



NEIWPCC
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
FY 2022



NEIWPCC [NŪ-Ē-PĪK]
is a regional commission
that helps the states of the
Northeast preserve and
advance water quality.

Vision

Clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

Values

Leadership • Collaboration • Education • Service • Science

Water Program Priorities

- Contaminants of emerging concern
- Watershed planning and waterbody protection
- Infrastructure and State Revolving Fund
- Clean Water Act modernization
- Training and certification for environmental professionals

LEADERSHIP

October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

Executive Director

Susan J. Sullivan, Lowell, Massachusetts

Division Directors

Mary Berner, Human Resources • **Richard Friesner**, Water Quality • **Amy Magin**, Communications and Outreach
Heather Radcliffe, Water Resource Protection • **Christina Stringer**, Wastewater and Onsite Systems
Samantha Thompson, Business Operations • **Lucia Walker**, Financial

Our Commissioners

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

Connecticut

Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms. Dykes: **Jennifer Perry**, Water Planning and Management

Manisha Juthani, Department of Public Health Commissioner

Representing Ms. Juthani: **Lori Mathieu**, Drinking Water Section

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

Maine

Melanie Loyzim, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms. Loyzim: **Brian Kavanah**, Bureau of Water Quality

Jeanne Lambrew, Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner

Representing Ms. Lambrew: **Michael Abbott**, Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Brian Tarbuck**, **Stacy Thompson**, **David Van Slyke**

Massachusetts

Martin Suuberg, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Mr. Suuberg: **Kathleen Baskin**, Bureau of Water Resources

Margret R. Cooke, Department of Public Health Commissioner

Representing Ms. Cooke: **Jan Sullivan**, Bureau of Environmental Health

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

New Hampshire

Robert R. Scott, Department of Environmental Services Commissioner

Representing Mr. Scott: **Rene Pelletier**, Water Division

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Thomas Ballesterro**, **Frederick McNeill**, **Robert Varney**

New York

Basil Seggos, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner

Representing Mr. Seggos: **Carol Lamb-LaFay**, Division of Water (acting)

Mary Bassett, Department of Health Commissioner

Representing Ms. Bassett: **Daniel Lang**, Center for Environmental Health

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

Rhode Island

Terrance Gray, Department of Environmental Management Director (acting)

Representing Mr. Gray: **Sue Kiernan**, Office of Water Resources

Utpala Bandy, Department of Health Director (acting)

Representing Ms. Bandy: **Amy Parmenter**, Office of Drinking Water Quality

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Janine Burke-Wells**, **James Kelly**, **Angelo Liberti**

Vermont

John Beling, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner

Representing Mr. Beling: **Peter LaFlamme**, Watershed Management Division

Mark Levine, Department of Health Commissioner

Representing Mr. Levine: **Lori Cragin**, Environmental Health Division

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

Commissioners as of September 30, 2022.

FROM THE CHAIR



From its beginnings in 1947, NEIWPCC has been an important and dependable asset to its member states. NEIWPCC's impact in helping the Northeast advance clean water is truly impressive and there is no better time to reflect on that than as we commemorate its 75th anniversary.

NEIWPCC brings together seven separate states to address complex challenges, providing a cohesive and coordinated regional approach to the issue at hand. One of the most pressing examples of this is in biosolids management, as our states are faced with the problem of how to dispose of PFAS-contaminated sludge.

The Executive Committee and Commission meetings allow for the heads of the water division in each state to discuss our individual challenges and to collaborate on solutions.

The number of offices throughout the Northeast containing NEIWPCC staff has also been a benefit to the states. Whether it be Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound or the Hudson River, there are staff members available to take on projects throughout the region. NEIWPCC's reach has greatly increased the amount of work state agencies and other organizations are able to get done in a single year.

