



# National Working Waterfront Network

Many of the country's coastal cities and towns have developed around thriving working waterfronts. Each has a unique history, culture, and community identity closely tied to a vibrant commercial waterfront area. People who work on the water or in shoreside jobs that support marine industries are at the cultural and economic heart of these communities. In order to do their work, they must have reliable and unimpeded access to the waterfront.

Over the past decade, threats to sustaining these working waterfronts have grown. Communities across the nation are increasingly concerned about protecting working waterfront access to ensure the long-term sustainability of water-dependent jobs and businesses. They need successful strategies to preserve access to waterfronts and waterways in order to continue to be vibrant places to live and work.



Ocracoke, North Carolina

## *National Working Waterfront Network*

The mission of the National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN) is to increase the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways. The group's members are from both the public and private sector, and include municipalities, state and federal agencies, non-profits, universities, Sea Grant programs, businesses, industry associations, and individuals dedicated to supporting and enhancing our nation's working waterfronts and waterways.



Leland, Michigan

## *Network Objectives*

- Cooperate to research and celebrate our nation's working waterfronts and waterways;
- Provide our partners with access to the historical, economic, financial, and policy information and resources they need to address issues on working waterfronts and waterways at the local, state, regional, and national level; and
- Maintain and strengthen a diverse network of partners who collaborate internally and act as liaisons to their stakeholders and communities to educate people about our nation's working waterfronts.

## Network Activities and Membership

The NWWN's founding steering committee developed operating procedures in May 2012 and formed work groups focused on national symposium planning, communications, policy alternatives, fundraising, and outreach and education. Initial funding came from private foundations, with additional revenue models currently being explored to ensure the NWWN's long-term sustainability.

Members of the NWWN receive help to raise awareness about working waterfront issues, highlight their local activities at a national scale and general resources for events organized in their area. They also have access to timely research and information regarding working waterfront developments around the country.



Port Clyde, Maine



Down East, North Carolina

In the fall of 2011, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration provided support to seven NWWN partner organizations around the country to develop the *Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit*. The grant recipients researched historic trends, the economic impact of working waterfronts, policy and financing strategies that communities can implement to preserve working waterfronts and waterways, and developed a suite of case studies to highlight approaches communities have used to address issues facing their working waterfronts. Results from this project are available at [www.wateraccessus.com](http://www.wateraccessus.com).

## Founding Steering Committee

The NWWN Founding Steering Committee is refining the organizational structure and guiding the direction of the Network. Committee members include:

- Nick Battista, Island Institute
- Mark Breederland, Michigan Sea Grant
- Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- Jamie Doyle, Oregon Sea Grant
- Nicole Faghin, Washington Sea Grant
- Jeffrey Gabriel, National Marine Manufacturers Association
- Barbara Garrity-Blake, RTS Works
- Kristen Grant, Maine Sea Grant
- Tom Murray, Virginia Sea Grant
- Stephanie Showalter Otts, National Sea Grant Law Center
- Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant
- Suzanna Stoike, West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health, Sea Grant Fellow
- Bob Swett, Florida Sea Grant
- Jody Thompson, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Kenneth Walker, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute



For more information about the National Working Waterfront Network, visit [www.wateraccessus.com](http://www.wateraccessus.com) or to receive Network email updates, please contact:

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