



**Steering Committee Meeting**

**December 14, 2023**

**10:00am-12:30pm**

**Narragansett Bay Commission or Zoom**

# Agenda

Subject	Presenter(s)	Shared via Zoom	Formal Committee Action Requested Today	Time
Meeting Open	Caitlin Chaffee, Chair	Agenda	Approve October 2023 Steering Committee notes.	10:00
Steering Committee Membership Update	Nominating Committee	PPT	Vote whether to approve the Nominating Committee recommendations for Steering Committee appointments.	10:05
2024 Outreach Awards Ideas Exercise	Steering Committee	PPT	None.	10:15
Vision 2034 Update and Goals Framework	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	10:30
Draft NBEP Research Plan	Courtney Schmidt, NBEP	PPT	None.	11:20
2024 Meeting Dates	Darcy Young, NBEP	PPT	None.	11:50
NBEP Quarterly Report	NBEP Staff	PPT	None.	11:55
Break for Lunch				12:00
Committee Member Updates	Steering Committee	None.	None.	12:10
Update on Executive Director Search, Adjourn Meeting	Caitlin Chaffee, Chair	None.	Adjourn meeting.	12:30

Decision #1:

Does the Steering Committee approve the draft October 19, 2023 Steering Committee meeting notes?

# Steering Committee Membership Update

# NBEP Steering Committee Membership Update

<b>NBEP Steering Committee members with terms expiring in 2023</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Action</b>
Colleen Brown	Conservation Agent	Town of Swansea, MA	Do not reappoint
Stefanie Covino	Blackstone Watershed Manager	Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, Clark University	Reappoint
Allison Hamel	Principal Environmental Scientist	RI Department of Transportation	Reappoint
Hillary King	Central Regional Coordinator	MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program	Reappoint
Alicia Lehrer	Executive Director	Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	Reappoint
Conor McManus	Deputy Chief	RIDEM Marine Fisheries	Reappoint
Dave Monti	Charter Boat Captain, Author	No Fluke Fishing	Reappoint
Karla Sangrey	Engineer-Director/Treasurer	Upper Blackstone Clean Water	Reappoint
Topher Hamblett	Executive Director	Save The Bay	Reappoint

Overall: 17 Rhode Island-centric, 10 Massachusetts-centric, 0 Connecticut-centric

Decision #2:

Does the Steering Committee approve the proposed slate of Steering Committee members and officers?

# 2024 NBEP Outreach Awards: Ideas Exercise

# 2024 NBEP Outreach Awards Input

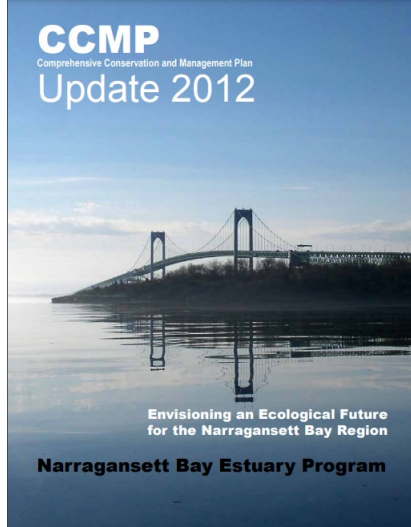
NBEP has ~\$61,000 available to make subawards for outreach activities in 2024. Seeking needs, opportunities, and other ideas. Ideally, we will make 3-5 awards.



