

# Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference



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

**Pre-Conference Workshop: Feb. 3, 12:30-5 p.m. and Feb. 4, 9-11:30 a.m.**

Westbrook Ballroom C

EPT Taxa Identification Workshop: Orders Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies). Led by Steven Burian, Emeritus Professor, Southern Connecticut State University. Preregistration required.

## Wednesday, February 4

12:00	Registration		Westbrook Prefunction
	<b>Temperature &amp; Seasonal Monitoring</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Chloe Pearson, TNC	<b>Data-Driven Solutions</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP	<b>Invasive Plants</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Luke Gervase, GEI Consultants
1:00	<u>Long-term Temperature Trends in Rivers and Streams Across Connecticut</u> Mary Becker, CT DEEP Alexander Towle, CT DEEP	<u>Seeing Clearly, Acting Strategically: The Role of Monitoring in Connecticut's Nutrient Management Evolution</u> Kelly Streich, CT DEEP Kathleen Knight, CT DEEP	<u>Successful Control of Four Invasive Aquatic Plants in a Connecticut Lake</u> Summer Weidman, CT Agricultural Experiment Station Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.
1:30	<u>Effects of Temperature on Stream Periphyton Communities and Assessment in Maine</u> Adam Pepi, ME DEP	<u>Advancing Hydrologic Risk Assessment Under Climate Change</u> Greg Stewart, USGS	<u>Tracking the Spread of Connecticut River Hydrilla</u> Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station
2:00	<u>Status Update on Regional Monitoring Networks (RMNs), with a Focus on Thermal Sensitivities of Stream Macroinvertebrates in Northeast and MidAtlantic States</u> Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech	<u>Bridging the Gap from Headwaters to Coast: In-Stream Nutrient Monitoring in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed</u> Michael Colombo, USGS	<u>Invasive Plant Management and Rare Aquatic Plants: Strategies to Mitigate and Prevent Loss of Desirable Species</u> Alejandro Reyes, GEI Consultants

## Wednesday, February 4

2:30	<b>Break</b>		Pre-function Space
	<b>Macroinvertebrates as Bioindicators</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Gregory Bugbee, CT DEEP	<b>Cyanobacteria/HAB Monitoring &amp; Mitigation</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: E.J. Neafsey, LG Sonic	<b>Water Quality Monitoring</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Ted Walsh, NH DES
3:00	<u>Using In-Stream Biological Indicators to Assess Water Quality Remediation at Vermont Ski Resorts</u>  Ryan Colarusso, VHB	<u>Building and Calibrating an Alum Dosing Station to Reduce HABs in an Urban Lake</u>  Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.	<u>Multi-Tier Source Tracking of E. coli Contamination in Septic-Dominated Watersheds Method Development and Field Validation</u>  Utkir Adkhamov, Nashua River Watershed Association
3:30	<u>Evaluating the SNEP Low Gradient Macroinvertebrate IBI with Data From Connecticut Streams...Again</u>  Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP	<u>Benthic HAB Monitoring in New York State</u>  Keleigh Reynolds, NYSDEC	<u>Water Quality and Greenhouse Gas Dynamics in Beaver-Modified Ecosystems: Seasonal and Spatial Trends Across Southern New England</u>  Lev Becker, UCONN
4:00	<u>Deicing Salt Contamination Contributes to Loss of Diversity in Urban Stream Benthic Invertebrate Communities in Vermont</u>  Eric Moody, Middlebury College	<u>Investigating Organic Toxins Produced by HABs and Effects of Algicides on Algae Toxins in New Jersey Aquatic Environments</u>  Shuting Liu, Kean University	<u>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</u>  Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiversity Institute
4:30 - 6:30	<b>Exhibitor &amp; Poster Session</b> Royal Ballroom		
6:00 - 7:00	<b>NEAEB Meeting</b> Executive Room		

