

**Status, Trends, and Conservation of Eelgrass
in Atlantic Canada and the Northeastern United States**

February 24-25, 2009

Regency Hotel, Portland Maine

Hosted By

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Friends of Casco Bay
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

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Tuesday, February 24, 2009

8:00 Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:30 Welcome and Introduction

9:45 Keynote Address – Eelgrass: the Big Picture

Fred Short, University of New Hampshire, Jackson Estuarine Lab, Durham, NH

EELGRASS CHANGE AROUND THE REGION

10:30 State and Provincial Status and Trends Updates:

New York

Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Southold, NY

Connecticut

Tom Halavik, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charlestown, RI

Rhode Island

Sue Tuxbury, NOAA Fisheries Service, Gloucester, MA

Massachusetts

Charlie Costello, Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection, Boston, MA

New Hampshire

Fred Short, University of New Hampshire, Jackson Estuarine Lab, Durham, NH

Maine

Seth Barker, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, West Boothbay Harbor, ME

**Eastern Canada: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island,
Newfoundland**

Al Hanson, Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment Canada, Sackville, NB

11:30 Panel Discussion – Eelgrass Trends and Their Causal Factors

12:00 LUNCH

PROTECTING HABITAT FUNCTIONS AND VALUES FROM DIRECT IMPACTS

- 1:30 Eelgrass Habitat Functions and Ecosystem Services**
Allison Schmidt, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 1:50 Setting Priorities for Habitat Protection**
Robert Buchsbaum, Massachusetts Audubon, Wenham, MA
- 2:10 Monitoring the Condition of Eelgrass Habitat**
Hilary Neckles, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Augusta, ME
- 2:30 Assessing Shellfish Aquaculture Impacts to Eelgrass**
Marc Skinner, Canadian Rivers Institute, Univ. of New Brunswick, Moncton, NB
- 2:50 Conservation Moorings as Eelgrass Habitat Protection: A Cooperative Habitat Protection Partnership**
Tay Evans, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Gloucester, MA
- 3:00 The Taunton Bay Management Experiment - Protecting Eelgrass Amidst Conflicting Uses**
John Sowles, Maine Department of Marine Resources, West Boothbay Harbor, ME
- 3:30 BREAK**
- 4:00 Restoration: What Has Worked Where, and Why**
Ryan Davis, Quantitative Environmental Analysis, LLC, Glens Falls, NY
- 4:20 Building Partnerships for Restoration**
Ray Konisky, The Nature Conservancy New Hampshire Chapter, Newmarket, NH
- 4:40 Panel Discussion – Impacts to Eelgrass and Restoration Priorities**
- 5:15 Adjourn for the day**
- 5:30 RECEPTION**
- 7:00 DINNER ON YOUR OWN IN OLD PORT**

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

7:30 Continental Breakfast

EELGRASS AND WATER QUALITY: APPROACHES TO SETTING NUTRIENT AND HABITAT CRITERIA

8:30 It's the Water Quality, Stupid!

Phil Colarusso, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Boston, MA

9:00 Massachusetts Estuaries Project

Brian Howes, School for Marine Science and Technology, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA

9:25 Proposed Nutrient Criteria for the Great Bay Estuary

Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH

9:50 Developing Nitrogen Load-Eelgrass Response Relationships for Southern New England Estuaries

James S. Latimer and Steven Rego, U.S. EPA, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI

10:15 BREAK

10:45 A Multi-metric Approach to Establishing Restoration Objectives for Eelgrass in Long Island Sound

Jamie Vaudrey, University of Connecticut, Groton, CT

11:10 Panel Discussion – Criteria to Sustain Eelgrass

12:00 LUNCH

INVASIVE SPECIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1:00 Short- and Long-term Impacts of Green Crabs on Eelgrass in Nova Scotia

Tony Miller, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS

1:20 First Occurrence of the Invasive Colonial Ascidian *Didemnum vexillum* to Utilize Eelgrass *Zostera marina* as Substrate

Mary Carman, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA
David Grunden, Town of Oak Bluffs Shellfish Department, Oak Bluffs, MA