As a collaborative organization, NEIWPCC has also effectively brought together relevant staff from across New England and New York to discuss and strategize about pressing water issues and opportunities. NEIWPCC's 22 workgroups provide the opportunity for staff from state and federal agencies to meet with colleagues to discuss the ongoing trends and issues in the field. These workgroups focus on some of the most critical topics such as contaminants of emerging concern, wetlands and groundwater and source water protection.

Throughout my career in a state regulatory agency, I have seen countless examples of how we depend on the folks at NEIWPCC and the value and importance they bring to our work. I am grateful for the work that they do, which is critical to our combined success in our shared mission of improving water quality throughout the Northeast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter LaFlamme". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Peter LaFlamme, Chair



WHERE WE SERVE

NEIWPCC works throughout New England and New York in collaboration with state environmental agencies, our program partners and the EPA. We provide funding, staff and other support for clean water projects in the region. NEIWPCC headquarters are based in Lowell, Massachusetts, with a satellite office in South Portland, Maine.

The **Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP)** and the **Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR)** collaborate to protect the estuary and its watershed.

The **Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)** 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 **Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP)** is a multiyear initiative with the goal of reducing nitrogen in the Sound's surface, coastal and groundwaters.

The **Long Island Sound Study (LISS)** and its local and state partners protect and improve the health of Long Island Sound.

The **Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Drinking Water Program** provides guidance for schools and daycares that must test for lead and copper in their drinking water.

The **Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC)** provides training for wastewater and drinking-water operators in Maine.



The **New York City Combined Sewer Overflow Monitoring Program** monitors and reviews efforts to comply with requirements of the city's Amended Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Order.

NEIWPCC supports the **New York City Department of Environmental Protection** by administering its Capital Replacement and Regulatory Upgrades Program, the purpose of which is to protect the city's water supply and its sources from contamination, degradation and pollution.

The **New York Source Water Assessment and Protection Program** is a joint initiative between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Department of Health (NYSDOH) to protect public water sources and surrounding environments throughout New York..

The **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water** provides various programs that track the quality of waterbodies, identify and investigate sources of pollution, and develop strategies to address water quality threats.

NEIWPCC also coordinates with the **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management** water monitoring programs to access the health of the state's lakes, rivers and streams.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As NEIWPCC wraps up its year-long celebration commemorating our 75th anniversary, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon our accomplishments. I joined NEIWPCC in 1987 alongside six staff members sharing a tiny office in Boston. Now, 139 employees strong, NEIWPCC has staff working in over 21 locations across the Northeast.

NEIWPCC was established in 1947 by an act of Congress as a way to address the ongoing pollutants flowing into the lakes, rivers and bays. Since then, NEIWPCC has remained a leader for clean water in the Northeast, helping our seven member states preserve and advance water quality.

One of the most monumental moments in NEIWPCC's history was the passing of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1972. The landmark amendment transformed the nation's waterways by requiring states to set and enforce clean water standards. This year marked not only our own anniversary, but also the 50th anniversary of the CWA. We commemorated both occasions with a series of multimedia content including print publications, videos and a timeline that shared NEIWPCC's history and the expertise of our staff and commissioners.

The year 2020 was also a historic year for NEIWPCC — in addition to being fresh into the new rebrand, the organization was pushed into the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff abruptly transitioned to working remotely and we held trainings, conferences and workgroups virtually. This year, we finally began to return to our pre-pandemic self — we held four in-person conferences, 14 in-person wastewater trainings and our staff began moving back into the office.

Over the past 75 years, NEIWPCC has made an incredible impact on clean water in the Northeast, and we will continue to do so as we move on to a new set of challenges: per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), revitalizing the CWA, updating infrastructure and maintaining a State Revolving Fund, training wastewater operators and protecting waterbodies.

It has truly been a pleasure to be a part of NEIWPCC's growth throughout the years and I am grateful for every staff member who contributed to our success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Susan J. Sullivan, Executive Director

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ADVANCING CLEAN WATER

In 2022, NEIWPCC celebrated its 75th anniversary and the 50th year of the Clean Water Act (CWA), producing a variety of multimedia content highlighting achievements and successes through the decades.

