



NROC
 Northeast Regional
 Ocean Council



**Gulf of Maine Council
 on the Marine Environment**
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 for a healthy environment



North Atlantic LCC
 North Atlantic Landscape
 Conservation Cooperative

Tidal Crossings Assessments Workshop

September 10, 2015

New Hampshire DES
 222 International Drive, Suite 175
 Portsmouth, NH 02801

Directions: http://des.nh.gov/contactus/documents/directions_to_pease_office.pdf

Webex: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/tidalcrossing/> (requires adobe)

Call-in: 866-506-7697; Code: 9500660

AGENDA

Time	
8:45	Arrive and Network
9:00	<p>Welcome and Setting the Stage - <i>Steve Couture, NH DES</i></p> <p>Meeting Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of information regarding jurisdictional efforts on developing protocols for assessing tidal crossings • Enhance understanding of how management questions can be addressed through tidal crossing assessments • Scope interest and agree to develop regional tidal crossing protocols
9:15	Introductions
9:35	<p>Overview of Management Questions – Becca Newhall, NOAA</p> <p><i>Facilitated discussion to identify the management questions that a tidal crossing assessment should address.</i></p>
10:15	Break

10:30	<p>Roundtable of Tidal Crossing Initiatives Underway - <i>Regina Lyons, EPA</i></p> <p>Summaries of efforts underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maine: Charles Hebson, Maine DOT ● New Hampshire: Kevin Lucey, NH Coastal Program ● Massachusetts: Steve Block, NOAA Restoration Center ● Rhode Island: Caitlin Chaffee, RI CRMC ● Connecticut: Peter Francis, CTDEEP ● New York: Nicole Maher, TNC (in collaboration with Josh Thiel, NY DEC) ● Nova Scotia: Steve Conway, Nova Scotia Dept. of Environment ● New Brunswick: Peter McLaughlin, NB Dept. of Environment and Local Government ● North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC): Scott Jackson, UMass <p>In-depth look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Washington State: Doris Small, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
12:00	Networking Lunch (lunch provided)
1:00	<p>Breakout Groups: In-Depth Look at Evaluation Criteria and Assessment Parameters for Tidal Crossings - <i>Kevin Lucey, NH DES and Peter Steckler, NH TNC</i></p> <p><i>Overview and discussion of potential evaluation criteria and their relevant assessment parameters.</i></p> <p><i>Virtual Site Tours in breakout groups to identify which evaluation criteria are useful, necessary, and/or appropriate to answer management questions.</i></p> <p>Questions to consider when thinking about parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What attributes are necessary to evaluate in the field in order to characterize impacts of a tidal crossing structure on aquatic organism passage, tidal marsh habitat, flooding, resiliency, etc? ● Are the parameters realistic, measurable, time intensive, expensive? ● Should the collection of field parameters be phased? What parameters are appropriate for Phase I and Phase II? ● What level of expertise is required for field evaluation of each of the parameters: Volunteers, interns, professionals? ● What evaluation criteria can be applied to rank and prioritize sites? ● Aside from more frequent fluctuations in water levels, how should assessment (timing, salinity considerations) differ in a tidally influenced system versus non-tidal systems?
2:30	Break
2:40	Continue Breakout Groups: In-Depth Look at Evaluation Criteria and Assessment Parameters for Tidal Crossings
3:30	<p>Next Steps – <i>Steve Couture, NH DES</i></p> <p><i>Discussion on outcomes from this meeting and how to move forward (Regional protocol? Regional technical workgroup?)</i></p> <p><i>How this group can support the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative plans for a tidal component to the existing NAACC protocol</i></p>
4:00	Wrap-up