Protecting Working Waterfronts by Building Partnerships

The National Working Waterfront Network

RAE/TCS Summit
November 5, 2015
Working Waterfronts: The Rise of a National Network

Jody A. Thompson
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The Working Waterfront Issue
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Alabama: A Case Study
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- Hurricane Katrina
- Development Pressures
- Municipal Planning Implications
- Loss of Dockage and Water Access
Alabama: A Case Study

- Planners Workshop:
  - City of Gulf Shores
  - Town of Dauphin Island
Alabama: A Case Study

• **Stakeholder Workshop:**
  - **Alabama Working Waterfront Coalition**
    - Learned from Maine and Florida
    - Broad coalition from diverse user groups
    - Alabama Waterfront Access Study Coalition
      - Gather information about local land-use management and zoning, current shoreline development trends, and local tax rates, including tax assessment trends for shoreline properties.
      - Collect research and information from Alabama and other states and jurisdictions regarding incentive-based techniques and management tools used to preserve waterfront diversity.
      - Assess the applicability of such tools and techniques to the coastal shorelines of Alabama.
National Call to Action

- National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposia
- 2010 – Portland, ME
  - Form a National Network
NWWN is Born

- Mission: increase the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decision, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways.
- Short-term structure
  - Steering Committee, Co-Chairs
- Funding from U.S. Economic Development Administration
NWWN Today

- Moving towards Board of Directors
- 4 Committees
  - Operations and Membership
  - Policy & Communications
  - Outreach and Education
  - Symposium
- Open Web Community
The National Working Waterfront Network increases the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of working waterfronts and waterways.

What are working waterfronts?

Working waterfronts are waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for a water-dependent activity, such as ports, small recreational boat harbors, fishing docks, and hundreds of other places across the country where people use and access the water.

Who are we?

Municipalities, State and Federal agencies, Nonprofits, Universities, Sea Grant programs, Businesses, Industry Associations, and individuals dedicated to supporting and enhancing our nation’s working waterfronts and waterways.

What do we do?

- Collaborate to research and celebrate our nation’s working waterfronts and waterways;
- Provide our partners with access to the historical, economic, financial, and policy information and resources they need to address issues on working waterfronts and waterways at the local, state, regional, and national level; and
- Maintain and strengthen a diverse network of partners who collaborate internally and act as liaisons to their stakeholders and communities.

What can you do?

This website contains lots of information, data, and tools that individuals, communities, and governments at all levels can use to develop, inform, and enhance their sustainable working waterfront initiatives. The compilation of this information was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. To learn more, follow the links below to access the various sections of the Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit:

- Financing
- Law & Policy
- Economics
- Tools in Action
- Historic Trends
- About the Toolkit (with links to the Final Report)
Get Involved

- NWWN website
  www.wateraccessus.com
- NWWN Community Center
  workingwaterfronts.ning.com
- Join a Subcommittee
- Utilize the Toolbox
Working Waterfronts, Policy Framework and Action

Natalie Springer
Maine Sea Grant and National Working Waterfront Network Policy Committee Chair
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Defining Working Waterfronts
Maine’s WWF Current Use Tax Law

"WWF land" means a parcel or portion of a parcel of land abutting tidal waters or is located in the intertidal zone (located between the high and low water mark) the use of which is more than 50% related to providing access to or in support of the conduct of commercial fishing activities.

Photo: Foster’s Daily Democrat, Dover, NH. Photo by Steve Drozel.
Maine’s Working Waterfront Access Protection Program

Funded programs need to meet criteria that characterizes traditional, fisheries-based working waterfront needs.
Maine’s Working Waterfront Covenant

An agreement in recordable form between the owner of working waterfront real estate and one or more qualified holders (in this case to be held by the Department of Marine Resources) to assure the continued and permanent access and availability and affordability of the working waterfront real estate for commercial fisheries uses (33 MRSA c. 6-A)
Florida’s Working Waterfront Protection Act

[T]he term “recreational and commercial working waterfront” means a parcel or parcels of real property that provide access for water-dependent commercial activities, including hotels and motels . . . or provide access for the public to the navigable waters of the state... The term includes water-dependent facilities ... facilities for recreational, commercial, research, or governmental vessels. These facilities include public lodging establishments, docks, wharfs, lifts, wet and dry marinas, boat ramps, boat hauling and repair facilities, commercial fishing facilities, boat construction facilities, and other support structures over the water.
WWF definitions in U.S. Congress

Working Waterfront Preservation Act of 2005, introduced by Senator Susan Collins:

“A working waterfront area is defined as ‘land that is used for or that supports commercial fishing or the aquaculture industry.”
Congresswoman Chellie Pingree’s Keep America’s Waterfronts Working

HR 2548

“Commercial fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, aquaculture, boatbuilding, transportation,” as well as, somewhat ambiguously, “many other water-dependent businesses.” The bill adds a further definition of working waterfront: “real property (including support structures over water and other facilities) that provides access to coastal waters to persons engaged in commercial fishing, recreational fishing business, boat building, aquaculture, or other water-dependent, coastal-related business.
NWWN’s definition:

Working waterfronts are waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for a water-dependent activity, such as ports, small recreational boat harbors, fishing docks, and hundreds of other places across the country where people use and access the water.
National Working Waterfront Network
Talking Points

