

Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference – DRAFT AGENDA



February 4-6, 2026 • Water's Edge Resort • Westbrook, CT

Pre-Conference Workshop February 3 and 4 (preregistration required)			TBD Room
9:00	EPT Taxa Identification Workshop: Orders Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies) Steven Burian, Emeritus Professor, Southern Connecticut State University		
12:00	Registration		Westbrook Prefunction
	Environmental Policy Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Cyanobacteria/HAB Monitoring/Mitigation Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Temperature and Seasonal Monitoring Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
1:00	Are Locally Led Initiatives the Answer to a Growing Vacuum Left by the Minimization of Traditional State and Federal CWA Programs? Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiveristy Institute	Building and Calibrating an Alum Dosing Station to Reduce HABs in an Urban Lake Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.	Long-term Temperature Trends in Rivers and Streams Across Connecticut Mary Becker, CTDEEP Alexander Towle, CTDEEP
1:30	Maine's New Freshwater Nutrient Criteria Tom Danielson, ME DEP	Benthic HAB Monitoring in New York State Keleigh Reynolds, NYSDEC	Effects of Temperature on Stream Periphyton Communities and Assessment in Maine Adam Pepi, ME DEP
2:00	Massachusetts Secondary Contact Recreation Criteria Update Dahlia Tympanick, MassDEP	Investigating Organic Toxins Produced by HABs and Effects of Algicides on Algae Toxins in New Jersey Aquatic Environments Shuting Liu, Kean University	Status Update on Regional Monitoring Networks (RMNs), with a Focus on Thermal Sensitivities of Stream Macroinvertebrates in Northeast and MidAtlantic States Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech, Inc.

Wednesday, February 4

2:30	Break		Pre-function Space
	Macroinvertebrates as Bioindicators Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Estuary Long-Term Monitoring Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	WQ Monitoring Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
3:00	Investigating the Use of Benthic Macroinvertebrates to Identify Cold Water Streams in Massachusetts Timothy Gardner, Mass DEP	Seeing Clearly, Acting Strategically: The Role of Monitoring in Connecticut's Nutrient Management Evolution Kelly Streich, CT DEEP Kathleen Knight, CT DEEP	Exploring the Water Quality Impacts of Flooding and Drought in the Lake Champlain Basin Matthew Vaughan, NEIWPCC/Lake Champlain Basin Program
3:30	Evaluating the SNEP Low Gradient Macroinvertebrate IBI with Data From Connecticut Streams...Again Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP	Spatiotemporal Water Quality Trends in Mount Hope Bay, MA, 2016 - 2024 Suzanne Flint, Mass DEP	Water Quality and Greenhouse Gas Dynamics in Beaver-Modified Ecosystems: Seasonal and Spatial Trends Across Southern New England Lev Becker, UCONN
4:00	Deicing Salt Contamination Contributes to Loss of Diversity in Urban Stream Benthic Invertebrate Communities in Vermont Eric Moody, Middlebury College	Monthly Measurements of Carbonate System Parameters in Long Island Sound Reveal Hypercapnia as an Additional Stressor to the Western Sound Erich Nitchke, UCONN	The Value of Sustained, Long-Term Monitoring of Fish Assemblages in the Kennebec River is About to be Realized: Planned Reconnection of 800 Miles of Habitat Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiversity Institute David Courtemanch, The Nature Conservancy Maine
4:30 - 6:30	Exhibitor & Poster Session Royal Ballroom		
6:00 - 7:00	NEAEB Meeting Stannard Room		

Thursday, February 5

7:30	Breakfast			Royal Ballroom
8:45	Words of Welcome Presenter, NEIWPCC Commissioner, CT Presenter, CT DEEP Westbrook Ballroom			
9:15	Plenary Session Andrew Fisk, PhD, Northeast Regional Director at American Rivers Westbrook Ballroom			
10:15	Break			Pre-function Space
	Groundwater Monitoring & Assessment Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Emerging Contaminants Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 1 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
10:45	The NYS Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program Redesign: Selecting Water Quality Parameters to Generate Meaningful Data Giancarlo Coppola, NYS DEC	An analysis of PFAS Levels in New Hampshire’s River Trend Network Ted Walsh, NH DES	Compilation and Application of Lake Sediment Diatom Core Samples from Lakes of the Northeast Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	
11:15	The NYS Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program Redesign: Programmatic Goals and Sampling Design Chase Novello, NEIWPCC/NYS DEC	6PPD–Quinone Concentrations in Streams Following Rainstorms Tom Danielson, ME DEP	Assigning Northeast Lakes to Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) Levels Based on Lake Sediment Diatom Communities Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech	
12:00	Lunch Royal Ballroom			
	Hold for Federal Presentations Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Sediment Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 2 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
1:30	Held for Federal Presentation	Layers of Impact: Testing How Added Sediment Depth Alters Salt Marsh Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in a 7-year Field Experiment Carly Shaw, UCONN	The Neotoma Paleoecology Database: A Resource for Lake Management Don Charles, Drexel University	