In a series of essays and videos, NEIWPCC's leadership shared reflections, experiences and perspectives. Topics included the need to modernize the CWA to meet the challenges of the present day, the ever-changing definition of the waters of the United States, and addressing emerging contaminants. NEIWPCC also created a digital timeline highlighting specific

milestones, and significant national and regional environmental events and legislation.

The governors of four member states – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont – issued proclamations offering congratulations in recognition of NEIWPCC's mission and accomplishments.

Staff also gathered to mark this watershed moment during the annual all-staff meeting in Massachusetts. Executive Director Susan Sullivan led a session exploring the rich history of NEIWPCC and a panel of commissioners shared their reflections on the changing water industry.



CLEAN WATER MILESTONES

1947 – On July 31, NEIWPCC is established by an act of Congress.

1950 – NEIWPCC receives its first federal research grant to fund a study of industrial waste problems in the region.

1965 – The Water Quality Act charges states with setting water quality standards for interstate navigable waters.

1968 – NEIWPCC holds its first wastewater training program with operators from all six New England states attending.

1970 – The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is established with the mission “to protect human health by safeguarding the air we breathe, water we drink and land on which we live.”

1972 – The landmark Clean Water Act, amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, transforms U.S. waterways by requiring states to set clean water standards to protect uses such as swimming and fishing, and establishes the basic structure for regulating pollution discharges.

1974 – The Safe Drinking Water Act is passed, ensuring the quality of America’s drinking water.

1985 – The Long Island Sound Study is established and NEIWPCC manages Maine’s newly formed Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee.

1990 – The Lake Champlain Basin Program is established to restore and protect the lake’s water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation and cultural resources.

1999 – Partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program and NEIWPCC begins.

2005 – NEIWPCC begins coordinating wastewater operator training, certification exams and renewals for the environmental professionals based out of Massachusetts.

2020 – NEIWPCC undergoes a rebranding process and develops a strategic plan outlining its mission, vision and values.

CONNECTIONS

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.



Wetlands Workgroup

NEIWPCC's Wetlands Workgroup provides an opportunity for wetlands staff from the seven member states, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss and coordinate a response to changing wetland regulations. This year, the workgroup submitted a comment letter about the proposed CWA 401 Certification Rule and monitored updates to the waters of the United States (WOTUS) ruling.

Workgroups and Collaboratives

NEIWPCC hosts more than 20 different workgroups and collaboratives to improve regional collaboration and state-federal engagement on critical topics related to water.

- Chlorides collaborative
- Emerging contaminants
- Harmful algal blooms
- Long Island Sound nitrogen coordination
- National pollutant discharge elimination system
- New England biological assessment of wetlands
- Nonpoint source pollution
- Northeast aquatic biologists
- Onsite wastewater
- Source water protection
- Stormwater
- Total maximum daily load
- Tracking and accounting collaborative
- Training advisory committee
- Underground storage tanks
- Underground storage tanks tribal workgroup
- Volunteer monitoring
- Wastewater residuals
- Wastewater training and certification
- Water quality standards
- Water resource adaptation and climate change
- Wetlands

Long Island Sound Nitrogen Coordination Workgroup

The Long Island Sound's Nitrogen Coordination Workgroup has participants from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In the Sound, excess nitrogen results in low dissolved oxygen levels, causing harm to ecosystems and contributing to algal blooms. The workgroup presents an opportunity for staff from different states to coordinate ongoing nitrogen reduction efforts.



Underground Storage Tanks Tribal Workgroup

The Underground Storage Tanks Tribal Workgroup was established in 2021 as a network for professionals focused on tank-related issues within federally recognized tribal lands. The group meets regularly to provide input on training and resources for personnel representing tribes and owners/operators.

NEIWPCC Hosts Four Conferences

In March, the annual **Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference** returned to an in-person format after being held virtually last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 100 people in attendance. Participants attended sessions on topics such as aquatic invasive species, climate change and fish monitoring.



