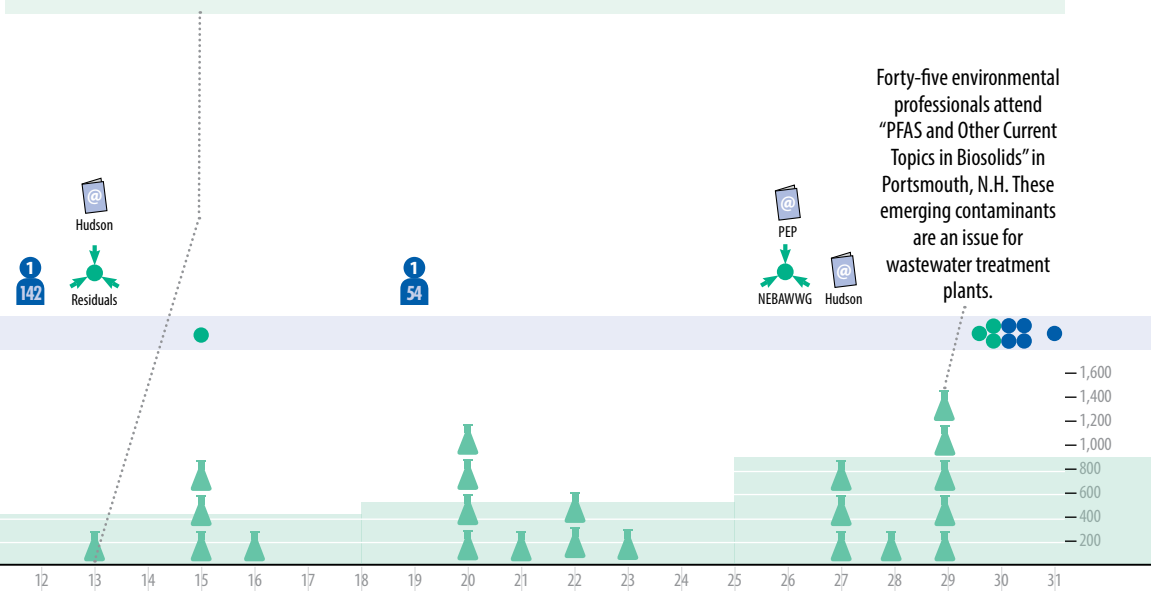
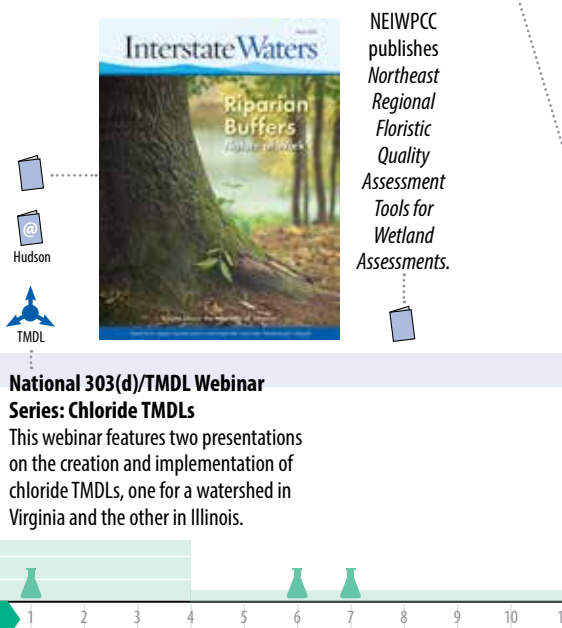
The construction and operation of wastewater treatment plants, which the Commission's training program supports, have together been the two most effective engines of progress for clean water in the Northeast since 1947.



Eels on the Hudson

Every spring, glass eels (juvenile American eels) arrive in the Hudson River estuary. Since 2008, hundreds of volunteers have been on hand to count and learn about them.

Last year, citizen scientists at fourteen sites caught, cataloged, and released 143,953 eels, the most since the start of the Hudson River Eel Project eleven years ago. At left, a crew installs a fyke net on the Fall Kill Creek in Dutchess County to catch the young eels.



Our Watersheds

Lake Champlain

Since 1990, the organization known today as the Lake Champlain Basin Program has safeguarded Lake Champlain. Program highlights include environmental education, research, and monitoring. The program had \$1,335,390 in grants under management during fiscal 2018.

Hudson River

The Commission supports two intertwined programs devoted to the study and protection of the Hudson and its estuary. The Hudson River Estuary Program, a program of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, engages in conservation, restoration, and education to safeguard the Hudson. It works closely with the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, which emphasizes monitoring and research, but that also has a public-outreach program.

The Research Reserve is a joint program of New York and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It is accredited by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Long Island Sound

The Long Island Sound Study is at the center of efforts to protect the sound. This project involves five states, but especially Connecticut and New York. The Commission supports this work by employing four staff members to work with LISS and by convening other meetings to talk about the evolving nitrogen-reduction strategy for the watershed.

Peconic Estuary

Vibrant yet fragile, the Peconic estuary lies between the north and south forks at the eastern tip of Long Island. The Peconic Estuary Program is its steward. NEIWPCC has long supported the program's work, but in fiscal 2018 the Commission became the administrative host that employs all four PEP staff members and oversees its contractors.

