

# National Working Waterfront Network & Current Working Waterfront Topics

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URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON



# MISSION – URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE

To promote thriving ocean and coastal communities and sustainable natural resources through research, planning, engagement, and education.



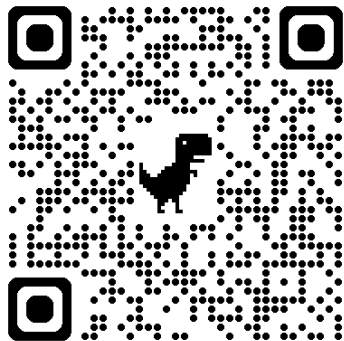
# NATIONAL WORKING WATERFRONT NETWORK (NWWN)

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.



# RESOURCES

- Website - <https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/>
  - Case studies
  - Resource library
  - Oral histories
- Listserv - <https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/listserv/>



**WorkingWaterfronts**  
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Official YouTube channel for the National Working Waterfront Network

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- Preserving Gig Harbor's Net Sheds**  
607 views · 9 years ago

NWWN

GET INVOLVED ABOUT RESOURCES CASE STUDIES TOOLS CONFERENCES

## RESEARCH LIBRARY

**SURVEY**

The following library was put together by the NWWN to provide reliable resources and tools for folks involved in working waterfronts. The resources are categorized by topic. Peruse through the library by clicking on each topic and the following links, or use keywords/phrases in the search function to narrow down your options.

Search

- CASE STUDIES & ORAL HISTORIES**
- WEBINARS / PODCASTS**
- FINANCING**
- HISTORIC TRENDS**

# INTERNSHIPS

<https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com/about/internships/>

The program is meant to foster partnerships between an academic institution and a community/industry partner both focused on supporting working waterfronts and coastal communities, in addition to providing graduate students with the opportunity to conduct applied research and gain experience in addressing real-world challenges. Below are past intern projects from 2022-2024:

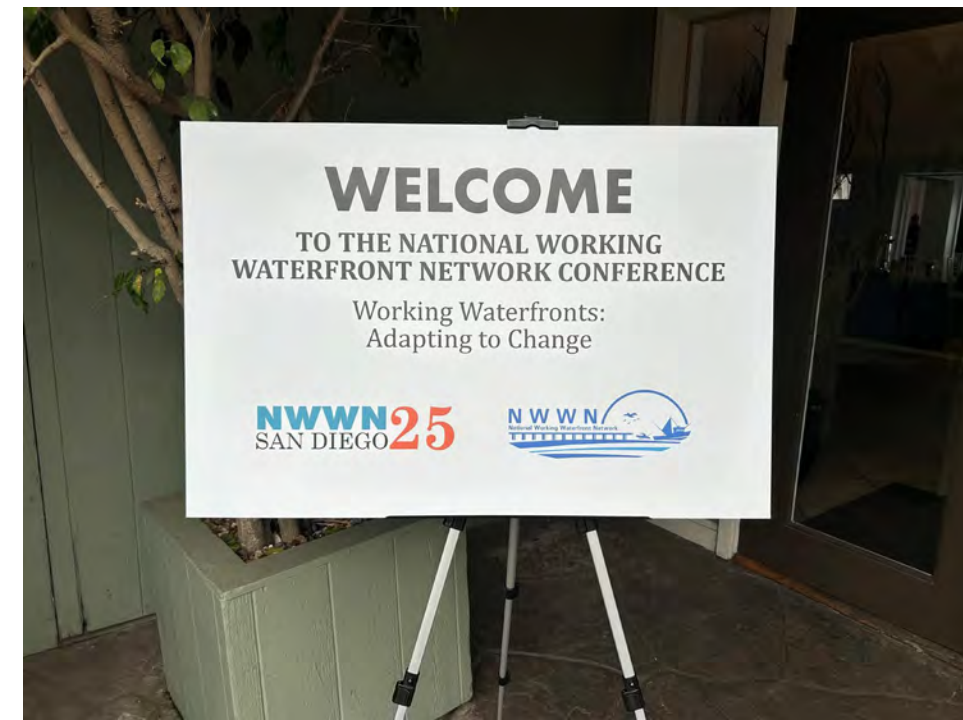
- Assessing Marine Industry Compliance in the Crabber-Towboat Agreement, **West Coast**
- Understanding Shoreside Infrastructure Challenges in the Massachusetts Summertime Fluke Fishery, **Northeast**
- Gap Analysis and Policy Recommendations to Support Voluntary Emissions Reductions in the U.S. Commercial Fishing Fleet, **West Coast**
- Analysis of How to Reduce Bycatch in the Atlantic Monkfish Fishery through Use of Modified Large Mesh Sink-Gillnets, Chesapeake Bay, **Mid-Atlantic**
- Great Lakes Future Fishers Initiative Apprenticeship Program – Workforce Development, **Great Lakes**
- Identifying Gaps in Policies for Working Waterfronts to Support Commercial Fishing Communities in Georgia, **Southeast**
- Hurricane Disaster Relief for Commercial Fishing communities in Florida, **Southeast**
- Seafood Hubs: Supporting Local Seafood System Resilience, Case Study Oregon Coast, **West Coast**
- Supporting Working Waterfronts in Gloucester County, Virginia through Land-use Planning, **Mid-Atlantic (current, Spring 2025)**

# CONFERENCE

- 2025 – San Diego, CA
- 2022 – Boston, MA
- 2018 – Grand Rapids, MI
- 2015 – Tampa, FL
- 2013 – Tacoma, WA
- 2010 – Portland, ME
- 2007 – Norfolk, VA

## Purposes of the Conference

- To connect and unite stakeholders from across the U.S., and to showcase innovative, successful, and timely solutions to waterfront and waterway issues.
- To provide attendees an opportunity to network with others who are involved in the same types of professional issues and, together, develop strategies, timelines, funding sources, and regional alliances to address them.