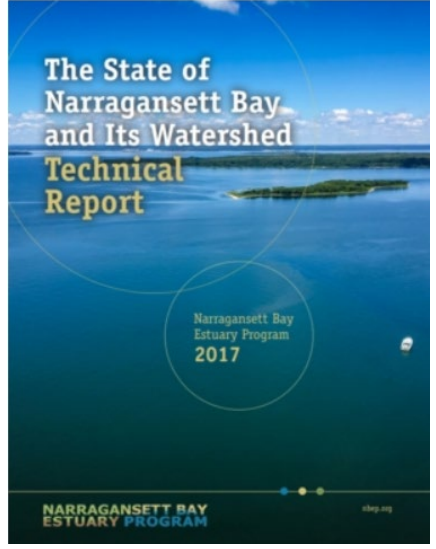
# Vision 2034 Drafting Process Update

# NBEP “core” documents

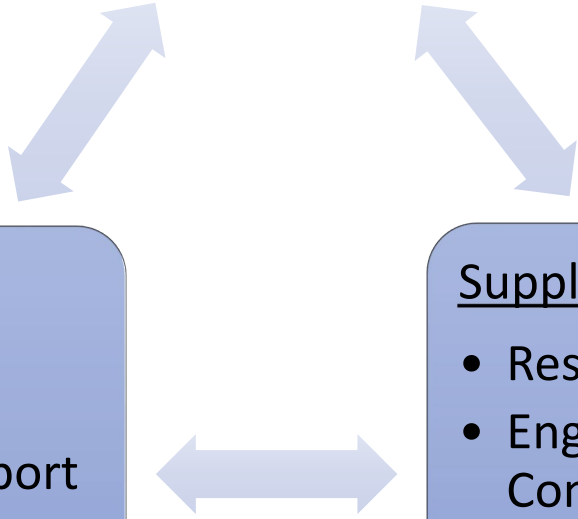
Vision 2034: Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Narragansett Bay Region



Status & Trends Report



- Supplemental Plans
- Research / Monitoring Plan
  - Engagement / Communications Plan
  - Finance Plan
  - Habitat Protection / Restoration Plan



# Vision 2034 Actions Update



The four chapters include 35 Actions to address:



## PEOPLE

- Public engagement
- Information availability
- Governance
- Funding



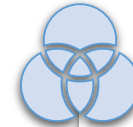
## WATER

- Nutrients (nonpoint and point source pollution)
- Trash and Marine Debris
- Sea level rise and flooding



## HABITATS & WILDLIFE

- Estuarine living resources
- Freshwater living resources
- Watershed living resources
- Biodiversity



## PUBLIC SPACES

- Public Access
- Public Health

Note: full list of Actions provided in handout.

# Draft Action Plan Format



1-3 word title	Full Action Name
<b>Action Description</b>	
Action Type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-Building <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring
NBEP Steering Committee Experts	
NBEP Role	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Support
Action Location (75 words)	
Action Description and Statement of Need (350 words)	▼

Version 1.11, last modified October 2023

**Activities**

Activity description (50 words each)	Implementation timeline (S, M, L)	Estimated Costs	Potential Funding Sources

**Implementation Metrics**

Outputs	Bulleted list
Outcomes	Bulleted list
Impacted State of the Watershed Indicator(s)	List

**References**

Related Plans and Programs	
Literature	

Version 1.11, last modified October 2023

NBEP will work with a designer for the final format - this draft version shows content only.

# Writing and Reviewing Action Drafts



- In process of writing final Action drafts
  - Mike Gerel hired as consultant through spring 2024 to draft 17 Actions
- Preparing for iterative review with partners in January and February
  - NBEP will contact Steering Committee representatives to set up review process timing and structure
  - Plan to include brief contextual pieces for each chapter so that partners can understand where “their” Actions fit into the bigger picture
- Plan for broader community outreach to identify additional partners and opportunities in April and May

# 41° N Magazine: Spring 2024 Issue



- Partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant and Coastal Institute
- Photographer, six writers hired and working on Vision 2034 stories:
  - Community engagement on Blackstone River dams
  - “Human infrastructure” / people as key to conservation
  - Urban waters with a focus on flooding
  - Changes in Narragansett Bay – research on seaweed (Boston University, URI) and Providence River fisheries (TNC RI, RIDEM)
  - Horseshoe crabs
  - Freshwater public access
- Distribution: 10,000 copies in RI, NBEP will plan distribution in MA

# Vision 2034 Document Structure

## Introductory Material

### Goals, Objectives, Targets Framework



PEOPLE

- 41°N Stories
- Contextual information
- Actions



WATER

- 41°N Stories
- Contextual information
- Actions



HABITATS & WILDLIFE

- 41°N Stories
- Contextual information
- Actions



PUBLIC SPACES

- 41°N Stories
- Contextual information
- Actions

“Crosswalk” with 2012 CCMP Actions  
Supporting Information

**Questions, Feedback on  
Vision 2034 Drafting Process?**



# Vision 2034 Goals Framework: Background

Based on feedback received during Winter 2022/2023 Coastwise Partners interviews with SC and SAC members, NBEP convened a meeting of the Vision 2034 Subcommittee in April 2023 to prioritize topics (timely, needed, feasible) for setting quantifiable targets over the next 10 years. The top 10 topics were:

1. Estuary living resources
2. Nonpoint source pollution
3. Public access
4. Point source pollution
5. Wildlife
6. Governance
7. Freshwater living resources
8. Sea Level Rise & Flooding
9. Public & Partner Engagement
10. Information and storytelling

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework: Background

- Since the April 2023 meeting, we have worked with Steering Committee partners and Coastwise Partners to further specify Vision 2034 goals and objectives (**see meeting handout**).
- Goals and objectives are not time-bound and will require some refinement

Did you notice anything missing from the goals and objectives framework? Does anything not belong?