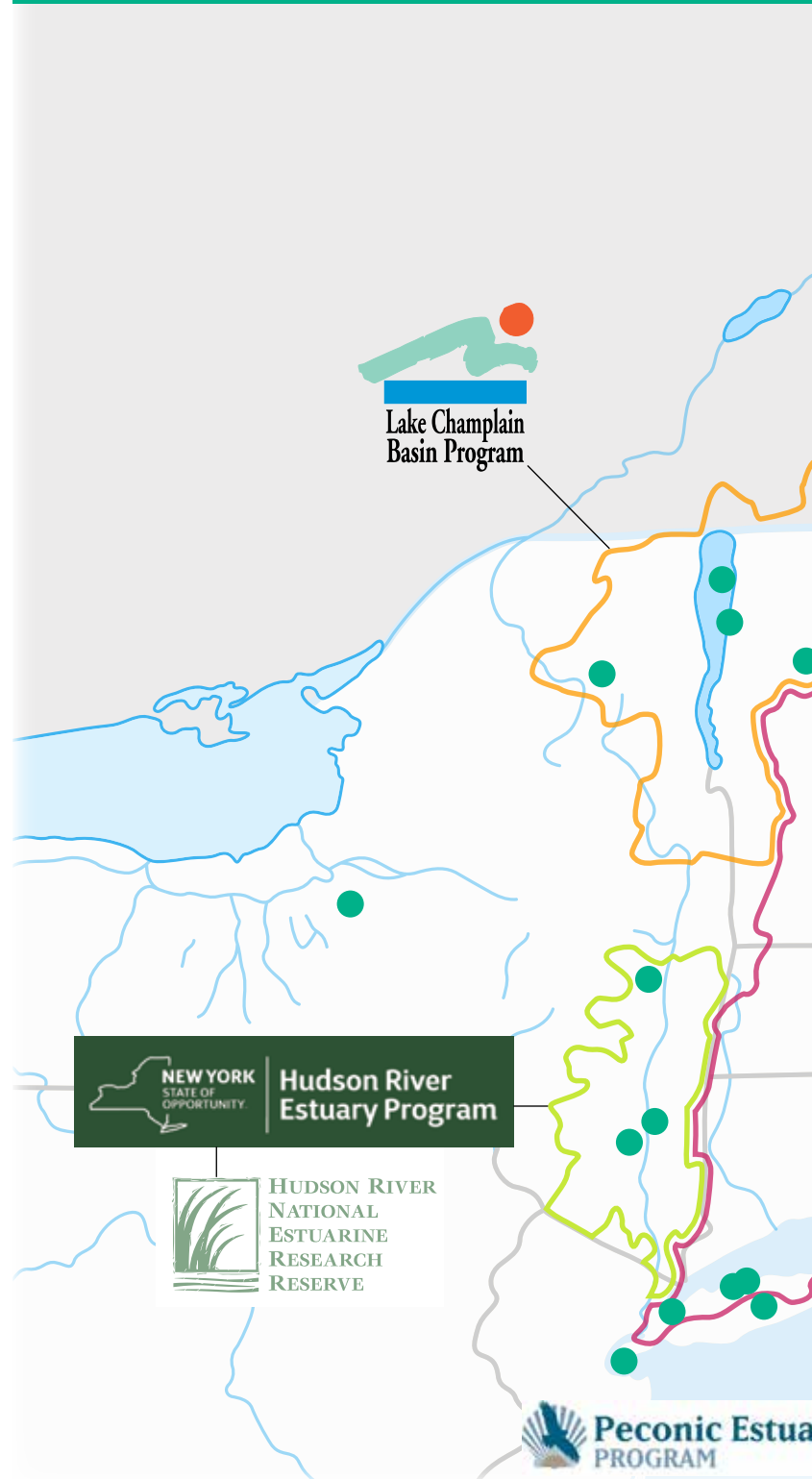
During the fiscal year, in addition to its outreach and monitoring work, PEP started work on a revised comprehensive conservation and management plan that is on track to be completed in early fiscal 2020.