1:40 Impacts of Global Climate Change on Eelgrass

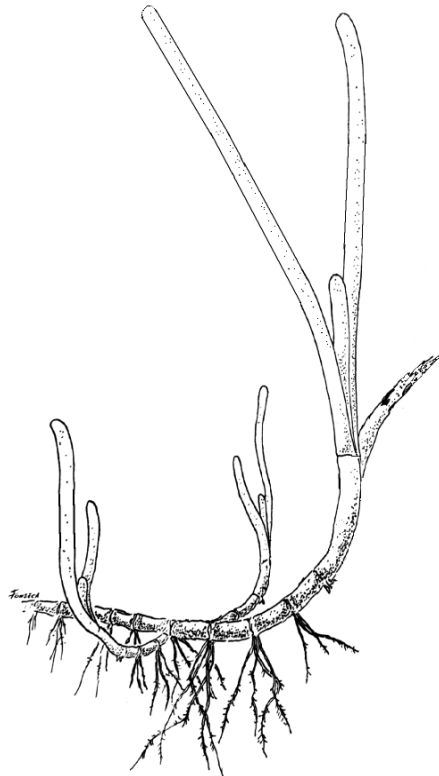
Ron Thom, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Sequim, WA

2:00 Panel Discussion – Emerging Threats

2:30 BREAK

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR EELGRASS CONSERVATION

- 3:00 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Seagrass Protection in the Northeastern U.S.**
Phil Colarusso, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Boston, MA
- 3:20 Programs and Regulations for Eelgrass Conservation in Canada**
Guy Robichaud, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, NB
- 3:40 “Save Great Bay” Partnership: Enhancing Protection Efforts Through Better Coordination**
Tom Irwin, Conservation Law Foundation, Concord, NH
- 4:00 Workshop Summary**
Hilary Neckles, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Augusta, ME
- 4:20 Group Discussion: What Are the Pressing Needs in Research and Conservation?**
- 5:00 Adjourn Workshop**



POSTERS

Elementary Student Creation of Interpretive Panels of Estuary Resources Increase Public Awareness and Enhance Experiential Education

Nora Beem and Fred Short

Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH

Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Restoration in Gloucester, MA

Jennifer Doyle-Breen, Nathan Henderson, Brent Courchene, and Tom Touchet

AECOM Water, Wakefield, MA

Identifying Suitable Sites for Restoration of Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in Massachusetts

Kate Killerlain Morrison and Jessica Dyson

The Nature Conservancy, Massachusetts Chapter, Boston, MA

A Disappearing Act? Monitoring Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Decline in Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia, Canada

Aimée Pelletier¹, Chris McCarthy² and Bill Freedman³

¹School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

²Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Maitland Bridge, NS

³Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

Macroalgae and Eelgrass Mapping in Great Bay Estuary Using AISA Hyperspectral Imagery

Shachak Pe'eri¹, John R. Morrison², Frederick Short³, Arthur Mathieson³, Philip Trowbridge⁴
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH: ¹Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, ²Ocean Process Analysis Lab., ³Jackson Estuary Laboratory, ⁴Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Eelgrass Variability in Taunton Bay, Maine

Steve Perrin, Friends of Taunton Bay, Hancock, ME

Community Based Eelgrass Restoration at Hadley Point in Bar Harbor, Maine

Casie Reed¹, Sarah Colletti¹, Jane E. Disney², and George Kidder²

¹College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME; ²MDI Biological Laboratory, Salisbury Cove, ME

Assessing Estuarine Condition Through Water Quality and Seagrass Monitoring at Fire Island National Seashore, NY

Brooke Rodgers¹, Jamie Brisbin¹, Joseph Myers¹, Hilary A. Neckles², Blaine S. Kopp² and Bradley J. Peterson¹

¹Marine Science Research Center, Stony Brook University, Southampton, NY

²USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Augusta, ME

SeagrassNet: Global Monitoring Network of Seagrass Resources

Fred Short¹, Aaren Freeman¹, Giuseppe Di Carlo¹, Rob Coles², Miguel Fortes³, and Evamaria Koch⁴

¹Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH

²Northern Fisheries Centre, Queensland, Australia

³University of Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines

⁴Horn Point Laboratory, University of Maryland, Cambridge, MD