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework

**Purpose:** to formally connect Vision 2034 Actions with Status and Trends Indicators and adopt a framework of shared goals, specific objectives, and quantifiable targets to tell the story of our partnership's plans to achieve our vision.

Could shared goals, objectives, and targets specific to the Narragansett Bay Region benefit you or be useful to you in your work?

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework: Water Quality Example

Goal	Objective	Target	Supporting Vision 2034 Actions	Related Status & Trends Indicators
Reduce Water Pollution to Improve Habitat	Estuarine water quality supports healthy aquatic life.	(By _____,) Water quality in _____ percent of estuarine waters assessed by states is adequate to support healthy aquatic life.	Estuarine Habitat Plans, Estuarine Habitat Projects, Biodiversity	Water Quality Conditions for Aquatic Life, Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity, Chlorophyll

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework: Habitat Example

Goal	Objective	Target	Supporting Vision 2034 Actions	Related Status & Trends Indicators
Restore Habitat Connectivity, Function, and Resilience	Rivers and streams allow anadromous fish passage to historic spawning areas.	(By ____,) Reconnect ____ miles of rivers and streams with estuarine waters by barrier removal or fish passage.	Freshwater connectivity, Freshwater habitat projects	Freshwater Fish Communities and Estuarine Fish Communities

