

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
	Temperature and Seasonal Monitoring Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Chloe Pearson, TNC	Data-Driven Solutions Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP	Invasive Plants 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	Break		Pre-function Space
	Macroinvertebrates as Bioindicators Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Gregory Bugbee, CT DEEP	Cyanobacteria/HAB Monitoring & Mitigation Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: E.J. Neafsey, LG Sonic	Water Quality Monitoring 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 David Courtemanch, TNC Maine
4:30 - 6:30	Exhibitor & Poster Session Royal Ballroom		
6:00 - 7:00	NEAEB Meeting Executive 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
	Diatoms 1 Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	Emerging Contaminants Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Shuting Liu, Kean University	Groundwater Monitoring & Assessment Stannard Room Moderator: Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta	
10:45	Compilation and Application of Lake Sediment Diatom Core Samples from Lakes of the Northeast Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	An analysis of PFAS Levels in New Hampshire’s River Trend Network Ted Walsh, NH DES	The NYS Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Program Redesign: Selecting Water Quality Parameters to Generate Meaningful Data Giancarlo Coppola, NYS DEC	
11:15	Assigning Northeast Lakes to Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) Levels Based on Lake Sediment Diatom Communities Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech	6PPD-Quinone Concentrations in Streams Following Rainstorms Tom Danielson, ME DEP	The NYS Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Program Redesign: Programmatic Goals and Sampling Design Chase Novello, NEIWPCC/NYS DEC	
12:00	Lunch Royal Ballroom			
	Diatoms 2 Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	Sediment Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Sea Grant	Coastal Acidification Stannard Room Moderator: Katie O’Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP	
1:30	The Neotoma Paleoecology Database: A Resource for Lake Management Don Charles, Drexel University	Layers of Impact: Testing How Added Sediment Depth Alters Salt Marsh Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in a 7-year Field Experiment Carly Shaw, UCONN	Coastal Acidification Monitoring in Long Island Sound Tributaries and Embayments in near-bottom Environments Gina Groseclose, USGS	

Thursday, February 5

	Diatoms 2 (continued) Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Mary Becker, CT DEEP	Sediment (continued) Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Sea Grant	Coastal Acidification (continued) 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		
	Biological Monitoring Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP	Enhancing Habitats for Biota Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Alejandro Reyes, GEI Consultants	Community Science 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> Meghan 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 Doug Suiter, 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
	Lakes & Reservoirs Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta	Long Island Sound Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Jane Sawyers, RI DEM	Environmental Policy 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	<u>Protecting Headwater Streams to Build Long Term Resilience of Vermont's Lakes</u> Kellie Merrell, VT DEC	
10:30	Break			Pre-function Space
	Data Management Westbrook Ballroom A Moderator: Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	Long Island Sound Long-Term Datasets Westbrook Ballroom C Moderator: Jane Sawyers, RI DEM	Massachusetts Coastal Monitoring Stannard Room Moderator: TBD	
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 Hugger, 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 Biazio, 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

Alana Boirie, UCONN

Evaluating Shear Strength as an Indicator of Belowground Biomass in Salt Marshes

**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

**Josephine Edward & Agunbiade Rasaq Olusola,
Ekiti State University**

Water Quality Monitoring for Sustainable Rural Resource Management: A Case Study of Ureje Reservoir in Ado-Ekiti

**Soheyl Faghir Hagh & Tian Xia,
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

Wednesday, February 4

Poster Presentations

Maggie Harper, Middlebury College	<u>The Role of Surficial Geology: Understanding the Variability of Chloride in Urban Streams and Its Impacts on Macroinvertebrates</u>
Sheza Khashab, Southern Connecticut State University	<u>Sharing dinoflagellates: Does Cliona celata act as a reservoir for aposymbiotic Atrypa reticularis's zooxanthellae?</u>
Mehar Khanna, Neponset River Watershed Association	<u>When Sewers Meet Streams in the Neponset: A History of Meadow Brook</u>
Ciara Kilkenny & Paige Vichiola-Silva, Farmington River Watershed Association	<u>Investigating Sources of Nutrient Pollution Throughout the Farmington River Watershed</u>
Jennifer Lafayette, USGS	<u>Photosynthetically Active Radiation Monitoring in Saugatuck and Southport Embayments in Connecticut, 2022-2024</u>
Jessica Landry, CT DEEP	<u>Enhancing Connecticut's Volunteer Water Monitoring Data Communication Through Interactive Reports</u>
Marielena Lima, Charles River Watershed Association	<u>Chloride Monitoring in the Charles River Watershed</u>
Leslie Matthews, CT DEEP Kelle Merrell, VT DEC	<u>Are we sampling enough? Evaluating sampling effort for a Vermont macrophyte bioassessment dataset.</u>
Molly McCann, UCONN	<u>A Database Documenting Saltmarsh Restoration History in the Long Island Sound Region</u>
Sienna Moore, Holy Cross	<u>Identifying and Mapping the Distribution of Asian Clams Corbicula fluminea and Rusty Crayfish Faxonius rusticus Through Environmental DNA in Worcester, Massachusetts</u>
Reanna Morra, USGS	<u>U.S. Geological Survey Continuous Water Quality Monitoring on Long Island, NY</u>
Ernest Neafsey, LG Sonic US	<u>Sound Science: Integrating Ultrasonic Algae Control into Biological Monitoring and Lake Management in the Northeast</u>
Skylar Ross, UCONN	<u>Spatial Patterns of Denitrification Potential and Soil Nutrient Storage in a Beaver-Created Ecosystem</u>

