

## B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service New England B-WET Program fosters ocean and climate literacy through hands-on watershed education experiences throughout New England. Through a competitive grant process, B-WET supports K through 12 educators interested in receiving training and implementing Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. These experiences:

- Are place-based;
- Are investigative or project oriented;
- Are an integral part of an instructional program that aligns with curriculum standards;
- Are part of a sustained activity;
- Approaches the watershed as part of an ecosystem; and
- Are enhanced by NOAA products, services, or personnel.

New England B-WET focuses on the priorities and challenges facing New England watersheds. Students and teachers investigate their local watershed and its connections to the larger estuarine and marine ecosystems. Using the outdoors in their learning experience, and applying scientific methods and tools, students become engaged in science, technology, engineering and math investigation. By focusing on watersheds where they live, students and teachers become knowledgeable stewards of their own places.

Since 2008, B-WET has awarded nearly \$3 million to support watershed-based education in New England. In addition to prioritizing meaningful watershed educational experiences for students, and professional development in ocean literacy and environmental education for teachers, New England BWET emphasizes regional challenges. The program highlights the importance of watersheds from upstream through to the estuarine and oceanic ecosystems that support the fish and protected species populations that are integral to the health and heritage of our coastal communities.

New England B-WET targets the States of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. To be eligible, applicants must work with audiences within the watersheds in these states. K-12 schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, community-based and nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, interstate agencies, and Indian tribal governments may apply.

New England B-WET was established in 2008. Since 2010, the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (formerly the Northeast Regional Office) of NOAA Fisheries in Gloucester, Massachusetts has hosted the program. Funding opportunities are announced during summer months for projects that will begin in the following calendar year.

For more info about New England B-WET please contact Colleen.Coogan@noaa.gov (978-281-9181), or Deirdre.Kimball@noaa.gov (978 281-9290), and check our website at [http://www.nero.noaa.gov/educational\\_resources/bwet/](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/educational_resources/bwet/). For information about the National B-WET program, visit: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>.