Narragansett Bay

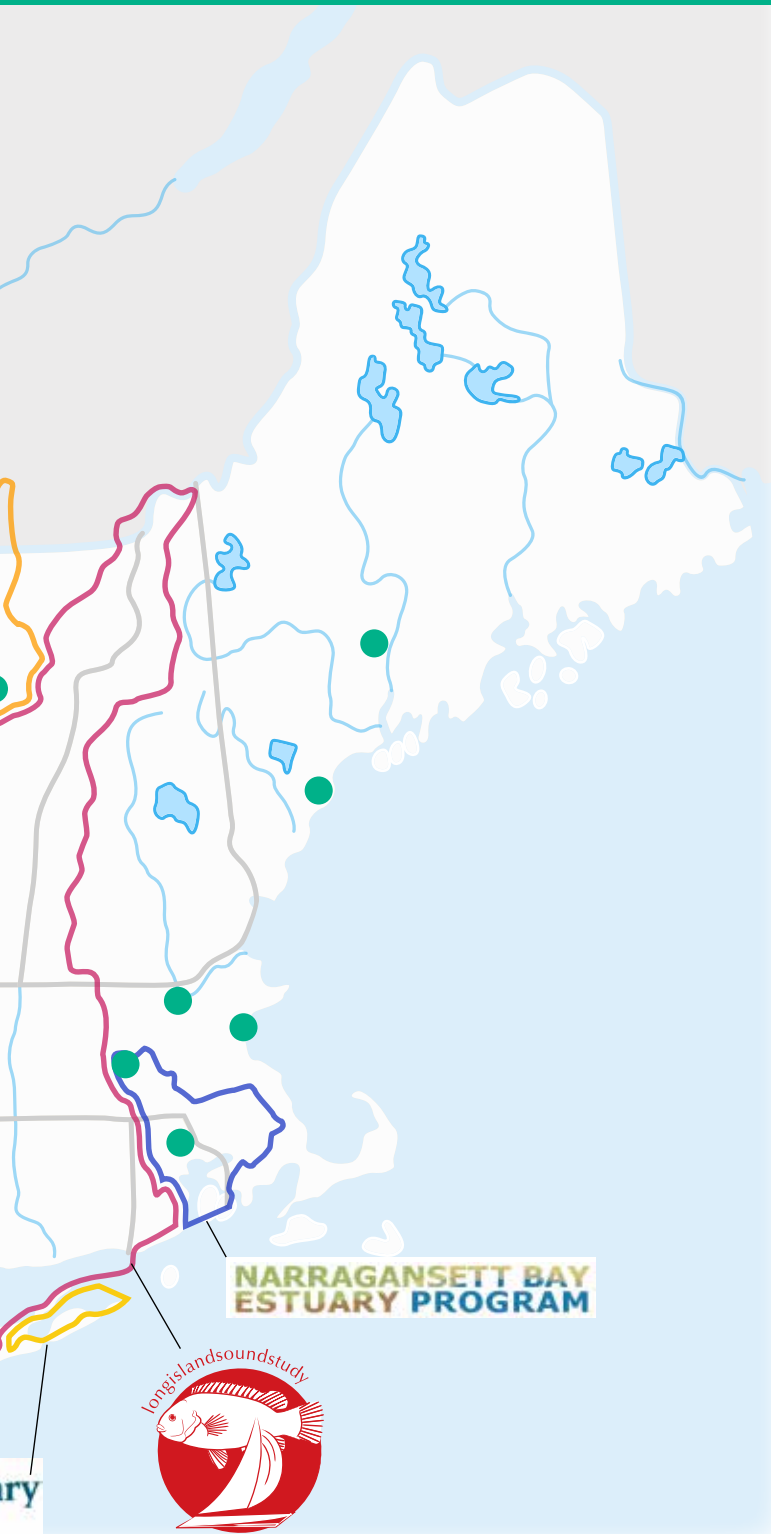
The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program started fiscal 2018 by releasing its comprehensive assessment of the health of the bi-state Narragansett Bay watershed (*October*). The 500-page study will inform research, monitoring, and public policy related to the bay for years to come. In response to research gaps identified in the report, NBEP awarded \$115,000 in four grants in fiscal 2018.

During the fiscal year, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program passed its program assessment by the EPA, which the agency requires every four years (*June*). The Narragansett program is one of twenty-eight recognized with national status.

Where We Work



e Serve



Our States

Connecticut

The Commission retained and oversaw the engineers who drafted Connecticut's *State Water Plan*, which the state began implementing in 2018. NEIWPCC has two staff members at the Long Island Sound Study in Stamford.

Maine

The Commission staffs Maine's wastewater training program in South Portland (two employees) and provides staff support for the state's Drinking Water Program in Augusta (five).

Massachusetts

The Commission runs Massachusetts's training and certification programs for wastewater operators and Title 5 soil evaluators and onsite system inspectors from its Lowell headquarters. Lowell is also the location of NEIWPCC's Youth and the Environment Program, and the entire headquarters staff of thirty-three. Four Commission staff members also work in state offices in Boston and one in Worcester.

New Hampshire

The Commission published a wetlands best management resource on behalf of New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services in September of 2018. *Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization* aims to streamline the permitting process for construction projects near wetlands.

New York

The Commission's presence in the Empire State includes program staff at the Long Island Sound Study, the Hudson River Estuary Program, and the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. NEIWPCC also provides independent environmental monitors in New York City and staff members working in various state programs and offices. All together in fiscal 2018 there were sixteen in Albany, two in East Setauket, six in Long Island City, six in New Paltz, one in Ray Brook affiliated with the Lake Champlain Basin Program, nine in Staatsburg, six in Staten Island, five in Stony Brook, one in Syracuse and two in Yaphank.

Rhode Island

In Rhode Island, NEIWPCC staffed the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program with five employees in fiscal 2018, and provided a NEIWPCC environmental analyst to the Department of Environmental Management, all in Providence.

Vermont

The Commission staffs the Lake Champlain Basin Program. In fiscal 2018, there were eleven seasonal boat-launch stewards and twelve employees in Grand Isle. There was one in Montpelier and two at the Resource Room at ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. The Resource Room welcomed 27,764 visitors in fiscal 2018.

Measuring Migrating Fish



In Southhampton, N.Y., where a dam is blocking the migration of alewife (river herring), the Peconic Estuary Program holds an outreach event for World Fish Migration Day. The event taught lessons about migrating fish and obstacles to their movement, and gathered data about the obstructed fish.