Economic Value
Cultural Value
Access to Public Resources
Access to Shoreside Operations
High Profile Marine Industries
Threat of Loss
Natural Disaster
Mitigation/Adaptation
Changes and Trends
Regulatory Tools (examples)
Financing Tools
Other Tools
Policy Strategies and Priorities

- Recognize importance of wwfs at highest levels of gov’t
- Recognize inability of local communities to address large-scale drivers of change
- Develop consensus definition of wwfs
- Encourage use of underutilized financing and regulatory mechanisms
- Revise charitable donation definition in IRS tax code so wwf donations qualify for tax deductions
Emerging Issues: Hazard resilience along the working waterfront


http://universe.byu.edu/2013/01/07/fishermen-hoping-for-help-with-sandy-storm-losses/
www.WaterAccessUS.com

• Bring wwfs to the fore (municipal, state, fed)
• Seek out creative solutions, unlikely partners
• Share your successes and challenges
• Tap into models and experts, be one
• Join the NWWN!
sharing successful models & tools
THE TEAM: partnership of regional representatives
THE APPROACH

Work with NWWN members to identify needs and opportunities and develop models and tools to address them.
THE WORK

- Compiling WWF resource inventory and research agenda
- Translating ocean and coastal economic data
- Developing template for downscaling economic data
- Sharing WWF best practices
- Researching WWF case studies
SHARING SUCCESSFUL MODELS

Fishtown, MI

Middle Peninsula, VA

Florida

Trinidad, California

Portland, ME

Middle Peninsula, VA
GETTING INVOLVED

WWFs and NWWN need your help

In your work:
• Consider how your work intersects with WWFs
• Build partnerships across sectors to address mutual needs
• Help community leaders and coastal professionals understand the economic, social, and environmental value of WWFs

Join with NWWN:
• Tell the Network about issues surrounding your work in WWF environments
• Share resources you’ve found helpful to your work
• Offer a model for a case study

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
kngrant@maine.edu
National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposia

Jamie Doyle — Oregon Sea Grant
Goals

• Sharing, learning, finding a joint voice for WW
• Bringing the host region up to speed on National Working Waterfronts efforts/needs
  
  and

• Bringing the rest of the country up to speed on localized working waterfront efforts/needs
2007 Norfolk, Virginia

Sense of the Symposium: key themes from the sessions

• “working waterfront” and “water access” mean different things in different places

• Sense of Symposium (on NWWN website)
  – Goals
  – Knowledge
  – Policy Actions
  – Learning Tools and Best Practices
2010 Portland, Maine
Defining “Working Waterfront”
The 2007 symposium identified the key elements of a working waterfront: water dependency, commercial enterprise, and a balanced diversity of successful businesses.

Yet the terms “working waterway” and “working waterfront” mean different things to different people, and their definitions must remain focused, but broad and flexible to incorporate these different perspectives as well as to address emerging uses of America’s waterways and waterfronts.

Themes of the 2010 Symposium
Three key themes emerged during the symposium, which are described on the following pages.

PROGRESS: Stakeholders working to address working waterfront issues have come a long way since the 2007 symposium. There are success stories to share and best practices to recommend.

OPPORTUNITY: Existing programs, policies, and efforts provide opportunities to incorporate working waterfront interests.

FLEXIBILITY: The Nation’s waterfronts remain crowded and competitive, but they are dynamic zones that evolve over time. Flexible, adaptive solutions to working waterfront challenges will be able to address and balance new uses and emerging issues.

Time for a National Entity
Symposium participants who attended the final day’s strategy session reached consensus that a national effort is needed, and strategized about the function and form of such an entity. A subcommittee of volunteers agreed to continue the discussion.
2013 Tacoma, WA
Sessions

Economics
Financial Tools
Outreach and Education
Strategies
Legislative Issues
Design Issues
Social/Cultural Issues
Sense of the Symposium 2013

Themes that emerged:

• Defining a shared identity
• Integrated and Intersecting Nature of Working Waterfronts
• Telling the stories of the Working Waterfronts
• Resilience

Recommendations
Understanding local needs

2014 Oregon Examples

Moving the conference around is beneficial to the network—*learn from and share with others*

- Oregon context today:
  - Access issues are different
  - Dredging
  - Education
  - Understanding the context
Dredging
Dredging
DeFazio Pushes for Small Port Maintenance and Dredging Funds
Sea Safety

Oct 2014, Coast Guard decided to eliminate rescue helicopter just before crab season starts

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/save-the-newport-rescue
Education

Understanding a working waterfront

- Shrimp
  https://vimeo.com/105800100

- Fish Filleting
  https://vimeo.com/105800335

- Tuna Boat Tour
  https://vimeo.com/105095435

- Wood Mill
  https://vimeo.com/105799985
Regional Workshops & Conferences

4th National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposium
November 16-19, 2015 | Downtown Tampa, FL

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!
Email kcamposvanzant@ufl.edu today to sponsor this multisector convergence of education & solution-based strategic planning

www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NWWWS
Oral & Poster Abstract Submissions:
April 15, 2015
Opens February 3, 2015

Early Bird & Speaker Registration:
August 24, 2015
Opens late May 2015

Hotel Reservation:
October 16, 2015
Opens late November 2014

http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/nwwws/
What would you be interested in learning at the NWWN Symposium?
What working waterfront issues in your community need to be discussed?
What are other ways to share and network?
Get Involved

• NWWN website
  www.wateraccessus.com
• NWWN Community Center
  workingwaterfronts.ning.com
• Join a Subcommittee
• Utilize the Toolbox
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