

AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS



New England Estuarine Research Society

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But is it Esturaie, Esutarie, or Estaury?
“What are we spending on today?” he asked. “Estuaries. That’s right, estuaries. Most Americans probably never heard the term.” ~ U.S. Congressman
Ecological Society of America’s Policy News: April 23, 2010

That’s okay; it’s a hard word to spell. For example, an educational update of one of the National Estuarine Research Reserves referred to “esturaies.” Hmmm. All right, time to check with CERF—the country’s premiere organization dedicated to those semi-enclosed coastal bodies of water where fresh and salt water mix because there is a free connection with the open sea—minutes from a CERF Governing Board Meeting called them “esutaries.” Confused and seeking a definitive

answer, I turned to the old standby textbook on estuarine ecology by Day, Hall, Kemp, and Yáñez-Arancibia, 1989. On the spine of my copy, printed in bold black letters on the green hardcover, are the words “ESTAUURINE ECOLOGY.”

A Green Wind Blows

Wind that blows over Massachusetts and Rhode Island offshore waters, that is, where planning for wind farms is well underway, with participation by several NEERS scientists and managers. It seems the first offshore wind farm in the country will be built in one of these states or the Mid-Atlantic states. Here, the myriad technical and legal and political and economic kinks are being worked out, so it will be easier to build wind farms in other parts of the country.

Cape Wind’s 130-turbine, 468-megawatt project for Nantucket Sound recently got federal approval for a construction and operations plan. In Rhode Island Sound, Deepwater Wind has applied to federal authorities to build the largest proposed offshore-wind farm in the United States, a 200-turbine, 1,000-megawatt project in federal waters between Block Island and Martha’s Vineyard. They would also construct an undersea transmission network stretching from Massachusetts to New York, connecting several states to which the company could sell its power. Recently, manufacturers have brought out 5-6 megawatt turbines in place of 3-3.6 megawatt ones that have typically been installed in Europe and China and are proposed for the Cape Wind project. The larger turbines might be used in a small 5-8 turbine proj-



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
Photo credit: www.Maine.gov

ect planned for Rhode Island state waters about three miles southeast of Block Island. Rhode Island developed an Ocean Special Area Management Plan for its offshore waters, with research on topics such as benthic habitats, fish distribution and fishing uses, bird migration patterns, and areas of cultural importance.

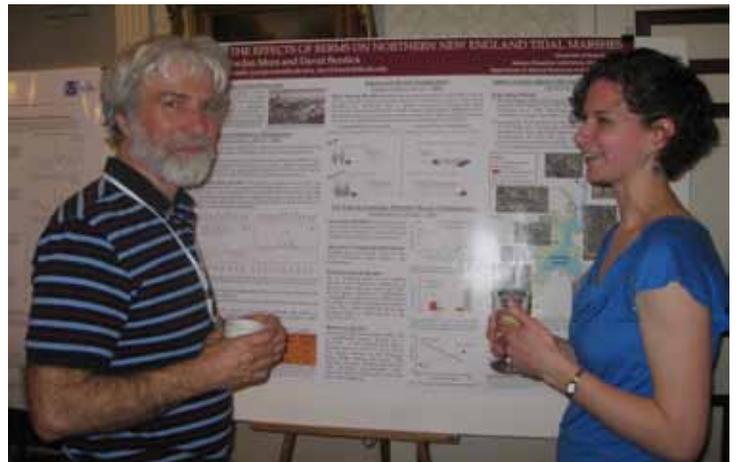
In Maine, the Maine Technology Institute funded a design grant for a floating wind turbine platform. Turbines presently installed at offshore wind farms are fixed to the ocean floor by a monopile or other mechanism and all current offshore wind farms worldwide are in waters <30 meters deep. (In Rhode Island Sound, Deepwater Wind plans to use a lattice tower like an oil derrick). The floating platform would open up a much larger area of the continental shelf.

An old sailing aphorism says it’s an ill wind that blows nobody any good, implying that typical winds, while impeding some boats, will benefit others. So it is with wind farms and coastal ecosystems.

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LEFT: **Darcy Lonsdale** of Stony Brook University (with map), leads the field trip to Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Photo credit: S. Hale



RIGHT: Former NEERS President **Robert Buchsbaum** of the Massachusetts Audubon Society discusses poster with **Jordan Mora** of the University of New Hampshire. Photo credit: S. Hale

AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS

Upcoming Affiliate Society Meetings

All Fall 2011 Affiliate Society meetings will be held concurrently at the CERF 2011 conference in Daytona Beach, Florida.

WHERE: Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, FL

WHEN: TBD

The locations and times will be posted on the CERF 2011 website.

For detailed information about each meeting, please check each Affiliate Society's website by going to www.erf.org, then choosing "Affiliates" on the top menu.

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Indirectly, estuaries and coastal waters near wind farms will benefit from less global warming and less ocean acidification resulting from less burning of fossil fuel. And salt marshes butting up against hardened structures, with no way to migrate landward, will benefit from less sea level rise. But there are tradeoffs from adverse effects on coastal ecosystems of construction and operation of wind farms and their seafloor transmission lines—these are being studied and debated by NEERS members involved in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island projects.

Meetings, Meetings

It's always animating to take a ferry to NEERS meetings. For the Spring 2011 meeting, NEERS returned to Long Island, New York, site of the inaugural Estuarine Research Federation conference when NEERS and AERS got together in Plainview in November 1971. Our recent spring meeting in May, hosted by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, took place by a coastal lagoon, consisting of Port Jefferson Harbor, Setauket Harbor, and Conscience Bay. **Lauren Kras** of the University of New Hampshire won the Ketchum Prize for best graduate student talk and **Elizabeth Suter** of Stony Brook University won the Dean Prize for best graduate poster. On the first day, a special symposium organized by **Jim Latimer** synthesized 25 years of Long Island Sound science and management; this information will be published in a forthcoming book. Participants on a field trip led by **Darcy Lonsdale**, chair of the local organizing committee, to Wertheim National

Wildlife Refuge on Great South Bay enjoyed matching up field sites with meeting talks on salt marsh ditch filling, white perch ecology, and potential diadromous fish passages. Many thanks to meeting sponsors YSI Inc., Woods Hole Sea Grant, and New York Sea Grant.

As with sailing winds and wind farms, CERF Governing Board meetings are not without risk. At the meeting in Virginia in March, I was excited to find in my bathroom a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (see photo). When I had first checked into the room, a notice on the desk from the conference center management stated that these invasive creatures were present in the area and, although devastating to agriculture, are harmless to humans except for your nostrils if you crush one. This sighting doubled my life list of stink bug species.

Hope to see some of you at our next NEERS Business Meeting, to be held at CERF 2011 in November in Daytona Beach, Florida. 



Art imitates life: Marianne McNamara of Stony Brook University with a New York Sea Grant poster. Photo credit: S. Hale

Incoming Affiliate Society Presidents

*Members of the CERF
2011-2013 Governing Board*



Melisa Wong
Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Mark J. Brush
Virginia Institute of Marine Science



Sharon Z. Herzka
Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE)



Ruth Carmichael
Dauphin Island Sea Lab and University of South Alabama



John Brawley
Saquish Scientific LLC



Gary L. Williams
G.L. Williams and Associates, Ltd.



Robert Virnstein
St. John's River Water Management District, retired