The program has plans for a natural fishway on that site.

Above, a retired fisheries biologist helps a fellow volunteer to measure a migrating alewife.

Tracking Nonpoint Sources

A presenter of the four-legged kind helps to illustrate how innovative approaches are curbing pollution during NEIWPCC's twenty-ninth Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference.

Sewage sniffing dogs are complementing efforts to seek out and eliminate illicit discharges in stormwater systems in Vermont. Other presentation topics include planning and funding for long-term watershed management, riparian buffers, and green infrastructure.

The conference, hosted by NEIWPCC and New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, and supported by EPA Region 2, is held in Glens Falls, New York, April 25–26.



A NEIWPCC member of the Long Island Sound Study staff joins with others to encourage homeowners to use less fertilizer. They canvassed neighborhoods near the Niantic River in Connecticut as part of a larger nitrogen-reduction strategy for the watershed.



Hudson



Annual report, LCBP.



PEP LCBP



Hudson



Water Quality



Training



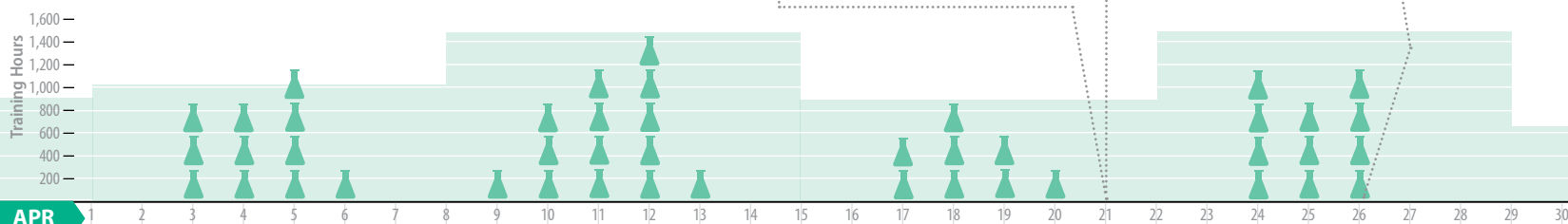
IWR



Hudson



Nonpoint Source



Soils Training

Twice a year in Massachusetts, NEIWPCC coordinates and facilitates an eight-session soil evaluator certification course and a two-session system inspector certification course. These courses train engineers, designers, local Boards of Health members, and others to make decisions regarding decentralized wastewater treatment (i.e. septic) systems in accordance with Title 5 of Massachusetts law.

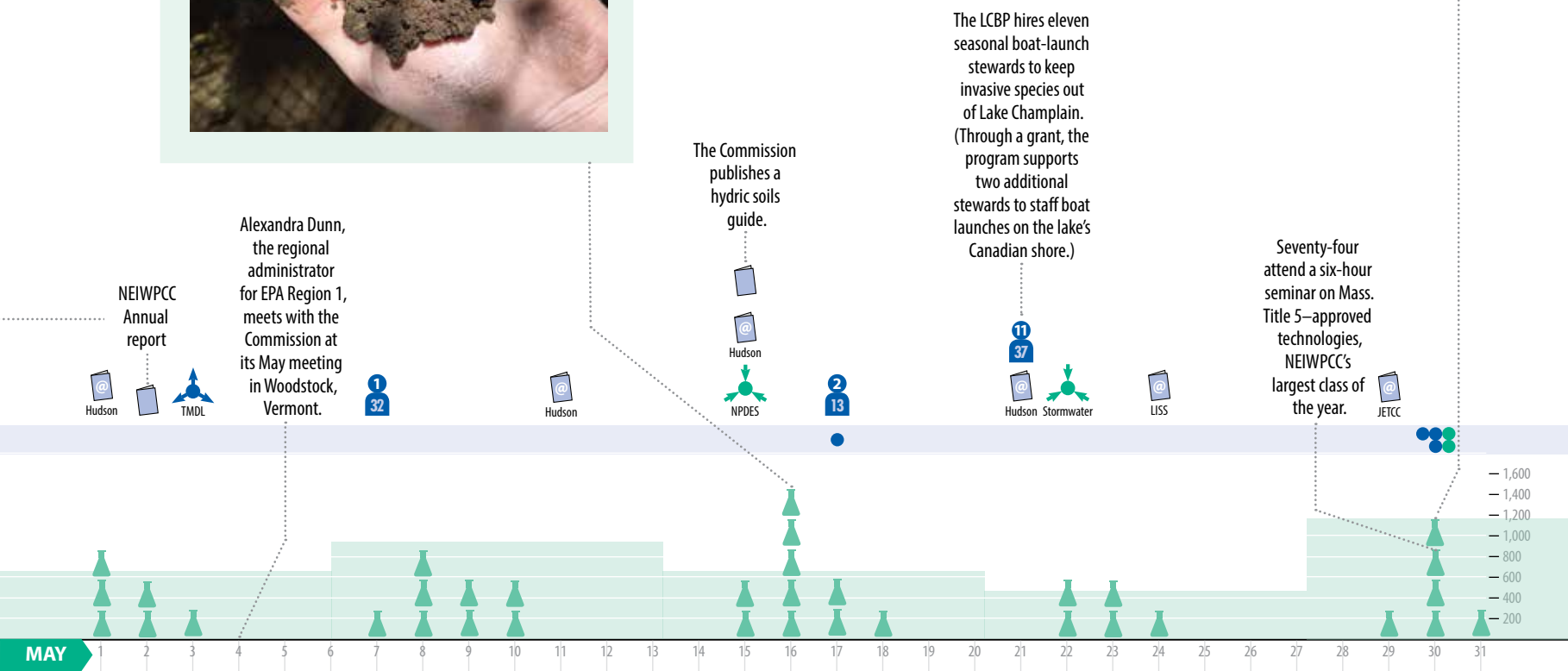
In fiscal 2018, NEIWPCC provided classes, seminars, field sessions, and examination days towards Title 5 training for 306 individuals.