At the **32nd Annual Nonpoint Source Conference**, 110 attendees participated in sessions with themes ranging from environmental justice, modernizing water quality and adapting to climate change.

NEIWPCC hosted the **National State Revolving Fund Workshop** where 75 attendees heard from experts on topics including nonpoint source pollution, environmental justice and source water protection. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the recently upgraded Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



In September, 600 people from around the country gathered at NEIWPCC's largest event of the year, the biannual **National Tanks Conference** in Pittsburgh. Panels were divided into four main categories: release prevention, release cleanup, funding and cross-program issues. The conference sparked discussion of how to transfer industry knowledge to younger staff as veteran employees begin to retire. Other topics included aging infrastructure, supply chain shortages and natural disasters.

Lake Champlain Research Symposium

In May, the two-day Lake Champlain Research Symposium brought together 220 researchers, stakeholders and members of the public to learn about current research efforts on Lake Champlain. Attendees gathered from across Lake Champlain's watershed area, including Vermont, Québec and New York. Breakout sessions offered participants the opportunity to dive into topics like aquatic invasive species, floodplains and community action efforts.

Long Island Sound Study Bioextraction Symposium

The Long Island Sound Study Seaweed Bioextraction Symposium was held virtually in May as a way for experts to share and discuss information regarding the future of bioextraction in the Sound. The symposium focused on nutrient bioextraction projects in which shellfish and seaweed are grown and harvested for the purpose of removing nitrogen and other nutrients from the water. Environmental professionals joined from across the country and internationally to participate in sessions on current bioextraction research, uses for bioextracted materials, seaweed regulations and ongoing economic projects in the Sound.



Partnerships in Action

The **Lake Champlain Basin Program** updated “Opportunities for Action,” the management plan for the Lake Champlain basin. The plan lays out objectives and strategies to address four primary goals: clean water, healthy ecosystems, thriving communities, and an informed and involved public.

NEIWPCC prepared an agreement for the **Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership’s** fiscal year 2023 workplan and budget, which includes a total of 19 grant projects. Some of the projects that took place in 2022 included exhibits marking the 50th anniversary of the CWA, as well as a continuation of the Women’s Suffrage Centennial celebration.

NEIWPCC staff contributed to the Hudson River Action Agenda 2021-2025, which guides the **Hudson River Estuary Program**. After being updated the previous fiscal year, the Action Agenda was given final approval during the first quarter of fiscal 2022. The agenda places a larger focus on environmental justice and climate resiliency, which is achieved through collaboration with partner organizations. HREP helps support these organizations through education and training; technical assistance and grants; and research, monitoring and mapping.

The **New York State’s Source Water Assessment and Protection Program** conducted outreach to high priority communities to increase participation in the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The objective of DWSP2 is to ensure communities retain access to a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. Since its 2021 launch, DWSP2 aided 65 municipalities in the state of New York to create plans to protect their drinking water sources. Participating communities are given assistance in updating their source water maps, assessing sources of contaminants, and identifying and implementing actionable strategies to protect their drinking water.

NEIWPCC supported the **Long Island Sound Study’s** programmatic workgroups, which include Climate Change and Sentinel Monitoring, as well as Habitat Restoration and Stewardship. Additionally, staff members worked with an outside vendor to create a new Communications, Outreach and Engagement Plan, which will improve collaboration between internal and external stakeholders.

The **Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee** is based out of NEIWPCC’s satellite office in South Portland, Maine. JETCC coordinates the training of Maine’s environmental professionals, targeting wastewater treatment plant and drinking water operators. Throughout the year, staff members sent out bi-weekly training eblasts to all seven member states, held virtual and in-person trainings and hosted JETCC board meetings.



TRAINING

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

Wastewater Training

For more than 50 years, NEIWPCC has hosted trainings for wastewater operators. Basic, intermediate and advanced courses are offered to provide continuing education credits, or training contact hours to prepare them for certification exams. Classes cover all aspects of the job, from wastewater treatment chemistry and microbiology, to equipment safety and lab procedures.