# Thursday, February 5

7:30	<b>Breakfast</b>			Royal Ballroom
8:45	<b>Words of Welcome</b> Mike Bisi, NEIWPCC Commissioner, CT Emma Cimino, CT DEEP Westbrook Ballroom			
9:15	<b>Plenary Session</b> Andrew Fisk, PhD, Northeast Regional Director at American Rivers Westbrook Ballroom			
10:15	<b>Break</b>			Pre-function Space
	<b>Diatoms 1</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	<b>Emerging Contaminants</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Shuting Liu, Kean University	<b>Groundwater Monitoring &amp; Assessment</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta	
10:45	<u>Compilation and Application of Lake Sediment Diatom Core Samples from Lakes of the Northeast</u> Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	<u>An analysis of PFAS Levels in New Hampshire's River Trend Network</u> Ted Walsh, NH DES	<u>The NYS Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Program Redesign: Selecting Water Quality Parameters to Generate Meaningful Data</u> Giancarlo Coppola, NYS DEC	
11:15	<u>Assigning Northeast Lakes to Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) Levels Based on Lake Sediment Diatom Communities</u> Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech	<u>6PPD-Quinone Concentrations in Streams Following Rainstorms</u> Tom Danielson, ME DEP	<u>The NYS Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Program Redesign: Programmatic Goals and Sampling Design</u> Chase Novello, NEIWPCC/NYS DEC	
12:00	<b>Lunch</b> Royal Ballroom			
	<b>Diatoms 2</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	<b>Sediment</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Sea Grant	<b>Coastal Acidification</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP	
1:30	<u>The Neotoma Paleoecology Database: A Resource for Lake Management</u> Don Charles, Drexel University	<u>Layers of Impact: Testing How Added Sediment Depth Alters Salt Marsh Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in a 7-year Field Experiment</u> Carly Shaw, UCONN	<u>Coastal Acidification Monitoring in Long Island Sound Tributaries and Embayments in near-bottom Environments</u> Gina Groseclose, USGS	

## Thursday, February 5

	<b>Diatoms 2 (continued)</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	<b>Sediment (continued)</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Sea Grant	<b>Coastal Acidification (continued)</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Katie O’Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP
2:00	<u>Lake Bioassessment Panel Discussion</u>  Mary Becker, CT DEEP Kellie Merrell, VT DEC	<u>Development of a Sediment Quality Evaluation Tool for Screening-Level Risk Assessment</u>  Grace Hoeckele, CT DEEP	<u>Monthly Measurements of Carbonate System Parameters in Long Island Sound Reveal Hypercapnia as an Additional Stressor to the Western Sound</u>  Erich Nitchke, UCONN
2:30	Break  Pre-function Space		
	<b>Biological Monitoring</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP	<b>Enhancing Habitats for Biota</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Alejandro Reyes, GEI Consultants	<b>Community Science</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Adam Pepi, ME DEP
3:00	<u>Biological Assessment in the Littoral Zone: Macroinvertebrates as Indicators of Lake Shoreland Disturbance</u>  Jeremy Deeds, ME DEP	<u>The Science and Management of Forest Insect Pest Outbreaks in Riparian-Stream Ecosystems</u>  Courtney Larson, VT DEC	<u>An Overview of Connecticut Lake Watch and Associated Web-Based Mapping Applications</u>  Melissa Czarnowski, CT DEEP
3:30	<u>Implementing Biocriteria for Water Quality Protection in Maine: 40 Years of Innovation and New Horizons</u>  Jeanne DiFranco, ME DEP	<u>Baiting Hollow Fish Passage Conceptual Design</u>  Luke Gervase, GEI Consultants	<u>Tracking River Health: Evolution and Impact of Charles River Watershed Association’s Biological Monitoring Program</u>  Ryan Smith, CRWA
4:00	<u>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</u>  Meaghan Hickey, VT DEC	<u>Riparian Buffer Design for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects</u>  Julie Michaelson, Xerces	<u>Maine Marsh and Stream Explorers</u>  Tom Danielson, ME DEP
4:45 - 5:45	Break / Trivia (Optional) Seaview Bistro		
6:00	Annual NAB Banquet & Awards Royal Ballroom		

