

B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM



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

- 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 and helps students and teachers use the tools of science to study and understand their local watershed, its benefits, and its connections to the larger estuarine and marine ecosystems. Using the outdoors in their learning experience, students become engaged in science, technology, engineering and math investigation. And, by focusing on watersheds where they live, students and teachers can become knowledgeable stewards of their local environment.

Since 2008, B-WET has awarded nearly \$2.1 million to support watershed-based education in New England. In addition to prioritizing meaningful watershed educational experiences for students and professional development in environmental education for teachers, New England B-WET emphasizes regional challenges, highlighting the importance of watersheds from upstream through to the estuarine and oceanic ecosystems that support marine fisheries, protected species, and the habitats that support these resources.

New England B-WET targets the States of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. To be eligible, applicants must work with an audience in the targeted geography. K-12 public and independent 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.

Although B-WET has been around for a while, New England B-WET is a relative newcomer to the program. The host for this program is the Northeast Regional Office of the NOAA Fisheries in Gloucester, MA.

New England B-WET announces funding opportunities during summer months for projects that will begin in the following calendar year.

For more info about New England please contact Colleen Coogan: Colleen.Coogan@noaa.gov (978-281-9181), and check our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/BWET/> For information about the National B-WET program, please visit: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>