The FOG of Wastewater

Twenty-one wastewater students attend NEIWPCC's workshop, "What You Need to Know about FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)." These substances are known as a wastewater plant collection system's worst enemies, but have also been identified as an energy-rich resource.

The class, in Lowell on May 30, focuses on effective pretreatment at the source; different types of grease interceptors and the plumbing codes governing their sizing, selection, and installation; and the operation and maintenance of grease interceptors.

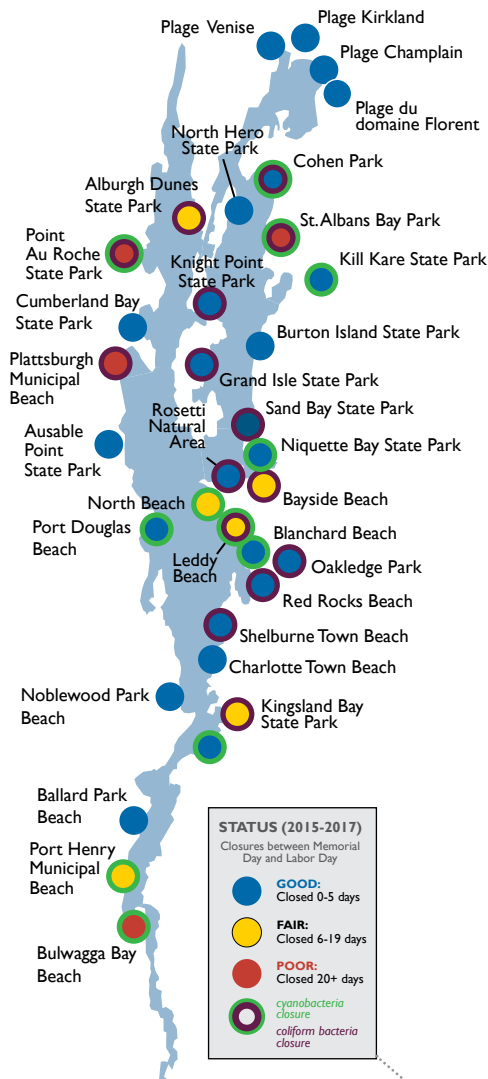


State of Champlain

"Never before has there been so much support from lake users, resource managers, and government entities to improve Lake Champlain and its watershed."

That is the upbeat introduction to the 2018 *State of the Lake* report from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The thirty-two-page report describes Lake Champlain in terms of the four main goals of the Basin Program's strategic plan, *Opportunities for Action*, as follows: clean water, healthy ecosystems, thriving communities, and an informed and involved public.

The Basin Program assesses the state of the lake every three years.



The June 11 issue of the *Hudson Rivernet* introduces an online map of the Hudson Valley that incorporates more than thirty geographical datasets, which pertain to watersheds, wetlands, biodiversity, and more.

At 2:06 AM—high tide—two Peconic Estuary Program interns search for horseshoe crabs on a beach in Hampton Bays, N.Y. They count and tag the organisms on twelve summer nights, sometimes with volunteers. It is part of a larger effort to monitor the species, which is threatened by coastal development.

Narragansett Accreditation

With flying colors, the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program passed its comprehensive accreditation as a national estuary program in 2018. Below: a scene from the June 19 site visit from the accrediting team, which includes regional and national EPA officials and the director of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership. Narragansett was last accredited in 2014.



The Hudson River Foundation ran an aquatic-trash assessment and collection campaign, one of seven funded with an EPA grant that NEIWPCC administered. The grant ended on June 30.

Many projects must end exactly three months before the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

NPDES permit-writing course, Lowell.



Training Hours

JUNE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Youth and the Environment



Directly out of NEIWPCC's headquarters in Lowell, NEIWPCC hosted the Youth and the Environment Program for the twenty-seventh year. This summer, four disadvantaged youths spent six weeks working at the Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility, learning about various environmental topics, and going on environmental field trips. NEIWPCC administers the grant for a similar program in New York City.

Don't Trash the Sound

"Protect our wildlife: break the single-use plastic habit."

That was the rallying cry for a plastic-trash-reduction campaign that engaged thousands of people in New York and Connecticut in the summer of 2018. NEIWPCC staff members and others at the Long Island Sound Study delivered the message, primarily through social media.

Each year, LISS's Public Involvement and Education Work Group chooses an outreach campaign that will engage the public in the work LISS does to protect the Sound.



