

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND SESSION PROPOSALS

NWWN 25
SAN DIEGO



**NATIONAL WORKING WATERFRONT NETWORK CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2025 | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/nwn-2025-conference-san-diego



JASONHOUSTON.COM

**2025 THEME
WORKING WATERFRONTS: ADAPTING TO CHANGE**

Submission Deadline: October 16, 2024

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

To submit, please visit: https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ac8NcdyabHhZdvE.

This online submission form includes a series of questions regarding proposal type, presenter information, 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 team will be reviewing abstracts for: (1) their relevance to the 2025 theme above, and to the session conference themes listed below; and (2) their significance/contribution to knowledge and/or practice.**

ABOUT THE NWWN CONFERENCE

The 7th [National Working Waterfront Network Conference](#) will be held in-person February 4 - 6, 2025 at the Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay, San Diego, California. The event provides a forum for people 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 San Diego coastal communities. An informal gathering and NOAA training will also take place on Monday, February 3rd, 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: Adapting to Change*, was chosen in light of the many challenges that working waterfronts are facing related to drivers such as impacts of climate change, land use, and workforce development.

Sessions will highlight lessons learned and best practices focused on adapting and planning to enhance the resilience of working waterfronts. Presenters will also discuss waterfront industries, decarbonization, commercial fishing and aquaculture, recreational harbors, maritime culture, partnerships, funding strategies, and a host of other topics affecting working waterfronts.

Please email nwwn.info@gmail.com for any questions or concerns.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The 2025 conference theme is Working Waterfronts: Adapting to Change. 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.

IMPACTS OF AND ADAPTATIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea level rise, coastal flooding, storms, changing water conditions (*i.e.*, warming), fluctuating water levels, natural and manmade hazards, coastal resilience planning and protection, living shorelines and nature-based solutions, natural resource protection

DISASTER RESPONSE AND FUNDING

Response to damages from storms, mitigation, disaster/flood insurance, emergency preparedness, funding, response activities at local and regional scales, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act initiatives

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, CHALLENGES, AND ISSUES

Maritime labor issues, recruitment and retention, diversity, training and education, marine trades (*i.e.*, boatbuilding, net repair), graying of the fleets, economic value in context of jobs, equitable access to training and jobs

WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIES, AND INNOVATIONS

Infrastructure aging and greening, waterway maintenance (*i.e.*, dredging), environmental issues, multi-purpose waterfronts, expanding industries, decarbonization, data and technology needs, design and innovation, recreational and commercial harbors, commercial fishing and aquaculture, gear innovation, seafood markets, related finance and funding strategies

PLANNING AND POLICY

Economic development, land use, waterfront access, planning, zoning, community engagement processes, smart growth strategies, transportation connections, revitalization programs, funding and financing strategies, policy development, balance of water dependent and non-water dependent uses

MARITIME COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

Tourism, public access, historic preservation, oral history projects, waterfront festivals, unique context of coastal and island communities, indigenous and tribal communities

OTHER

Additional topics and themes related to working waterfronts and waterways



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.
- **Creative Communications:** Proposal from an individual or team for a presentation, discussion, performance, or installation of art, music, drama, poetry, literature, film, and/or media.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

The [National Working Waterfront Network 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
- Community advisory committees and harbor boards
- Local, regional, state/provincial, tribal, and federal government entities
- Environmental and maritime consultancies
- Coastal and 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.

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING

Monday, February 3rd

ESTIMATING THE LOCAL MARINE ECONOMY: TELLING YOUR STORY

The training is offered and hosted by NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management. The training is free and open to the first 25-30 participants that sign up. A sign up form will be shared when you register for the conference.

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.



FIELD TRIPS

A half day field trip will be held on Wednesday, February 5th, and additional pre-conference field trips on February 3rd are being considered. Details will be posted on the conference website as they are finalized.



CONFERENCE CENTER

The conference and welcome reception is being hosted at Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay.

1936 Quivira Way
San Diego, CA 92109



LODGING

A block of hotel rooms is reserved at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, within a half a mile of the conference center. Please visit the conference website for more information.



About the National Working Waterfront Network

The NWWN is a nationwide network of businesses, industry associations, nonprofits, local governments and communities, state and federal agencies, universities, Sea Grant programs, and individuals dedicated to supporting, preserving, and enhancing our nation's working waterfronts and waterways. The NWWN is a community of practice and a forum for people who share an interest in working waterfronts and are engaged in supporting the continued economic, cultural, and recreational contributions they provide for communities, regions, and the nation. Participation in the NWWN is open to all individuals and organizations involved in working waterfront issues at the federal, state, and local level. Our mission is to increase the capacity of coastal communities and individuals to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways.

To contact us, please email nwwn.info@gmail.com.



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National Working Waterfront Network

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California Sea Grant
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Sponsorship opportunities available:

<https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/nwwn-2025-conference-san-diego/sponsorship/>