## Friday, February 6

7:30	Continental Breakfast			Royal Ballroom
	<b>Lakes &amp; Reservoirs</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta	<b>Long Island Sound</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Jane Sawyers, RI DEM	<b>Environmental Policy</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Eric Moody, Middlebury College	
9:00	<u>Caffeine Monitoring in Vermont Lakes as a Tool for Motivating Maintenance of Septic Systems</u>  Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Lake Champlain Sea Grant	<u>Temporal Variation vs Tidal Cycle on Enterococci Concentrations in a Coastal Connecticut Waterway</u>  Kasey Burns, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	<u>Are Locally Led Initiatives the Answer to a Growing Vacuum Left by the Minimization of Traditional State and Federal CWA Programs?</u>  Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiveristy Institute	
9:30	<u>Applying Oxygen Generation to Existing Aeration Apparatus in a Large Connecticut Drinking Water Reservoir</u>  Benjamin Rach, GZA Robert Kortmann, GZA William Henley, South Central CT Regional Water Authority	<u>Long Island Sound's Pathogen Monitoring Network - Coordinating Efforts to Curb Sewage Pollution</u>  Mary Donato, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	<u>Maine's New Freshwater Nutrient Criteria</u>  Tom Danielson, ME DEP	
10:00	<u>Human vs Robot: Using Remote Systems to Track Dissolved Oxygen</u>  William Henley, South Central CT Regional Water Authority	<u>Bugs in the Bay: Building an Index for Long Island Sound</u>  Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Ismar Biberovic, Tetra Tech		
10:30	Break			Pre-function Space
	<b>Data Management</b> Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	<b>Long Island Sound Long-Term Datasets</b> Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Jane Sawyers, RI DEM	<b>Massachusetts Coastal Monitoring</b> Stannard Room Moderator: Richard Friesner, NEIWPCC	
11:00	<u>Data Management at the State Level: Using an Oracle Database to Store and Recall Environmental Data of Various Types</u>  Jake Reynolds, NH DES Kirsten Huger, NH DES	<u>Communicating 30 years of Water Quality Data in Fairfield County, Connecticut</u>  Nikki Spiller, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	<u>New High-Frequency Coastal Monitoring in Nantucket Harbor: Early Stress Signals and Cross-Platform Data Integration</u>  Elizabeth Sherman, Maria Mitchell Association	
11:30	<u>Flagged and Filtered: A Practical Approach to QA/QC for a Decade of Water Quality Monitoring</u>  Chloe Pearson, TNC	<u>Changes in Benthic Fish and Cruan Communities in a Long Island Sound Embayment</u>  Marisa Olavarria, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	<u>Coastal Water-Quality Monitoring in Massachusetts</u>  Kaitlin Laabs, USGS	

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**Wednesday, February 4**

**Poster Presentations**

**Parmida Amngostar & Soheyl Faghir Hagh, University of Vermont**

A Low-Power Wireless CTD System for Autonomous Water Quality Monitoring in Remote Environments

**Gabrielle Anderson, CT DEEP**

Exploring Macroinvertebrate Response to Shoreline Habitat and Water Chemistry in Connecticut Lakes

**Mary Becker, CT DEEP**

NEAEB / NAB 50th Anniversary

**Stephen Biazo, IEC**

NY/NJ Harbor Discrete Monitoring Network Established in Conjunction with NJDEP

**Rachel Biton & Sage Ganshirt, UCONN**

How Tidal Hydrology and Soil Characteristics Influence the pH Response of Potential Acid Sulfate Soils Used in Salt Marsh Sediment Addition

**Carriel Cataldi & Gavin Jackson, CT DEEP**

Eelgrass Flowering Density and Seed Maturity Assessment in Groton, Connecticut

**Nicholas Champeon, College of the Holy Cross**

Patterns of Zooplankton Diversity Across Urban and Suburban Freshwater Lakes in Worcester MA

**Lexie Davis, NYSDEC/WRI**

When the Creek Boils Over: The Case of the Canaseraga Creek Mudboils

**Soheyl Faghir Hagh, University of Vermont**

A New Drone-Enabled Framework for Real-Time Water Quality Sensing, 2-D Mapping, and True 3-D Depth Profiling

**Keith Fritschie, VT DEC**

Winter Streamflow Events Capable of Disturbing Salmonid Spawning Gravels are Increasing at Many New England USGS Gages

**Evelyn Hall, UCONN**

Impact of Land Cover Type on Long Island Sound's Salt Marsh Stability

**Maggie Harper, Middlebury College**

The Role of Surficial Geology: Understanding the Variability of Chloride in Urban Streams and Its Impacts on Macroinvertebrates

**Sheza Khashab, Southern Connecticut State University**

Sharing dinoflagellates: Does Cliona celata act as a reservoir for aposymbiotic Atrangia poculata's zooxanthellae?