Twenty-three wastewater management candidates in the Maine Management Candidate School attend a class in engineering basics and blueprint reading. It is one of eleven management classes held throughout the year at the Portland Water District.



Sound Update highlights clean water, habitat restoration, education, and science projects from Connecticut and New York.



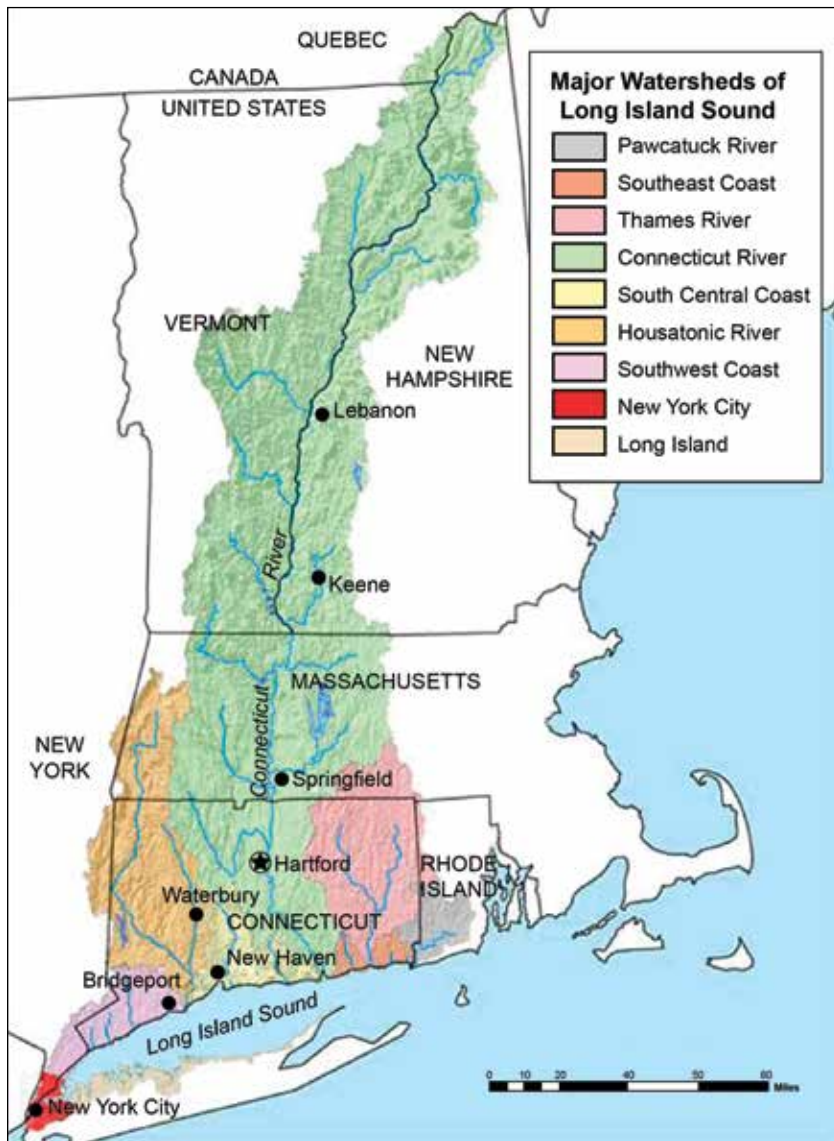
Throughout the summer, Maine Management School participants job shadow with wastewater-treatment-plant leaders across Maine.



NEIWPCC hires an environmental analyst to the Wastewater and Onsite Systems Division. The Commission staff reviewed ninety-four applications, and interviewed five candidates, to make this hiring decision.



— 1,600
— 1,400
— 1,200
— 1,000
— 800
— 600
— 400
— 200



Protecting Long Island Sound

The Commission plays host to a forum where New York and Connecticut officials meet with their Upper Connecticut River Basin counterparts to discuss Long Island Sound.

The August 2 meeting is the first high-level regional discussion of Long Island Sound and its watersheds since early 2015.

Nonpoint sources of nitrogen are emerging as key targets in the long-term effort to reduce nutrient pollution in the Long Island Sound watershed. This phase may reach well into the upper Connecticut River basin in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