The Lowell training team administers the regional and Massachusetts training programs, while the South Portland team runs the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, which also trains drinking water professionals. NEIWPCC primarily offered remote, online courses in fiscal 2022, although 14 classes were held in-person and one course was offered as an online self-paced option.

Operator Certification

NEIWPCC staff also administer the wastewater operator certification programs for Maine and Massachusetts in contract with those states' environmental protection departments. In 2022, NEIWPCC renewed certification for 3,775 operators, issued 344 new licenses and granted nine state reciprocities in Massachusetts. In Maine, NEIWPCC renewed certification for 278 operators, issued 42 new certificates and granted seven state reciprocities.



Training Breakdown:

Courses offered: 148
Total training contact hours (TCHs)
Awarded: 13,100

TCHs Offered to Operators by State:

Massachusetts: 531.5
Maine: 427
Connecticut: 541
New Hampshire: 421
New York: 427
Rhode Island: 421
Vermont: 421

Number of Attendees by State:

Massachusetts: 1,833
Maine: 737
Connecticut: 345
New Hampshire: 84
New York: 52
Rhode Island: 83
Vermont: 10
Other: 16

PROTECTION

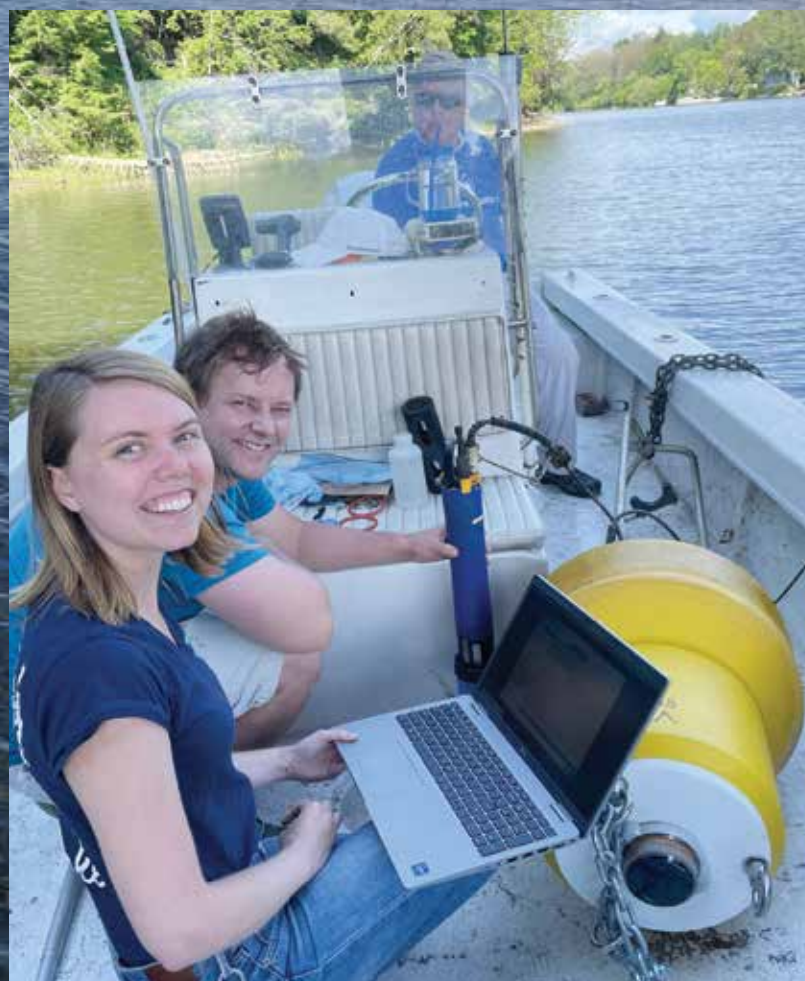
We conduct research into water-related topics, monitor environmental factors and fund such work by others. We also implement and fund environmental restoration and other on-the-ground projects.

