



Dear Partner:

We are pleased to announce a public meeting on Tuesday November 13th, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the second floor Auditorium of the Academic Building at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point Campus in Groton CT. At the meeting we will provide an update on Connecticut's effort to identify and propose a location for a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR or "Reserve") in our state.

The NERR system is a federal/state partnership that establishes a location dedicated to estuarine research, monitoring, education, and stewardship. A Connecticut-based Reserve would complement and extend many existing scientific, environmental management, and education activities through the addition of funding, resources, and expertise. Additionally, it would help identify and enable new directions and initiatives by leveraging national programs.

Since the Spring of 2016, members of a multi-disciplinary team have worked to identify, evaluate, and recommend a potential Reserve. This meeting will provide a forum to share the results of their efforts, to describe the site proposed for nomination, and to provide an overview of what the next stages of the process will entail. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will also attend the meeting to answer questions about the national system. *Most importantly, this will also be an opportunity to find out more about what establishing a Reserve means, to ask questions, and to provide your comments.*

NOAA will announce meeting details in a Federal Register Notice no later than October 29, 2018, and notice will also be provided via local newspapers. An agenda and informational material are enclosed with this invitation, and the project website contains additional information as well (www.ct.gov/deep/NERR).

We have endeavored to target relevant individuals and groups that are aligned geographically or topically with a potential Connecticut Reserve, but please feel free to forward this invitation to other interested parties as needed.

We hope that you are able to participate and look forward to seeing you on November 13th.

Sincerely,

Brian Thompson, Director, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Land and Water Resources Division

Evan Ward, Ph.D., Department Chair, University of Connecticut Department of Marine Sciences

Sylvain De Guise, Ph.D., Director, Connecticut Sea Grant College Program



CT National Estuarine Research Reserve: Public Meeting Agenda

Where:

Auditorium of the Academic Building, Second Floor
University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus, 1080 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT 06340.

When:

Tuesday, November 13th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Schedule:

Welcome/Meeting Goals	6:00 – 6:10
NERR System Overview (NOAA)	6:10 – 6:20
CT Selection Process (CT) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big Picture (Teams/Members, Major steps, timeline)• Preliminary Selection Process and Results• Detailed Screening & Results	6:20 – 6:40
Site Overview (CT)	6:40 – 6:50
Next Steps: (CT & NOAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination submission to NOAA• Management Plan & EIS Efforts	6:50 – 7:00
Public Q&A / Comments / Discussion	7:00 – 7:40
Wrap-up & Adjourn	7:45 – 8:00

Additional Information:

Directions and Parking:

- For driving directions and parking information please visit: <http://marinesciences.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/459/2015/11/Avery-Point-map.pdf>
- After 5:00 p.m., visitors may park for free in any on-campus space not designated as reserved, restricted, or limited.

Persons with Disability Requirements:

- Please contact Michelle MarcAurele at the UCONN Avery Point campus by November 6th, 2018 to make arrangements. (E-mail: michelle.marcaurele@uconn.edu, Phone: 860-405-9115)

Comments:

- Written comments may be also be sent to: Kevin O'Brien, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection - Land & Water Resources Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 or to: kevin.obrien@ct.gov. The deadline is no later than seven (7) days following the public meeting. All comments received will be considered by the State in formally nominating a site.

General Questions:

- Please contact Kevin O'Brien at the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (E-mail: kevin.obrien@ct.gov, Phone: 860-424-3432)