# Vision 2034 Goals Framework: Access Example

Goal	Objective	Target	Supporting Vision 2034 Actions	Related Status & Trends Indicators
Provide Equitable Access to Benefits of Natural Resources	Access to rivers and streams for all watershed residents and visitors.	(By _____,) Provide an additional _____ access points to rivers and streams, focusing on areas with little existing access.	Engagement Plan, Water Access	Public Access (in development)

**Should we** convene a March 2024 joint EC, SC, SAC meeting to refine and prioritize a limited number of objectives as a first step to creating a limited number of regional shared, quantifiable **targets** to develop over the next 10 years?

**Questions, Feedback on Vision 2034 Goals Framework?**



# Vision 2034: Overview of approval process

January &  
February 2024

- Meetings with implementing partners to review Actions
- Will send Action drafts in advance for partner review
- Seeking key activities that partners plan to take on within the Actions

March 2024

- Joint meeting of NBEP committees to prioritize objectives for target development

April & May  
2024

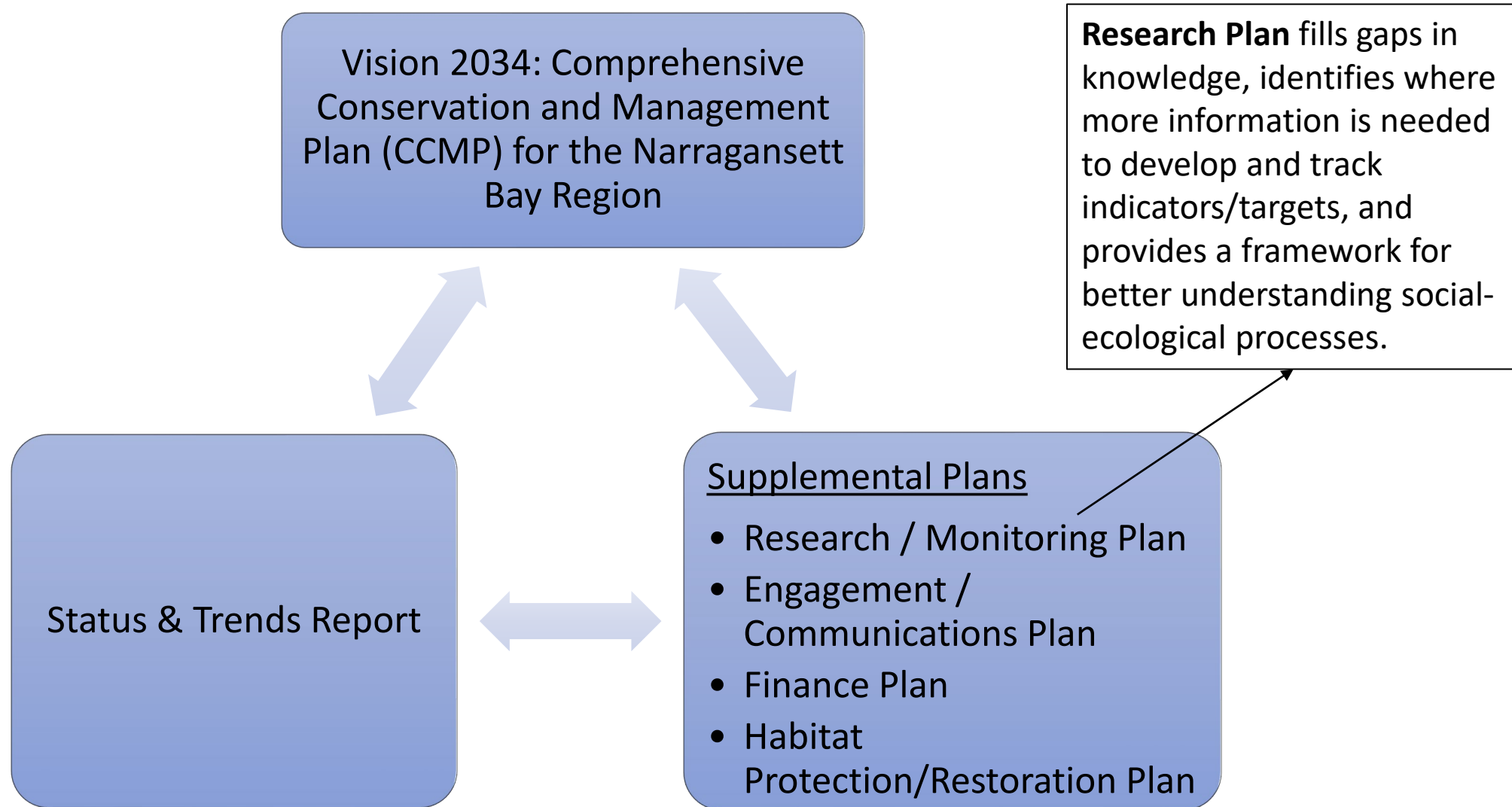
- Public comment period and outreach for full document