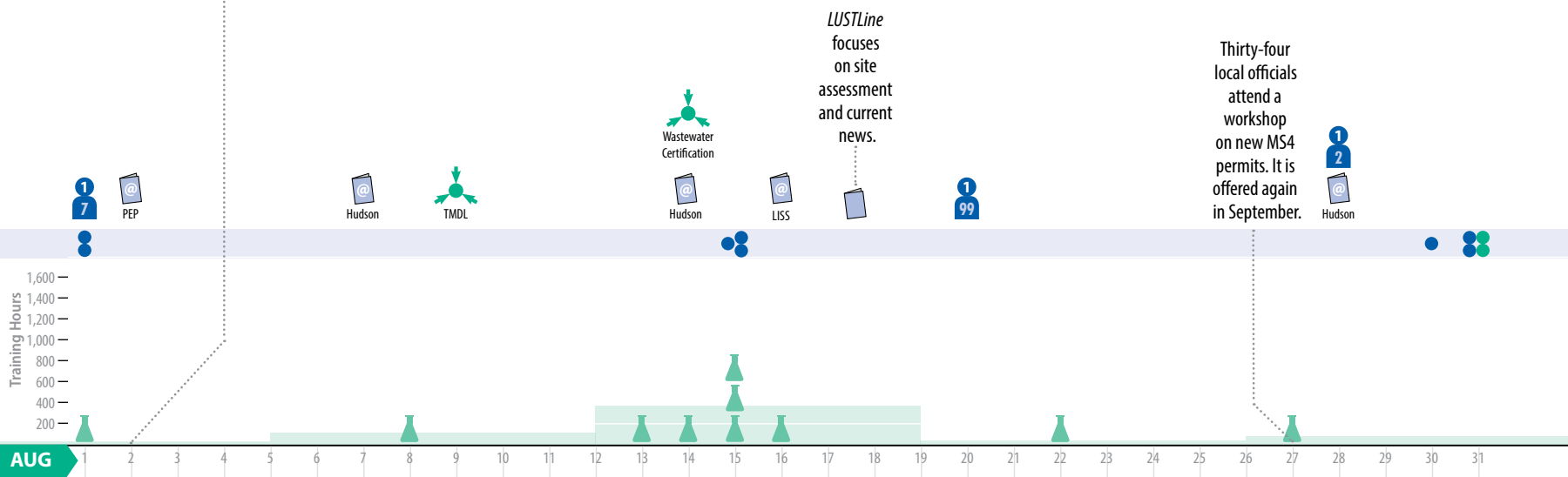
Ending Well

The Commission's six-year mission to support the Interstate Environmental Commission ends happily on September 9 after that group reorganized and tuned its mission on behalf of the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.

Since 2012, NEIWPCC had co-managed the IEC, including its grants and payroll.



16





Estuary Day

Hundreds of Long Islanders attend the September 15 Estuary Day at the Seatuck Environmental Association in Islip, N.Y. Attendees learn about what they can do to help reduce nitrogen in Long Island's waters and participate in a local beach cleanup at the Islip Town Beach.

The event is a first for NEIWPCC program partners Long Island Sound Study and Peconic Estuary Program. The two organizations teamed up with the South Shore Estuary Reserve to host this inaugural event kicking off National Estuaries Week.

September 30

AS FISCAL 2018 DREW to a close, planning was complete for a daylong workshop about the Taunton River watershed that would be held the next day in Fall River, Mass.

In New York, teachers and organizers were gearing up for the annual Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor.

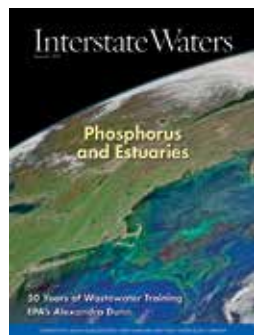
The Commission was seeking to fill four staff positions, for which it would receive 304 applications.

National Tanks Conference

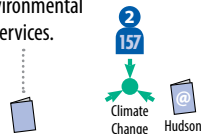
More than 750 UST professionals from around the country and beyond make the most of the National Tanks Conference in Louisville September 11–13. It is the first Tanks conference since 2015.

The Commission has coordinated the National Tanks Conference for the EPA for more than a decade.

750



The Commission publishes *Wetlands BMP Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization* with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.



The fishhook waterflea, an invasive aquatic species, is confirmed in Lake Champlain. It is the lake's fifty-first confirmed non-native species.



LCBP announces \$890,000 for local projects.



At its fall meeting, the Commission reviews and approves the organization's fiscal 2019 operating budget and the work plan for Clean Water Act funds, and elects officers.

— 1,600
— 1,400
— 1,200
— 1,000
— 800
— 600
— 400
— 200

Every year we are pleased to recognize staff members who have been with us for multiples of five years. These individuals stand in for the entire talented and hard-working Commission staff. I am so grateful and glad to work with all of them.



Twenty-five years ago, NEIWPCC hired Kathleen Jarvis and Colleen Hickey to work at the newly minted Lake Champlain Basin Program. At that time, the Commission staff was less than one fifth its current size, and our environmental training program for the entire region was still centered on a physical campus in South Portland. Zebra mussels, an invasive mollusk, were found in Lake Champlain for the first time in that year.

Ten years later, when we hired Yassir Soffan, Robert Burg, Laura Hollowell, Stephanie Larkin, and Meg Modley Gilbertson, the Commission had grown into something resembling its current scope and size. In that year, 2003, the region had endured a prolonged drought that pushed water-supply issues to the fore—and NEIWPCC had a (growing) website.

It was “just” five years ago that we hired Myra Lawyer, Maude Salinger, and Victoria O’Neill. A list of pressing challenges from that year is familiar: stormwater runoff, aquatic invasive species, bioaccumulation of toxins, depletion of aquifers, pollutants of emerging concern, and climate change.

Throughout this period of growth, change, and adaptation to physical and political realities, the Commission has performed important work thanks to the dedication, skill, and professionalism of its terrific staff.

It is a privilege to work with them in service to the states, the region, and the public.

Susan Sullivan
NEIWPCC Executive Director

The Commission Staff

All in a Year’s Work

Ten NEIWPCC staff members from across the Northeast reached significant milestones in fiscal 2018. Five describe a significant personal contribution to NEIWPCC.