# Preservation of Working Waterfronts

## Issues/Opportunities:

- Conversion to non-water- dependent uses
- Vacancy
- Abutters
- Access



# Climate Change



## Issues/Opportunities:

- Flooding/water levels
- Storm damage
- Safety
- Fisheries
- Economic and social disruptions
- Planning/Preparedness
- Funding
- Policy document

### Summary

Bayou La Batre is located on the Gulf of Mexico and hosts a diverse community with strong connections to the working waterfront. Bayou La Batre is famous for its seafood industry, commercial and charter fisheries, ship and boat repair, and net makers. Considered to be Alabama's Seafood Capital, the majority of employment in the area is tied to the waterfront with commercial fishing and seafood processing major sectors of the marine economy. However, in recent decades rising fuel prices, imported seafood, and impacts from climate changes present challenges to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses directly associated with it.

In recent years, local and state governments have been focused on strengthening Bayou La Batre's coastal zone and working waterfront. New initiatives such as the Lightning Point Shoreline Restoration project and future City Docks Redevelopment Project are working to increase resiliency and access for both fishing and recreation. The following study details the challenges Bayou La Batre's waterfront faces, similar to other working waterfronts in the United States, and details how the region is supporting the marine sector and revamping the waterfront




# Innovation

## Issues/Opportunities:

- Decarbonization
- Electrification
- Need for infrastructure
- Lack of skilled workforce

Board & Harbor Safety Agencies | Truck Compliance | Port Fair | Español | Contact



ABOUT ▾ BUSINESS ▾ ENVIRONMENT ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ INNOVATION ▾ INFRASTRUCTURE ▾

## PACED PROJECT

## PORT ACTION, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

The PACED Project serves as the overarching strategic modernization plan for the Port of Hueneme.

### Toolkit for the Electrification and Decarbonization of Maine's Commercial Boats

We're excited to share our toolkit, designed to guide marine businesses and municipalities through the transition to electric propulsion. [Backed by Island Institute's deep expertise and leadership](#), this resource is built to help you make the switch to climate-friendly electric propulsion.

Below, you'll find everything you need:

- Financial resources and funding opportunities
- Webinars and literature to keep you informed
- A robust FAQ section
- Success stories and more

And because the industry is evolving fast, we're committed to keeping this toolkit up-to-date with the latest innovations and insights.

Ready to embrace the future of marine electrification on Maine's coast? We're here to support you every step of the way. Contact Phoebe Walsh at [pwalsh@islandinstitute.org](mailto:pwalsh@islandinstitute.org) or [\(207\) 535-9249](tel:(207)535-9249) for assistance.



*Phoebe Walsh visits Hylan & Brown boat builders in Brooklin, recipients of a grant for an ePropulsion electric outboard motor.*

# Infrastructure

## Issues/Opportunities:

- Aging infrastructure
- Ability to meet needs
- Funding
  - Private ownership
  - Community support
- Climate impacts



# Workforce Development

## Issues/Opportunities:

- Engaging younger generations
- Addressing equity
- Reducing barriers
- Training and support
- Predictability/security
- Partnerships
- Undergrad and graduate courses

Are you a student or young adult looking for career opportunities and training in the maritime sector? Check out these programs and opportunities:



### Expanded Maritime Collaborative

The Expanded Maritime Collaborative (EMC) offers a series of six-week after-school programs for high school students in the Seattle and South King County area. The purpose of the EMC is to create an opportunity where students can become aware, interested and engaged in the maritime sector throughout the school year.

**Stipend:** \$500

**Open to ages 15 – 18**

[Sign up](#)



### Youth Maritime Accelerator Project

An eight-week summer program designed to heighten maritime familiarity through experiential event trips, job readiness training, and work experience. Youth will gain knowledge & skill sets.

**Stipend:** \$3,000

**Open to ages 18 – 24**

[Sign up](#)



### Youth Maritime Career Launch

Three-month on-the-job training in the summer or fall designed to teach, shape & grow participants through internship participation in a company's field of work, with aspirations leading program participants to entry-level career placement.

**Stipend:** \$9,600

**Open to ages 18 – 24**

[Refer a participant](#)

<https://maritimeblue.org/equity-engagement/>

# Dredging

## Issues/Opportunities:

- Permitting
- Funding
- Availability of dredge
- Harbor capacity
- Opportunities for beneficial reuse of sediment

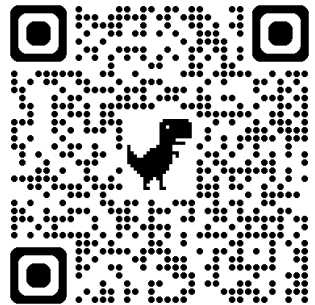


# QUESTIONS?



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