



WEBINAR SERIES | April 5 and April 8, 2022

Aquaculture in New England Federal Waters: Regulation, Public Engagement, and Interjurisdictional Coordination

OVERVIEW

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)'s Ocean Planning Committee (OPC) invites you to participate in a webinar series about the regulatory process, public engagement, and interjurisdictional coordination for aquaculture in New England federal waters. This series builds on NROC's 2020 [webinar](#) which highlighted federal efforts to designate Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in the United States, as well as NROC's recent development of a draft set of "Best Practices for Ocean Permitting and Management Processes."

These webinars will provide an overview of the state of aquaculture in New England federal waters, an update on the identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, an overview of the federal review and authorization process for aquaculture activities, and discussion about how federal agencies coordinate with states, tribes, and the public to consider environmental and human impacts during regulatory review. Panel sessions will highlight state, tribal, and public perspectives on opportunities to improve the federal regulatory review process and better engage different interests in aquaculture permitting decisions.

➤ **WEBINAR 1 | Tuesday, April 5, 2022 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

Federal Agency Review and Authorization of Aquaculture in New England Federal Waters

Learn about the state of aquaculture in New England, identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, case studies of aquaculture permitting from other regions, and the federal agency review and authorization process for aquaculture in New England federal waters.

➤ **WEBINAR 2 | Friday, April 8, 2022 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

State, Tribal, and Public Perspectives on Improving the Regulatory Process for Aquaculture in New England Federal Waters

Panel sessions will highlight state, tribal, and public perspectives on improving the regulatory process for aquaculture permitting in New England.

REGISTRATION

[Register here.](#)

AGENDA

WEBINAR 1 | Tuesday, April 5, 2022 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Federal Agency Review and Authorization of Aquaculture in New England Federal Waters

Learn about the state of aquaculture in New England, identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, case studies of aquaculture permitting from other regions, and the federal agency review and authorization process for aquaculture in New England federal waters.

- 9:00 AM** **Welcome, Context Setting, Summary of NROC OPC Best Practices**
Lou Chiarella, NROC Ocean Planning Committee Federal Co-Chair
Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat and Ecosystem Services, NOAA Fisheries
- 9:10 AM** **Status of Aquaculture in Federal Waters and NMFS's NEPA Role for Certain Aquaculture Projects in Federal Waters**
Chris Schillaci, NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region Aquaculture Coordinator
- *Update on the identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas*
 - *Current state of aquaculture in New England and where to find publicly available information on current projects*
 - *Case studies of aquaculture permitting in federal waters from other regions*
- 9:35 AM** **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Review**
Christine Jacek, Senior Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 9:55 AM** **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Regulatory Review**
Eric Nelson, Biologist, Ocean and Coastal Protection Section,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 10:15 AM** **Questions and Comment**
Webinar participants will have the opportunity to pose questions, comment, and discuss the regulatory process with presenters.
- 11:00 AM** **Adjourn**

AGENDA

WEBINAR 2 | Friday, April 8, 2022 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM

State, Tribal, and Public Perspectives on Improving the Regulatory Process for Aquaculture in New England Federal Waters

Panel sessions will highlight state, tribal, and public perspectives on improving the regulatory process for aquaculture permitting in New England.

9:00 AM Welcome and Context Setting

Ted Diers, NROC Ocean Planning Committee State Co-Chair

Administrator of the Watershed Bureau, NH Department of Environmental Services

9:10 AM Highlights from Webinar 1 on the Status of Aquaculture and Federal Waters and Federal Regulatory Responsibilities

Chris Schillaci, Greater Atlantic Region Aquaculture Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries

9:15 AM Panel Sessions: Perspectives on Improving the Regulatory Process in Federal Waters

Panel sessions will discuss best practices for public engagement, interjurisdictional coordination, and the use of data and information for permitting aquaculture in federal waters. Comments by panelists will be followed by opportunity for public Q&A.

Panel 1: Tribal, State, and New England Fishery Management Council Perspectives

- *Chuckie Green, Retired Assistant Natural Resources Director, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe*
- *Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fisheries Management Council*
- *Chris Williams, Program Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services, Coastal Program*
- *Lisa Engler, Director, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management*
- *Amanda Ellis, Aquaculture Hearings Officer, ME Department of Marine Resources*

Q&A (10-15 minutes)

9:55 AM Panel 2: Aquaculture Industry Perspectives

- *Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association*
- *Ted Maney, Salem State University (offshore mussel farm)*
- *Paul Zajicek, Executive Director, National Aquaculture Association*

Q&A (approximately 10 minutes)

10:20 AM Panel 3: Fishing Industry and Environmental Group Perspectives

- *Beth Casoni, Executive Director, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association*
- *Robert Jones, Global Aquaculture Lead, The Nature Conservancy*
- *Priscilla Brooks, Vice President and Director, Ocean Conservation, Conservation Law Foundation*

Q&A (approximately 10 minutes)

- 10:45 AM** **Additional Questions and Comments**
Webinar participants pose additional questions or comments, and discuss the regulatory process with all of the panelists.

- 10:55 AM** **Wrap up and Next Steps**

- 11:00 AM** **Adjourn**