Thursday, February 5

	Hold for Federal Presentations Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Sediment Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 2 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
2:00	Held for Federal Presentation	Development of a Sediment Quality Evaluation Tool for Screening-Level Risk Assessment Grace Hoeckele, CT DEEP	Lake Bioassessment Panel Discussion Mary Becker, CT DEEP Kellie Merrell, VT DEC
2:30	Break Pre-function Space		
	Biological Monitoring Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Community Science Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Enhancing Habitats for Biota Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
3:00	Biological Assessment in the Littoral Zone: Macroinvertebrates as Indicators of Lake Shoreland Disturbance Jeremy Deeds, ME DEP	An Overview of Connecticut Lake Watch and Associated Web-Based Mapping Applications Melissa Czarnowski, CT DEEP	The Science and Management of Forest Insect Pest Outbreaks in Riparian-Stream Ecosystems Courtney Larson, VT DEC
3:30	Implementing Biocriteria for Water Quality Protection in Maine: 40 Years of Innovation and New Horizons Jeanne DiFranco, ME DEP	Tracking River Health: Evolution and Impact of Charles River Watershed Association's Biological Monitoring Program Ryan Smith, CRWA	Baiting Hollow Fish Passage Conceptual Design Luke Gervase, GEI Consultants
4:00	Insights from 25 Years of Biological Monitoring in the Ranch Brook and West Branch Little River Watersheds: A Comparative Study of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Response to Shifting Hydrologic Conditions Meghan Hickey, VT DEC	Maine Marsh and Stream Explorers Tom Danielson, ME DEP Doug Suiter, ME DEP	Riparian Buffer Design for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects Julie Michaelson, Xerces
4:30 - 5:30	Break / Trivia (Optional) Westbrook Ballroom		
6:00	Annual NAB Banquet & Awards Royal Ballroom		

Friday, February 6

7:30	Continental Breakfast			Royal Ballroom
	Invasive Plants Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Long Island Sound Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Lakes and Reservoirs Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
9:00	Successful Control of Four Invasive Aquatic Plants in a Connecticut Lake Summer Weidman, CT Agricultural Experiment Station Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.	Temporal Variation vs Tidal Cycle on Enterococci Concentrations in a Coastal Connecticut Waterway Kasey Burns, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Caffeine Monitoring in Vermont Lakes as a Tool for Motivating Maintenance of Septic Systems Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Lake Champlain Sea Grant	
9:30	Tracking the Spread of Connecticut River Hydrilla Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Long Island Sound's Pathogen Monitoring Network - Coordinating Efforts to Curb Sewage Pollution Mary Donato, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Applying Oxygen Generation to Existing Aeration Apparatus in a Large Connecticut Drinking Water Reservoir Benjamin Burpee, GZA	
10:00	Invasive Plant Management and Rare Aquatic Plants: Strategies to Mitigate and Prevent Loss of Desirable Species Alejandro Reyes, GEI Consultants	Bugs in the Bay: Building an Index for Long Island Sound Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Ismar Biberovic, Tetra Tech	Human vs Robot: Using Remote Systems to Track Dissolved Oxygen William Henley, South Central CT Regional Water Authority	
10:30	Break			Pre-function Space
	Emerging Contaminants Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Long Island Sound Long-Term Datasets Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Data Management Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
11:00	The Individual and Synergistic Effects of Microplastic and Nanoparticles Contaminated Fish Feed on Cyprinus Carpio Growth Performance and Oral/Intestinal Microbiome Main Adnad, China Three Gorges University	Communicating 30 years of Water Quality Data in Fairfield County, Connecticut Nikki Spiller, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Data Management at the State Level: Using an Oracle Database to Store and Recall Environmental Data of Various Types Jake Reynolds, NH DES Kristen Hugger, NH DES	
11:30	Contaminated Fish Feed Impairs Fish Growth by Elevating Pathogenic Bacterial Taxa in Oral/Intestinal Microbiome Main Adnad, China Three Gorges University Nishita Narwal, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	Changes in Benthic Fish and Crustacean Communities in a Long Island Sound Embayment Marisa Olavarria, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Flagged and Filtered: A Practical Approach to QA/QC for a Decade of Water Quality Monitoring Chloe Pearson, The Nature Conservancy	