

**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

Additional sponsors
James W. Sewall Co.
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US Geological Survey

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

Guy Robichaud, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, NB

2:50 The Value of Reducing Moorings Impacts

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

(Invited)

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 Invasive Tunicate Ecology

Mary Carman, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA

1:40 Impacts of Global Climate Change on Eelgrass

Ron Thom, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Sequim, WA *(Invited)*

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 Eelgrass Conservation in the 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**