I’ve been assisting “behind the scenes” for twenty-five years. No two days are ever alike. Between the staff and the interesting work we do, it’s been fun to interact with so many different people in federal, state and local governments, watershed groups, and grantees, answering any questions they may have.

—Kathy Jarvis, LCBP, 25 years

My most important personal contribution was the completion of the Beaver Lake Fish Passage Project. The fishway, a thirty-foot-long metal structure that resembles a ladder, allows migratory fish, alewife and blueback herring, traveling from the ocean to bypass the dam and enter their freshwater spawning grounds in Beaver Brook during the spring spawning season.

—Victoria O’Neill, LISS, 5 years

My finest contribution this past year was doing what I was hired to do fifteen years ago: work in the Resource Room. The view of the lake is breathtaking, the guests inquisitive and caring, and the opportunities for education and outreach feel endless.

—Stephanie Larkin, LCBP, 15 years

[As a communications specialist,] I usually reach out to the public by print, on our website/social media, and at meetings and events. It was a great pleasure this spring and summer to meet with people at their homes and learn first-hand what they think about Long Island Sound, and how much they care about protecting their local watershed and the sound.

—Robert Burg, LISS, 15 years

One of the things I like best about my job is the opportunity to network with many partners as I work with the farming community to improve stewardship practices.

—Myra Lawyer, LCBP, 5 years



Annual Achievement Award

Heather Radcliffe,
Water Quality Division, Staff Attorney

Heather Radcliffe was “a guiding force” at the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program during the transition to a new program director last year.

Above and Beyond Award

Susan Bailey, Shelly Clark,
Michelle Jenkins, Eleni Kavvadias

Human Resources Snapshot

In fiscal 2018, NEIWPCC’s Human Resources Division evaluated **1,788** applications and conducted **154** interviews.

The HR staff then managed the hiring of **36** new employees, who were welcomed at **16** orientations.

Operations

Financial Highlights

The assets of the Commission exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$4,194,812. The total net position increased by \$194,299 for the year that ended September 30, 2018.

Fiscal 2018 was a relatively good year financially for the Commission, with total revenue exceeding total operating expenses.

An independent audit of the Commission's annual financial statements is conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Linda Agostinelli, CPA
NEIWPCC Comptroller

NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

Year Ended September 30, 2018

Revenue

Federal Grants	\$8,248,355
Member State Support	156,493
Member State Support-IEC	59,933
State Contracts	3,300,657
Training	731,426
Interest Income	20,203
Donated Services	947,690
Other Income	143,120
Other Contracts	2,325,778
MA/ME License Renewal Fees	388,570
MA/ME Certification Exam Fees	26,740

Total Revenue 16,348,965

Operating Expenditures 16,167,525

Investment Income

Change in Net Assets \$194,299

Agreements by the Numbers

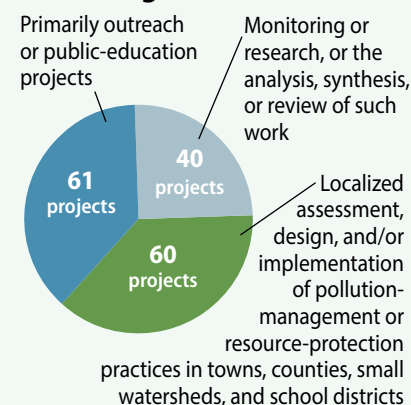
The Commission's staff oversaw **161** contracts, memorandums of agreement, and subawards in fiscal 2018 related directly to specialized research, monitoring, assessment, outreach, and other tasks to assist NEIWPCC in achieving its goals.

The **109** different organizations that worked on these projects included 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 that the Commission coordinated.

The projects total **\$7,529,512** over their multi-year lives.

Program Contracts



Most Contracts Span Multiple Years

99 ongoing projects ended in fiscal 2018. **26** projects began during the year and continued past the year's end. **4** began and ended last year. **32** both began before and continued after fiscal 2018.

A Broad Portfolio

59 projects addressed stormwater, flooding, or erosion. **57** included work on the management of nutrients or other nonpoint source pollutants. **13** related to agriculture. **17** projects tackled aquatic invasive species. **28** had a habitat-protection component.

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

This annual report is a product of the
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All photos and graphics are by NEIWPCC except as noted. The photo of Douglas Fine on page 2 is from MassDEP. On 4, the photo is by Kristin Marcell and the map is from the *State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed*. The tree-planting photo on 5 is from the Town of Plainfield, Vt. On 8, the fish-passage photo is by Byron Young; the other is from Cafeteria Culture. Chris Bowser took the photo on page 9. The map on pages 10 and 11 is by Taylor Design. The photos at left and right on 12 are courtesy of PEP and Environmental Canine Services, respectively. The map on 14 is from the *2018 State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report*. The group shot on page 15 is by Jin-Bok McGowan and the sticker art is courtesy of LISS. The map on page 16 is from the U.S. Geological Survey. On page 17, the photo is by NYSDEC and the microphotograph of the fishhook waterflea is by J. Liebig, NOAA. The back cover was rendered by Tim Newcomb with photos by Nitr/Shutterstock.com.

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



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