



Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) Workshop
July 27-29, 2026
DRAFT AGENDA

All meals are provided (3 lunches, 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts), including an assortment of snacks, fruit, and drinks in the classroom every day.

Monday, July 27th

Low tide: 12:16pm (.6)

9:15am-4:30pm

Morning:

9:15am: Arrive in Bristol to prepare for ferry departure

9:45am: Depart on ferry from 147 Thames Street, Bristol, RI to Prudence Island, RI (30-minute crossing)

10:15-10:45am: Drive to the Reserve and drop off personal items at the Lodge

11am-12:30pm Welcome/introductions/agenda overview/NBNERR & Estuaries Introduction (Classroom)

1230-1:15pm: Lunch (Lodge)

Afternoon:

Clothing/shoes appropriate for exploring the salt marsh and getting in the water -mud, shallow water, bugs and sun.

1:15-4:30pm: Field trip to the salt marsh to meet with Dr. Kenny Raposa, NBNERR Research Coordinator; we'll learn about salt marsh ecosystem services, impacts of sea level rise, vegetation and marsh elevation monitoring techniques, and explore the creeks for critters.

430pm: free time until dinner at the Lodge (~6pm)

Optional evening activities such as sunset (809pm) on the west side, swimming, relaxing!

Tuesday, July 28th

Low tide: 1:02pm (.4)

8:30am-4:30pm

Boat trip will be weather dependent

Morning:

Clothing/shoes appropriate for boat trip and walking on paved roads/well-worn trails

830am-1130am:

Option 1: Boat trip around Hope Island to view the critically important waterbird rookery; Group A will start on the boat while Group B explores the south end habitats to learn about habitat management techniques in the pine barrens. Groups swap after about 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Option 2 (if weather prohibits boat trip): Walk and talk with Jon Mitchell, NBNERR Stewardship Coordinator on forest management techniques; tips on how to engage students in outdoor learning/data collection. Introduction to Harvard Forest's Buds, Leaves and Global Warming phenology project.

11:45am-12:45pm: Lunch (Lodge)

Afternoon:

Clothing/shoes appropriate for exploring the salt marsh and getting in the water -mud, shallow water, bugs and sun.

12:45pm-4:15pm: Maja Nielsen is a graduate student at URI studying Ecology and Ecosystem Sciences. She'll be joining TOTE this summer to share her research on how fishing induced shifts in population demographics of blue crabs cascades to impact salt marsh ecosystems. As part of this workshop, we'll use crab traps, seine nets, and transects to discover what critters call the salt marsh home. We'll then bring our observations back to the classroom to map out the salt marsh food webs and consider the consequences of shifting species composition.

4:30pm: free time until dinner at the Lodge (~6pm)

Optional evening activities such as sunset on the west side, swimming, relaxing!

Wednesday, July 29th

Low tide: 1:47pm, (.3)

8am-3:15pm

Please bring laptop or tablet for morning session if possible.

Morning:

8am: Meet at Classroom and enjoy a morning walk (less than a mile) to Twharf to see one of our water quality monitoring stations.

9-9:45am: Introduction to the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) with Dr. Daisy Durant, NBNERR SWMP Coordinator (Classroom)

9:45-10am: Break

10-11:45am: Review the online SWMP data graphing application and try out the NERRS Data Mysteries lessons (Classroom)

11:45am-12:30pm: Lunch (Lodge)

Afternoon:

Clothing/shoes appropriate for exploring the rocky shoreline, eelgrass beds and getting in the water for fish sampling.

12:45-2:45pm: Explore the shoreline and eelgrass beds to see what species inhabit the shallow waters of Narragansett Bay; conduct an assessment of the invasive Asian shore crab along the rocky shoreline.

2:45-3:30pm: Wrap up and evaluations (Classroom)

3:30-4:15pm: Pack up and depart for ferry landing

4:15pm: Ferry departs

21 Contact Hours