**Wednesday, February 4**

**Poster Presentations**

<b>Meher Khanna, Neponset River Watershed Association</b>	<u><a href="#">When Sewers Meet Streams in the Neponset: A History of Meadow Brook</a></u>
<b>Ciara Kilkenny &amp; Paige Vichiola-Silva, Farmington River Watershed Association</b>	<u><a href="#">Investigating Sources of Nutrient Pollution Throughout the Farmington River Watershed</a></u>
<b>Jennifer Lafayette, USGS</b>	<u><a href="#">Photosynthetically Active Radiation Monitoring in Saugatuck and Southport Embayments in Connecticut, 2022-2024</a></u>
<b>Jessica Landry, CT DEEP</b>	<u><a href="#">Enhancing Connecticut's Volunteer Water Monitoring Data Communication Through Interactive Reports</a></u>
<b>Marielena Lima, Charles River Watershed Association</b>	<u><a href="#">Chloride Monitoring in the Charles River Watershed</a></u>
<b>Leslie Matthews, CT DEEP Kelle Merrell, VT DEC</b>	<u><a href="#">Are we sampling enough? Evaluating sampling effort for a Vermont macrophyte bioassessment dataset.</a></u>
<b>Molly McCann, UCONN</b>	<u><a href="#">A Database Documenting Saltmarsh Restoration History in the Long Island Sound Region</a></u>
<b>Sienna Moore, Holy Cross</b>	<u><a href="#">Identifying and Mapping the Distribution of Asian Clams <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> and Rusty Crayfish <i>Faxonius rusticus</i> Through Environmental DNA in Worcester, Massachusetts</a></u>
<b>Reanna Morra, USGS</b>	<u><a href="#">U.S. Geological Survey Continuous Water Quality Monitoring on Long Island, NY</a></u>
<b>Ernest Neafsey, LG Sonic US</b>	<u><a href="#">Sound Science: Integrating Ultrasonic Algae Control into Biological Monitoring and Lake Management in the Northeast</a></u>
<b>Skylar Ross, UCONN</b>	<u><a href="#">Spatial Patterns of Denitrification Potential and Soil Nutrient Storage in a Beaver-Created Ecosystem</a></u>
<b>Alexis Sims, UCONN</b>	<u><a href="#">Annual and Seasonal changes of Carbonate Parameters in the Long Island Sound</a></u>
<b>Olivia Sirard, College of the Holy Cross</b>	<u><a href="#">From Forest to City: How Landscape Development Shapes Stream Oxygen Dynamics in the Blackstone River Watershed</a></u>

**Wednesday, February 4**

**Poster Presentations**

**Jovan Snyder, IEC**

Staten Island Living Breakwaters - Eelgrass Restoration Pilot

**Allyson Szabo, CT DEEP**

Exploring the Effect of Chloride on Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Connecticut Streams

**Alina Tran & Sean Grace,  
Southern Connecticut State University**

Upper Thermal Regimes and Quiescence in the Temperate Coral *Astrangia poculata*

**Zachary Utz, Middlebury College**

Understanding the Impacts of Alternative Deicing Agents on Sensitive Aquatic Insect Taxa

**Paige Vichiola-Silva & Ciara Kilkenny,  
Farmington River Watershed Association**

Investigating Reoccurring Cyanobacteria Blooms on Rainbow Reservoir in Windsor, CT

**Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta**

Thermocline Depth of Otsego Lake (NY).