Wednesday, February 4

Poster Presentations

Alexis Sims, UCONN	<u>Annual and Seasonal changes of Carbonate Parameters in the Long Island Sound</u>
Olivia Sirard, College of the Holy Cross	<u>From Forest to City: How Landscape Development Shapes Stream Oxygen Dynamics in the Blackstone River Watershed</u>
Jovan Snyder, IEC	<u>Staten Island Living Breakwaters - Eelgrass Restoration Pilot</u>
Allyson Szabo, CT DEEP Mary Becker, CT DEEP	<u>Exploring the Effect of Chloride on Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Connecticut Streams</u>
Christiana Korkor Teye & Erin Grey, University of Maine	<u>Optimization of Bacteroides dorei qPCR and LAMP Assay for Wastewater Detection</u>
Alina Tran & Sean Grace, Southern Connecticut State University	<u>Upper Thermal Regimes and Quiescence in the Temperate Coral <i>Astrangia poculata</i></u>
Zachary Utz, Middlebury College	<u>Understanding the Impacts of Alternative Deicing Agents on Sensitive Aquatic Insect Taxa</u>
Paige Vichiola-Silva & Ciara Kilkenny, Farmington River Watershed Association	<u>Investigating Reoccurring Cyanobacteria Blooms on Rainbow Reservoir in Windsor, CT</u>
Kiyoko Yokota, SUNY Oneonta	<u>Thermocline Depth of Otsego Lake (NY).</u>
Lily Zopelis & Sean Grace, Southern Connecticut State University	<u>The Effects of Depth and Light Availability on the Morphology and Gene Expression of <i>Saccharina latissima</i></u>

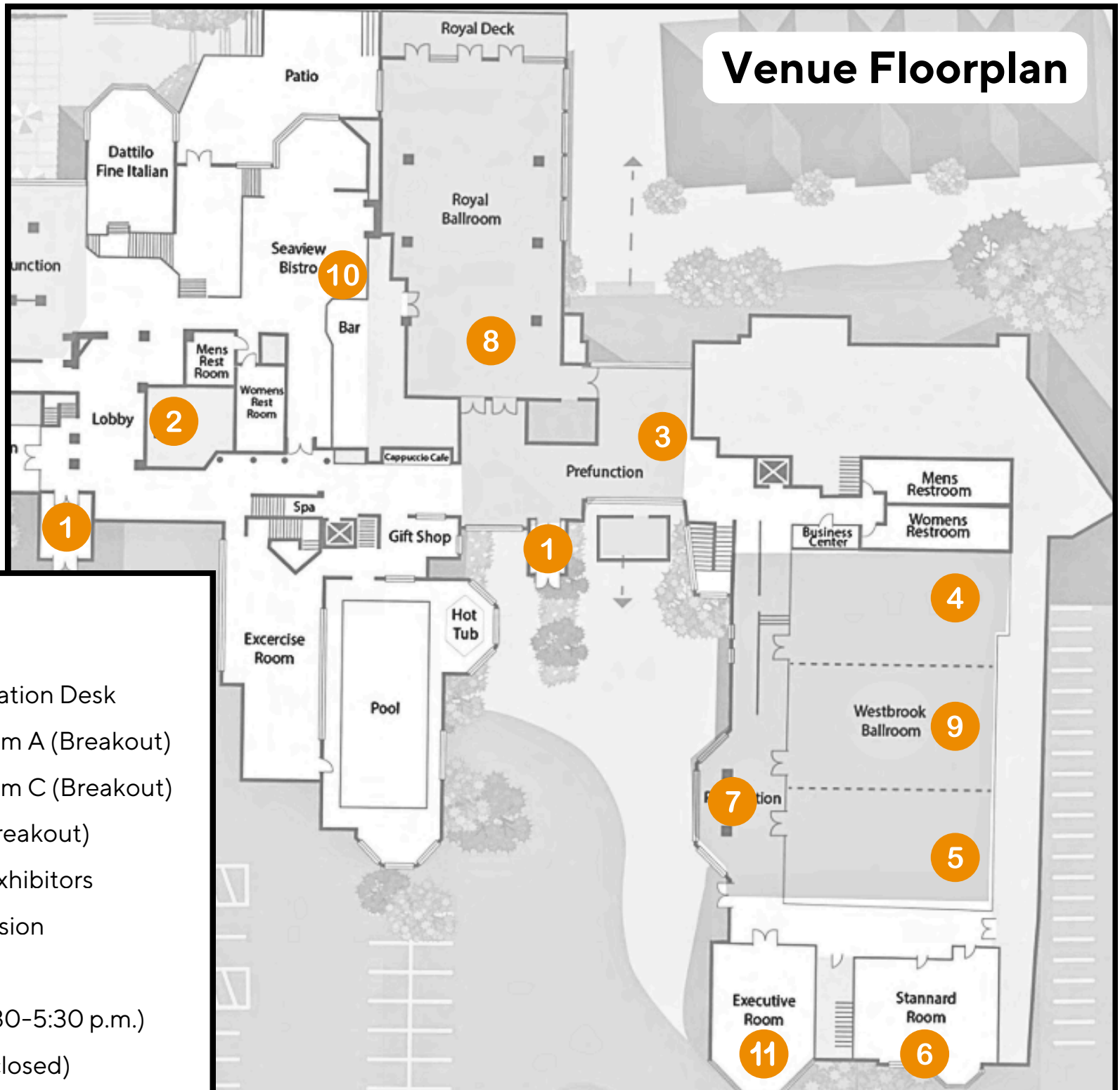


Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference

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

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)