In fiscal 2022, NEIWPCC executed 125 new agreements to fund research, monitoring, assessment, outreach and other environmental initiatives totaling more than \$5.9 million.

NEIWPCC administered 106 project contracts on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, amounting to more than \$4.7 million. Of these, more than a dozen projects involved the management and prevention of aquatic invasive species (AIS) – non-native plants, animals or organisms that can be harmful to human health, the environment and the economy. AIS can decrease biodiversity, degrade water quality and habitat health, and disrupt the local food web.

LCBP also ran the seasonal boat launch steward program. In this project, the stewards are trained to deliver interpretative invasive species spread prevention messaging to boaters on Lake Champlain, while also inspecting and decontaminating watercraft. This year, 13 stewards engaged with over 16,000 boaters at public launches.

Another NEIWPCC grant funds the development of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, or LINAP. The goal of LINAP is to reduce levels of nitrogen in the surface and ground waters around Long Island through identifying sources of nitrogen and establishing reduction strategies. A NEIWPCC staff member was hired to lead LINAP, and several staff members are contributing to the planning and next steps for the project.



Research

A Medical Questionnaire for Streams: Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)

Staff members from NEIWPCC and the Southeastern New England Program developed a new tool to help assess stream health. The index of biotic integrity (IBI) uses a stream's fish, benthic macroinvertebrates or algae populations to determine water quality and identify environmental stressors. Water quality samples were collected at 50 stream locations. The data was then analyzed to develop an index which ranks streams on a scale of "natural" to "severely degraded." The IBI can be used to evaluate low-gradient stream sites across coastal areas of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Two interactive StoryMaps were also created to explain the new resource.



Chlorides and Road Salt Pollution

In partnership with the EPA, NEIWPCC created a Chloride Resources Clearinghouse. This searchable database, housed on the NEIWPCC website, compiles resources on related topics including chloride reduction, winter maintenance and residential salt usage guidelines. NEIWPCC also hosted a chlorides collaborative group to help member states address chloride contamination in drinking water and surface water, which is caused primarily by application of salt to roads, parking lots and sidewalks.

Biosolids Surveys

NEIWPCC staff developed the Northeast Regional Sludge End Use and Disposal Estimate report using the data from two biosolids surveys which focused on 2018 and 2019 sludge reports. The surveys collected data from 122 wastewater treatment plants in the Northeast about the amount and disposal methods of sewage sludge produced annually. The findings were analyzed and presented at several conferences, as well as shared through the e-newsletter and on our website and social media channels.

15 Years of the Hudson River Eel Project

The Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve completed their 15th year of monitoring juvenile American eels each spring. Staff gathered alongside teachers, students and local residents at tributary streams of the Hudson River to collect and count eel hatchlings migrating from their birthplace in the Sargasso Sea. The project gathers data to keep track of population counts and monitor how the species impacts the ecosystem.



HREP and HRNERR also sponsored the annual Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count, where volunteers helped identify, record and release fish in an effort to monitor how the numbers change from year to year.

Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observation System (HRECOS)

In partnership with the Hudson River Estuary Program, NEIWPCC supported HRECOS, a network of 17 monitoring stations throughout the Hudson Estuary. The stations are operated by academic, nonprofit and governmental partners along the mainstems of the Hudson and the Mohawk rivers. Every 15 minutes, each of these stations collect data on water chemistry and send information to the HRECOS database and the U.S. Geological Survey's National Water Information Systems.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

NEIWPCC's Quality Management Program safeguards the scientific integrity of all the environmental data projects we support. Projects we administer that involve collecting or analyzing data for decision-making must have an approved quality assurance project plan (QAPP), regardless of the funding source. QAPPs are completed according to the requirements set by the EPA.