June 2024

- Steering Committee approval of final Vision 2034 draft
- Submission to EPA for concurrence

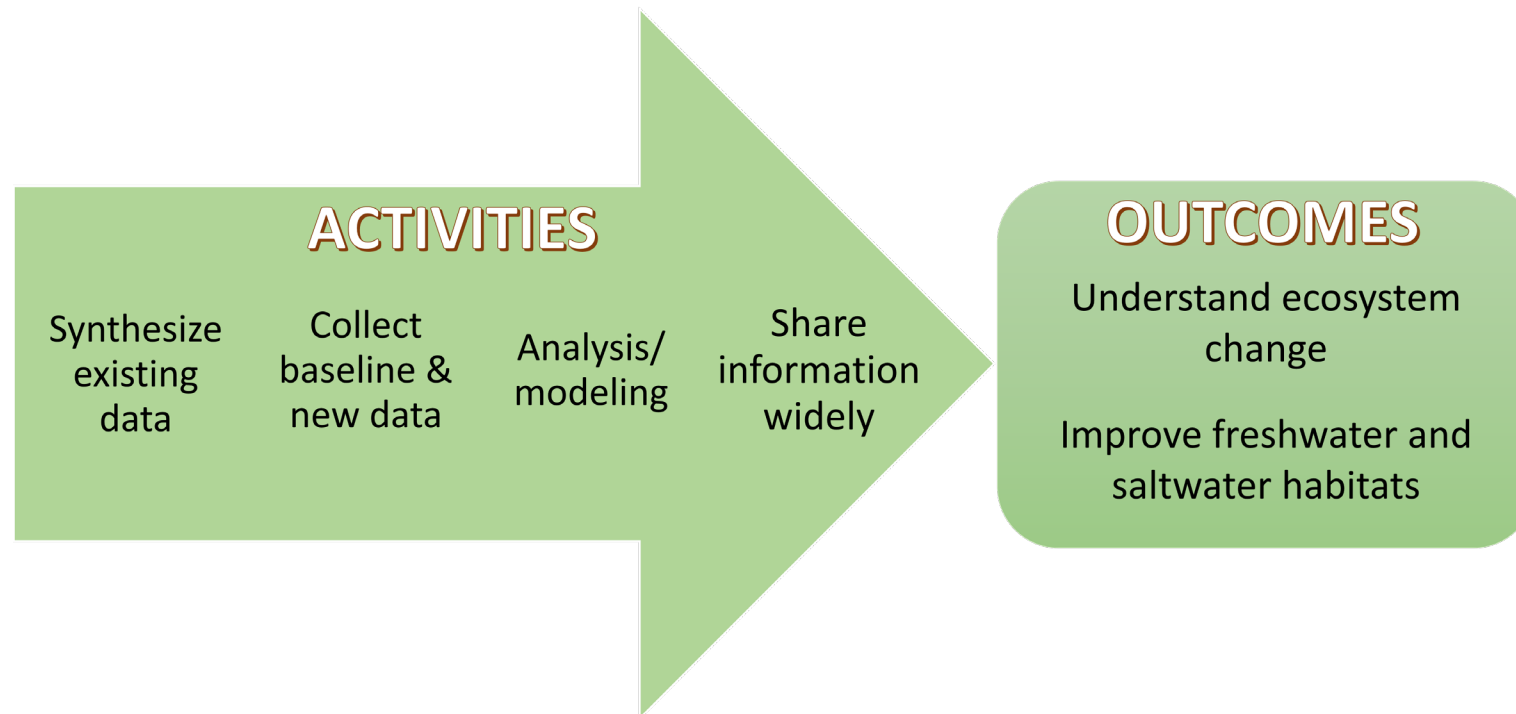
# Draft NBEP Research Plan

# Research Plan in relation to