

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND SESSION PROPOSALS

**NWWN**  
BOSTON 22



**NATIONAL WORKING WATERFRONT NETWORK CONFERENCE**  
JULY 19-21, 2022 | BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



PHOTO: BOSTON HARBOR NOW

## WORKING WATERFRONTS: TRADITIONS AND TRANSITIONS

**Submission Deadline Extended: March 8, 2022**

You are invited to submit an abstract or session proposal (including panel sessions) to be considered for a in-person conference presentation.

To submit, please visit [umassboston.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5uuCG4G75NF14R8](https://umassboston.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5uuCG4G75NF14R8). This form includes a series of questions regarding proposal type, presenter info, and a section for a written abstract with a 500-word limit. Please provide enough detail about the format, content, and presenters for the proposal review team to evaluate your submission.

The 6th [National Working Waterfront Conference](#) will be held in-person July 19-21, 2022 at the waterfront campus of UMass Boston. The event provides a forum for stakeholders from across the U.S. and Canada to connect and showcase innovative, successful, and timely solutions to waterfront and waterway issues. Participants will also directly experience working waterfronts in greater Boston coastal communities. A reception, NOAA training, and field trips will also take place on Monday, July 18, prior to the official start to the conference.

The goal of the conference, and the National Working Waterfront Network as a whole, is to increase the capacity of coastal communities to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts. This year's theme, *Working Waterfronts: Traditions and Transitions* was chosen in light of the challenges working waterfront communities have had addressing impacts from COVID, looking to the future, and maintaining historical context. Sessions will highlight lessons learned and best practices

around recovery and resilience. They also will discuss recreational boating and harbors, dredging, waterfront industries, commercial fishing, aquaculture, maritime heritage, and a host of other topics affecting working waterfronts.

## PRESENTATION AND SESSION OPTIONS

The conference strongly encourages presentations and sessions on practical information and tools in addition to academic research.

The program will feature several formats and engagement opportunities to create an educational and interactive forum where emerging ideas, best practices, and information can be shared.

- Individual Oral Presentation: Proposal from an individual for a single presentation of approximately 20 minutes.
- Breakout “Panel” Session: Proposal for a 90-minute breakout session with a panel of speakers (max 4 total) presenting on topics related to a specific theme.
- Roundtable Discussion Session: Proposal for a 90-minute breakout session designed to engage the participants in an interactive, facilitated discussion.
- Individual Poster Presentation: Proposal from an individual for a self-explanatory visual presentation of their work.
- Art, music, drama, poetry, literature, creative communications, film, and media: Proposal from an individual or team for a presentation, discussion, performance, or installation.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The [National Working Waterfront Conference](#) is one of the Network’s premiere events, offering participants the opportunity to expand their connections to other professionals in their fields and learn about a diverse range of working waterfront topics. Approximately 300+ people attend, including planners; managers; attorneys; policy makers; elected/appointed officials; waterway and waterfront advocates, users and developers, property and business owners; researchers and students; and others from entities such as:

- Marine, boating, fishing (both commercial and recreational), aquaculture, renewable energy, and tourism industries
- Navigation districts and port authorities
- Citizen advisory committees and harbor boards
- Local, regional, state/provincial, tribal, and federal government entities
- Environmental and maritime consultancies
- Coastal & marine-oriented non-profit organizations
- Educational organizations

You do not need to be a member of the National Working Waterfront Network to participate in this conference.



## CONFERENCE THEMES

The 2022 conference theme is *Working Waterfronts: Traditions and Transitions* and examples of potential topics are below. This is not an exhaustive list. New ideas and emerging topics that are critical to working waterfronts are welcomed.

### COVID-RELATED IMPACTS, INNOVATIONS, AND RECOVERY

Employment, supply chain, consumer demand, new products and services

### COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Dockage, processing, off-shore aquaculture, gear innovation, seafood markets, balancing/integrating with existing and emerging waterfront activities

### RECREATIONAL BOATING AND HARBORS

Recreational boating economic benefits, anchoring and mooring fields, access and infrastructure needs, marinas and boatyards, waterway maintenance, boating safety, partnerships with ports to enhance access and opportunities

### WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE

Small harbor maintenance, funding, community-collaborative dredging, partnerships, water access

### WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES

Economics, infrastructure, dredging, funding and financing strategies, land use, environmental issues, data and technology needs, multi-purpose waterfronts, expanding industries (e.g., offshore renewable energy)

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea level rise, coastal flooding, storms, ocean acidification, water levels; natural and manmade hazards; disaster preparedness and response; coastal resilience planning and protection; living shorelines and nature-based solutions; natural resource protection

### WORKING WATERFRONT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Maritime labor issues, recruitment and retention, diversity, training and education, marine trades (e.g., boatbuilding, net repair), economic value in context of jobs, working with non-English speaking and underrepresented populations



## MARITIME COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

Tourism, public access, historic preservation, oral history projects, waterfront festivals, coastal and island communities

## INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR WATER-DEPENDENT USES

Tools and technology, design and innovation, community input processes, aesthetics, planning, zoning, smart growth strategies, transportation connections, revitalization programs, partnership building, legal issues, policy development, legislative initiatives

## OTHER

Additional topics and themes related to working waterfronts and waterways

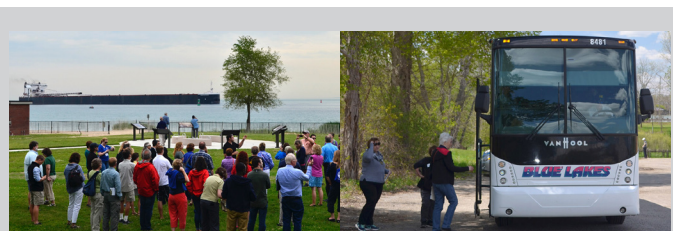
## PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING

**Monday, July 18**

### ESTIMATING THE LOCAL MARINE ECONOMY: TELLING YOUR STORY

Many jobs in coastal communities depend on marine resources and access to waterways. These jobs can be vulnerable to hazards like coastal flooding and lake level changes. This course will help participants tell a compelling story about the importance of their waterfront by identifying local marine jobs and using local economic data. These stories are helpful when compiling information for comprehensive coastal resilience planning efforts, grant applications, and outreach projects.

Participants will learn how to describe the coastal and marine economy for your community using economic data and local knowledge, identify industries vulnerable to coastal hazards, and tell a compelling story with economic data and information for your community.



## INTEGRATED FIELD TRIPS

Full and half-day field trips will be held on Monday, July 18, and half-day field trips will be incorporated into the conference itself.

Details will be posted on the conference website as they are finalized.

## LODGING

A block of hotel rooms is being reserved at the Doubletree by Hilton Boston Bayside. Additionally, private rooms will be available in the recently constructed dormitories on the campus of UMass Boston. Please visit the conference website for more information.



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### HOSTED BY

Urban Harbors Institute,  
University of Massachusetts Boston

### CO-HOSTED BY

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management  
Maine Sea Grant

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