In fiscal 2022, the quality assurance team approved 30 QAPPs, including:

- A stream crossing management plan for the towns of Red Hook and Milan in New York.
- The development of a conservation plan for New York's Long Island Sound marsh complexes.
- A watershed action plan for Lake Iroquois in Vermont.
- A Eurasian watermilfoil aquatic plant survey at Vermont's Lake Eden.
- A preliminary design of a shoreline revitalization project in Ossining, New York.



Additionally, the team carried out five quality assurance field assessments during the fiscal year to ensure that all procedures outlined in a project's QAPP are followed. This year's assessments covered:

- A study analyzing how effective different soil types are at removing pollutants and supporting plant health in Vermont.
- Collecting water samples to quantify the road salt pollution load in Mirror Lake and Chubb River in New York.
- The collection and management of data on newly restored field sites in the tidal Hudson River Estuary.
- A long-term water quality and biological monitoring project for Lake Champlain collecting water samples and measuring zebra mussel counts.
- A water quality monitoring program that consistently measures dissolved oxygen, pH and nitrate levels on Lake Champlain.

Infrastructure

Maintaining the integrity of the Northeast's water infrastructure is one of NEIWPCC's program priorities and a key component of the strategic plan. Through regional collaboration, training programs and on-the-ground partnerships, NEIWPCC supports critical infrastructure improvements for the member states.

New York City Capital Replacement Program

In partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, NEIWPCC supported the replacement of capital equipment at non-city-owned wastewater treatment plants in the upstate watershed. Prior to beginning the replacement, staff completed two existing regulatory upgrade projects in Westchester County by providing organizational support. The pending upgrades will replace low-pressure membrane filters with high-pressure ones capable of improved micropollutant removal.

State Revolving Fund Webinars

The federal Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs are two financial assistance programs between the federal government and the states that update water quality infrastructure in the country. NEIWPCC hosted a national webinar series for environmental professionals on using SRF programs for nonpoint source pollution projects. Three webinars were held which included presentations from environmental managers with the EPA and state agencies.



EDUCATION

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

New York City Youth and the Environment Program

NEIWPCC and the EPA run a collaborative youth program with the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education in New York City to provide inner-city teenagers with summer jobs in the fields of wastewater and environmental science. The goal of the program is to increase the student's knowledge and stewardship, while exposing them to various environmental occupations. Over the seven-week program, six students collected samples in laboratories, inspected shorelines, performed clerical work and managed customer assistance data.



Stream Wise

The Lake Champlain Basin Program developed a new program to bring neighbors together to protect and restore healthy waterways across the region. "Stream Wise" aims to educate and engage streamside property owners to encourage the protection of vegetated stream buffers on their land. These buffers help improve flood resiliency and protect water quality and natural habitat for the stream. The program works with a variety of partners, including watershed organizations, conservation districts and other water groups to provide the tools, resources and messaging to work with the local community.



Social Media

NEIWPCC's social media presence grew substantially from the previous fiscal year, led by LinkedIn experiencing a 35% growth in followers. In September, NEIWPCC launched an Instagram account, to foster engagement with a younger audience.

Videos

The Communications and Outreach Division created a new video series, featuring NEIWPCC's executive director and commissioners sharing their experiences and perspectives on NEIWPCC's role and the changes they noticed in the water industry. An additional video celebrated NEIWPCC's 75 years of advancing clean water. All videos were featured on the website and shared through social media channels and publications.