NBEP “core” documents



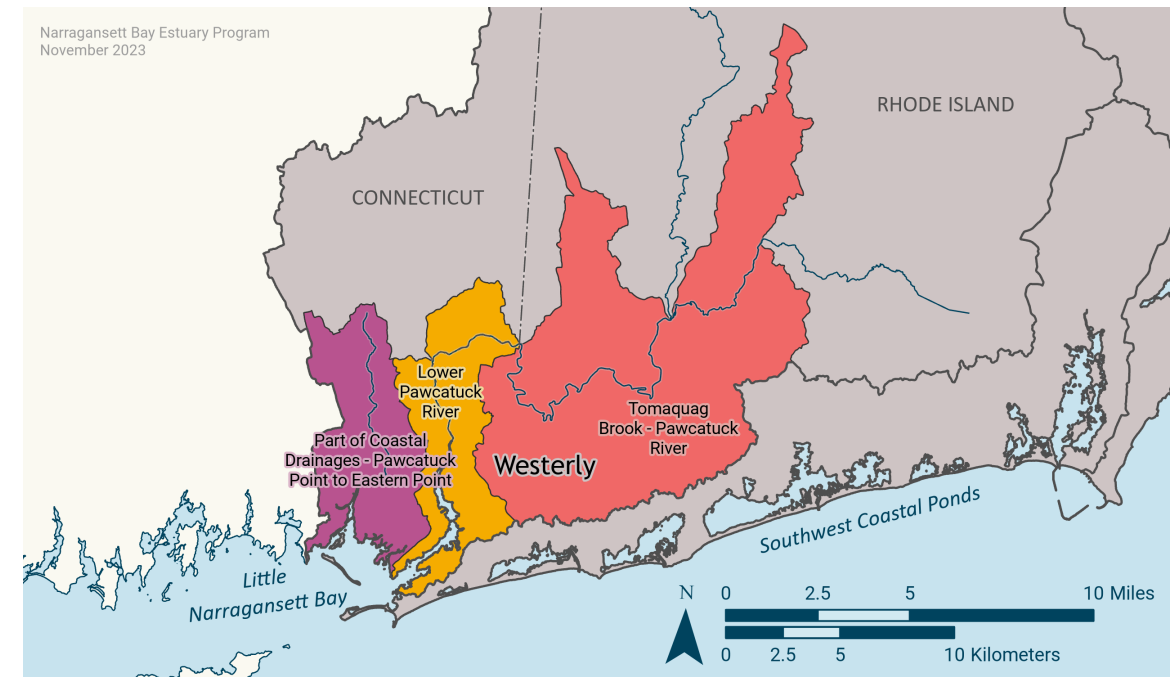
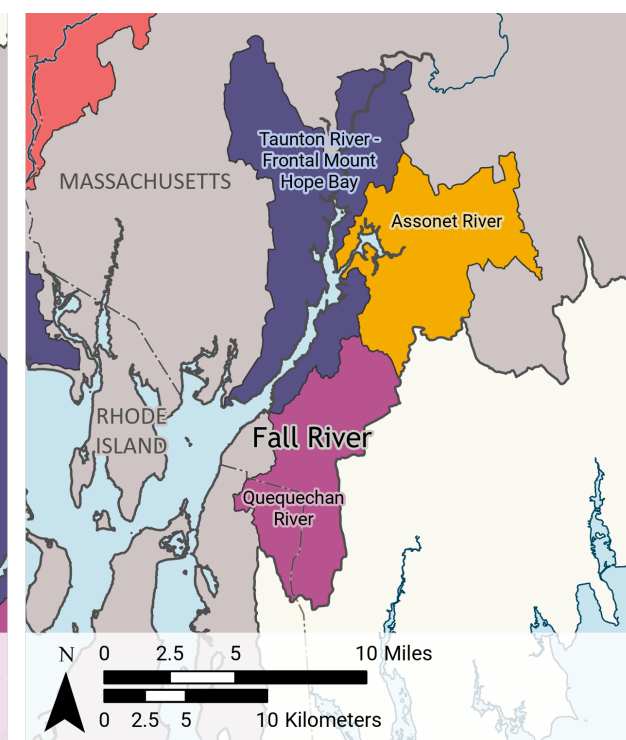
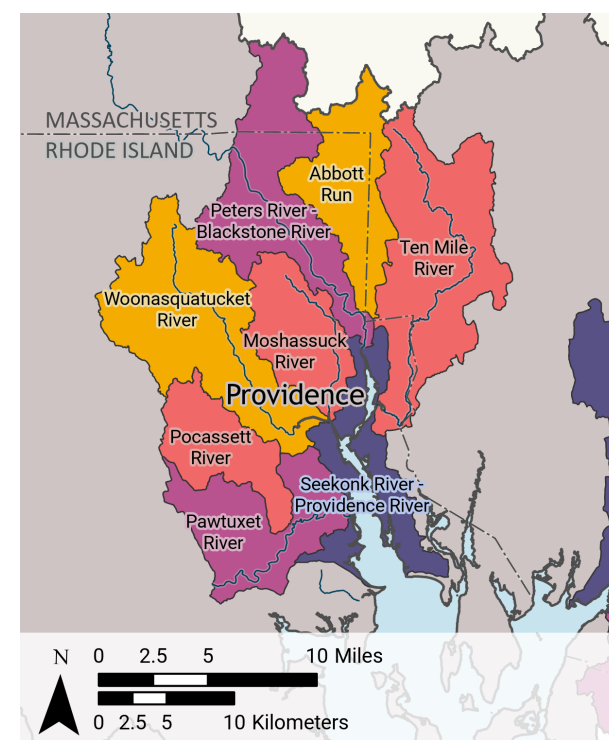
# NBEP Research Plan Origins, Intentions, and Structure