**Lily Zopelis & Sean Grace,  
Southern Connecticut State University**

The Effects of Depth and Light Availability on the Morphology and Gene Expression of *Saccharina latissima*

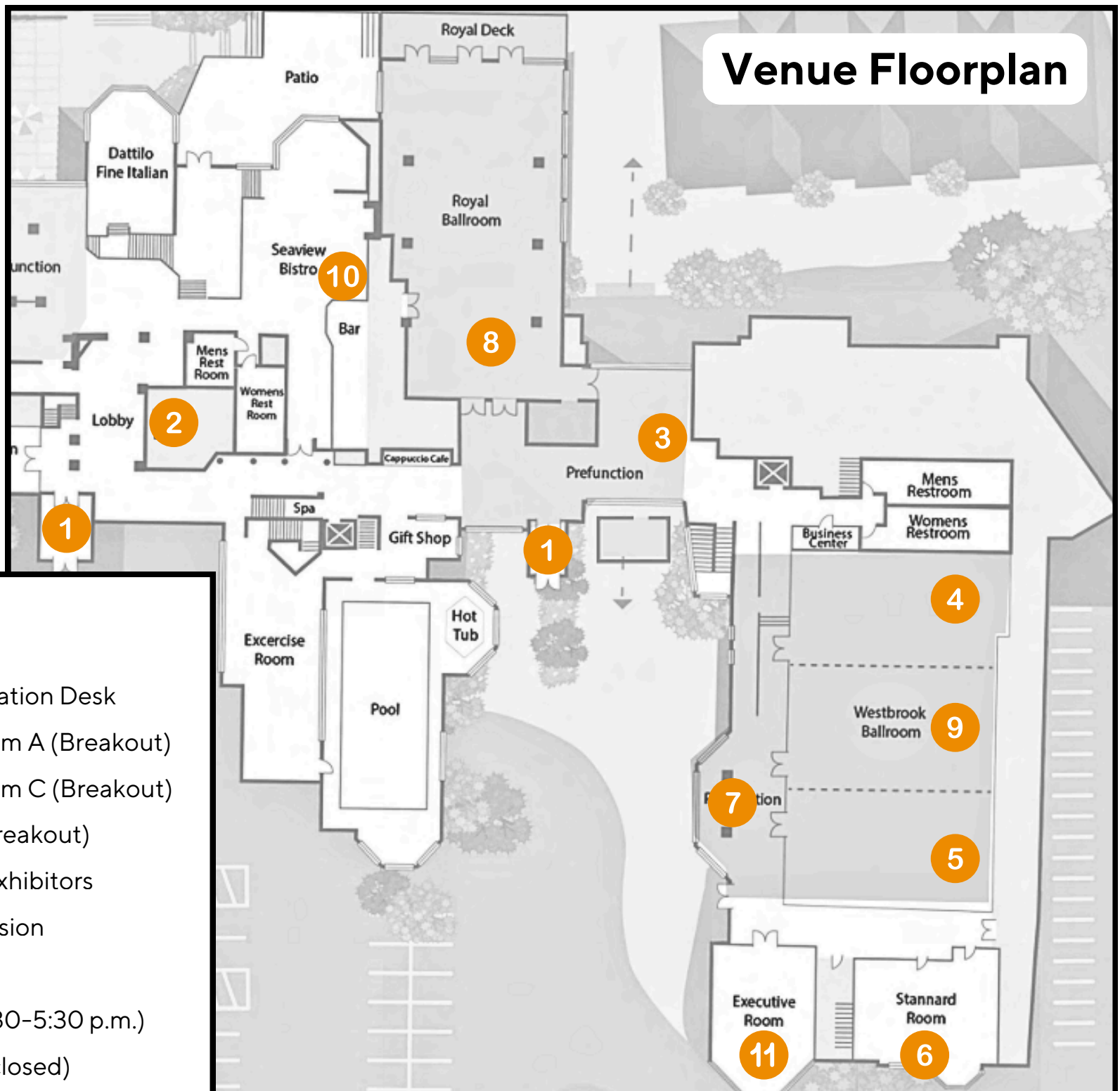


## Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference

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

[www.neiwpcc.org](http://www.neiwpcc.org)

# Venue Floorplan



- 1 Hotel Entrances
- 2 Hotel Front Desk
- 3 NEIW PCC Registration Desk
- 4 Westbrook Ballroom A (Breakout)
- 5 Westbrook Ballroom C (Breakout)
- 6 Stannard Room (Breakout)
- 7 Session Breaks & Exhibitors
- 8 Meals & Poster Session
- 9 Plenary Session
- 10 Thursday Trivia (4:30-5:30 p.m.)
- 11 NEAEB Meeting (closed)