Communications and Outreach by the Numbers

Social media posts: **1,014**

News stories: **58**

Insider emails: **44**

Streamlined e-newsletter: **10 issues**

Videos: **8**

Interstate Waters magazine: **2 issues**

LUSTLine newsletters: **2**

EXPERTS IN OUR FIELD

- **Lindsey Drew** (NYSDEC) and **Noreen Gallagher** (NYSDOH) presented at the Black River Watershed Conference about the New York State Drinking Water Source Protection Program.
- **Maryann Dugan** (Lowell) received NEIWPCC's 2022 Annual Achievement Award in recognition of her enthusiasm, determination and resourcefulness in moving the 2021 Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference to a virtual experience.
- **Sarah H. Fernald** (HREP) co-authored a paper, "Invasive water chestnut hinders tidal wetland development," published in Earth Surface Processes and Landforms.
- **Richard Friesner** (Lowell) represented NEIWPCC at Water Week 2022 in Washington, D.C.
- **Eric Howe** (LCBP) provided opening remarks at the Lake Champlain Research Conference. LCBP Environmental Analysts **Katie Darr**, **Lauren Jenness**, **Meg Modley** and **Matthew Vaughan** presented at the conference.
- **Jen Lichtensteiger** (Lowell) presented "Results from the Second National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use and Disposal Survey," at the NEWEA conference and the WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference.
- **Sarah Mount** (HRNERR) was interviewed for several publications, including the Hudson Valley 360 article, "Eel researchers hope to save species in decline;" a Washington Post article, "Giving endangered American eels a hand;" and the video "The shocking truth about eels," by CBS Sunday Morning.
- **James Plummer**, environmental analyst, moderated the "Watershed Management: Watershed Resilience – From Adaptation Resources to Watershed Based Solutions" session at the NEWEA annual conference, and helped plan the Young Professionals Summit.
- **Maude Salinger** (HREP) co-authored an article, "Germinating a NATURE Lab," in New York State's Conservationist magazine.
- **Christina Stringer** (Lowell) co-authored the research article, "Modeling the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 RNA in wastewater or sludge and COVID-19 cases in three New England regions," published in the Journal of Water and Health.
- **Matthew Vaughan** (LCBP) and **Mae Kate Campbell** (LCBP) were the first and second authors, respectively, in a paper, "Lake Champlain community scientist volunteer network communicates critical cyanobacteria information to region-wide stakeholders," published in the Journal of Contemporary Water Research & Education.

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.

Executive Committee & Commission

NEIWPCC's Executive Committee and Commission consists of the heads of the environmental and health agencies in each of the member states' environmental agencies supplemented by highly experienced individuals from outside state government. The Commission meets regularly with EPA Region

I and II representatives to discuss the individual challenges facing each state. Many of these discussions revolved around PFAS regulations, staffing challenges and aging infrastructure. This year, meetings resumed in-person after being held virtually throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional Representation

As new clean water issues and national priorities arise, NEIWPCC works closely with its member states to provide a regional perspective on proposed water policies to federal parties such as the EPA or the U.S. Congress. This year, NEIWPCC provided comments on regulatory issues such as implementing temporary waivers for the Build America, Buy America Act, revising the definition of "waters of the United States" and regulating PFAS.



PFAS "Forever Chemicals" Spotlight

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present environmental challenges for all of the states in the Northeast. In April, Maine's State Legislature passed a bill prohibiting the land application of biosolids due to PFAS concerns, with other states indicating intent to follow suit. NEIWPCC staff, representatives from Maine and industry professionals have been collaborating over the challenge of biosolid disposal.

NEIWPCC analysts were also involved in several PFAS-related workgroups to monitor the latest research on PFAS pollution. These meetings allowed NEIWPCC to hold regular discussions with the member states on their efforts to monitor, regulate and remove PFAS from waterbodies, wastewater and drinking water.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The assets of NEIWPCC exceeded its liabilities at the close of the 2022 fiscal year by \$3,698,042. NEIWPCC's net operating gain of \$114,674 helped to offset an unrealized investment loss in the amount of \$104,412. As a result, total net position increased by \$10,262.

Lucia Walker, CPA
NEIWPCC Comptroller

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022

Operating Revenues

Federal grants	8,601,730
State contracts	4,479,645
Other contracts	3,044,150
Donated services	946,123
Training	830,956
Member state support	163,719
MA and ME license renewal fees	480,030
MA and ME certification exam fees	28,570
Other income	65,064
Interest income	16,874

Total Operating Revenue..... \$18,656,861

Operating Expenditures..... \$18,542,187

Investment income (104,412)

Change in Net Assets 10,262



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