- Stemmed from 2017 Status and Trends “data gaps and research needs” and Winter-Spring 2023 Science Advisory Committee conversations and meeting
- Intends to direct limited funds, capacity, and time to priority, gap-filling (i.e. not duplicative), local research to address complex questions impacting the region’s water, wildlife, and quality of life
- 10-year plan to be aligned with CCMP: 2024-2034

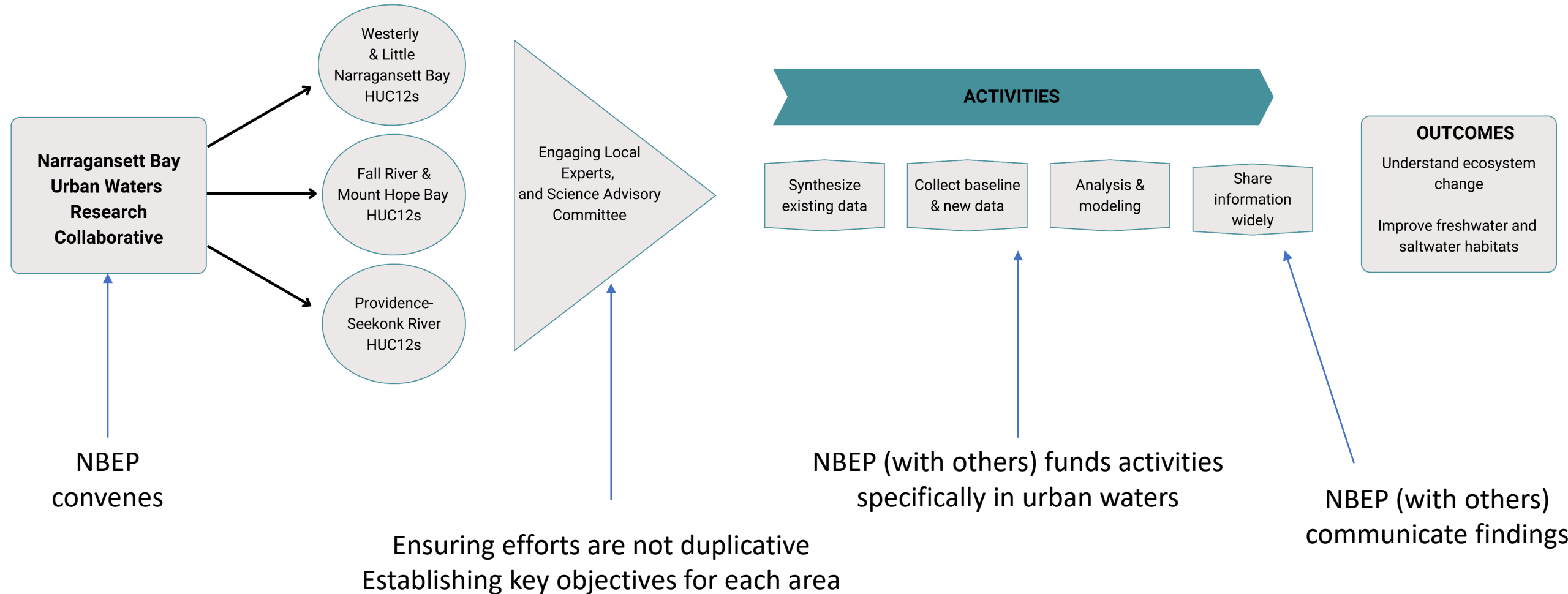


# Urban Waters Research Collaborative

- Focuses work on urban waters, where significant water quality management actions have taken place and are ongoing
  - Providence-Seekonk Rivers (706,667 people, 46% Underserved)
  - Fall River & Mount Hope Bay (118,488 people, 47% Underserved)
  - Westerly & Little Narragansett Bay (38,470 people, 17% Underserved)
- Efforts will be additive and strategic to make best use of limited funds
- Provides partners with an opportunity to explore interdisciplinary research in one space
- Works towards fully understanding the human-ecosystem dynamic



# Research Plan Structure



# Proposed Next Steps for Research Plan

- Establish collaborations and expand partnerships for Urban Waters Research Collaborative
  - Providence-Seekonk first followed by Fall River (Mount Hope Bay) and Westerly (Little Narragansett Bay) in upcoming years
- Establish objectives for the Collaborative – what broad topics will be the focus
- Literature Reviews based on priority topics for all geographies
  - To be conducted by NBEP and intern(s)
- FY2024 RFP (\$50,000-\$100,000) for synthesis activities in Providence-Seekonk
  - SAC to provide additional input on RFP topics

# Research Plan Deliverables

- After 10 years, we anticipate:
  - Research-informed CCMP goals and/or targets
  - Status and Trends reports that share progress towards CCMP goals/targets
    - Science updates that tell the story of individual indicators or targets between full status and trends reports
    - Status and Trends reports that tell a cohesive and comprehensive story of the partnership and region
  - Headway on key questions
- Partner/funded deliverables could include peer-reviewed papers, white papers, websites, databases, etc.
- Others?



**Questions, Feedback?**

# 2024 NBEP Meeting Dates

# Proposed 2024 NBEP Meetings

	<b>Executive Committee 1-2:30pm, Zoom</b>	<b>Steering Committee 10am-12:30pm, Hybrid</b>	<b>Proposed Meeting Business and Activities</b>
Meeting 1	February 13	March 14 10am-4pm, joint with SAC	Vision 2034 Action drafts review, target topics development, FY2024 320 + SNEP workplan ideas
Meeting 2	May 14	June 13	Vision 2034 approval, FY2024 320 + SNEP workplan approval
Meeting 3	August 13	September 12	
Meeting 4	November 12	December 12	Steering Committee member elections

## Other 2024 meeting business (timing uncertain) and possible activities

- BIL Years 3-5: discussion of plans, workplan development
- RFP(s)

# NBEP Quarterly Report

# Financials as of September 30, 2023

## NBEP Financials as of September 30, 2023

Category	Section 320 & SNEP Funds - FY2021 and FY2022 <sup>(1)</sup>				Section 320 & SNEP Funds - FY2023				BIL <sup>(2)</sup>				Program Income		Total Available				Notes
	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available To Spend	Awarded	Spent	Budget	Total Spent	Total Encumbered <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Available to Spend	
Salary	\$860,038	\$601,365	\$601,365	\$258,673	\$463,257	\$0	\$0	\$463,257	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$1,323,295	\$601,365	\$601,365	\$721,930	FY23 budget is for 5 FTEs (Executive Director and Ecologist hires) and RWU interns; still have 8 months of salary in the bank
Fringe	\$278,259	\$133,869	\$133,869	\$144,390	\$169,458	\$0	\$0	\$169,458	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$447,717	\$133,869	\$133,869	\$313,848	
Travel	\$13,175	\$9,646	\$9,646	\$3,529	\$9,250	\$0	\$0	\$9,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$22,425	\$9,646	\$9,646	\$12,779	
Office Supplies	\$7,254	\$13,748	\$13,748	-\$6,494	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$22,754	\$14,248	\$14,248	\$9,006	
Contracts	\$116,200	\$34,426	\$67,938	\$48,262	\$45,734	\$4,725	\$4,725	\$41,009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$161,934	\$39,151	\$67,938	\$89,271	Vision 2034, non-RWU interns, community engagement, ANEP
Subawards	\$1,309,942	\$397,851	\$1,306,318	\$3,624	\$232,573	\$0	\$175,000	\$57,573	\$1,819,600	\$397,003	\$1,819,599	\$1			\$3,362,115	\$794,854	\$3,300,917	\$61,198	remaining amount for calendar year 2024 outreach awards
Meals	\$8,160	\$6,394	\$6,394	\$1,766	\$8,100	\$0	\$0	\$8,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$16,260	\$6,394	\$6,394	\$9,866	
Event Hosting	\$2,400	\$3,912	\$3,912	-\$1,512	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$5,500	\$5,512	\$5,512	\$1,588	
Prof Development	\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$4,515	\$207	\$207	\$4,308	
Phone	\$11,128	\$10,599	\$10,599	\$529	\$4,776	\$0	\$0	\$4,776	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$15,904	\$10,599	\$10,599	\$5,305	
Printing	\$5,479	\$523	\$523	\$4,956	\$11,622	\$0	\$0	\$11,622	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$17,101	\$523	\$523	\$16,578	
Advertising	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500	
Registration Fees	\$1,250	\$2,822	\$2,822	-\$1,572	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$4,650	\$3,722	\$3,722	\$1,828	
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$2,618,000</b>	<b>\$1,215,361</b>	<b>\$2,157,340</b>	<b>\$460,660</b>	<b>\$964,070</b>	<b>\$4,725</b>	<b>\$179,725</b>	<b>\$784,345</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$397,003</b>	<b>\$1,819,599</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$5,404,670</b>	<b>\$1,620,090</b>	<b>\$4,154,939</b>	<b>\$1,248,006</b>	
<b>Indirect</b>	<b>\$169,151</b>	<b>\$117,416</b>	<b>\$107,980</b>	<b>\$61,171</b>	<b>\$135,930</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$135,930</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$305,081</b>	<b>\$117,416</b>	<b>\$107,980</b>	<b>\$197,101</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,787,151</b>	<b>\$1,332,777</b>	<b>\$2,265,320</b>	<b>\$521,831</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,725</b>	<b>\$920,275</b>	<b>\$1,819,600</b>	<b>\$397,003</b>	<b>\$1,819,599</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$5,709,751</b>	<b>\$1,737,505</b>	<b>\$4,262,919</b>	<b>\$1,445,107</b>	

(1) Includes all Section 320 and SNEP monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2021 and FY2022. FY2023 is a **NEW** award that will be tracked separately.

(2) Includes all BIL monies awarded to RWU/NBEP for EPA years FY2022 and FY2023.

(3) Total Encumbered includes all funds that have been spent OR obligated to a specific external party via our workplan and/or formal agreement. These funds may not have been fully spent yet, but are not available for other purposes.

# Reminder: NBEP Project Updates in Bimonthly Newsletter

- November 2023 highlights
  - Seagrass Indicator update for Narragansett Bay, Little Narragansett Bay, and the Rhode Island Coastal Salt Ponds
  - NBEP's new northern diamondback terrapin StoryMap highlights local conservation successes
  - NBEP awards \$748,822 for habitat restoration and public access project planning



## November 2023 Announcements

We hope you've enjoyed reading NBEP News this year. This is our last newsletter for 2023. We wish you a safe and festive season and look forward to returning to your inbox in January. Looking for past editions? Visit the [NBEP News Archive](#) on our website. As always, if you have suggestions for NBEP News, please respond to this email.

Warm wishes from your partners at NBEP (Courtney, Darcy, and Mariel).

## Join our team! NBEP hiring Executive Director



Roger Williams University (RWU) seeks candidates for the Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP). Responsible for leading and ensuring the efficient and fiscally responsible operation of NBEP, the Executive Director provides overall program leadership, coordination, administration, and planning in cooperation with RWU personnel, the EPA Project Officer, NBEP committees, associated subcommittees, and other staff. A full position description is

**Break for Lunch**

# Steering Committee Member Updates



Thank you!

