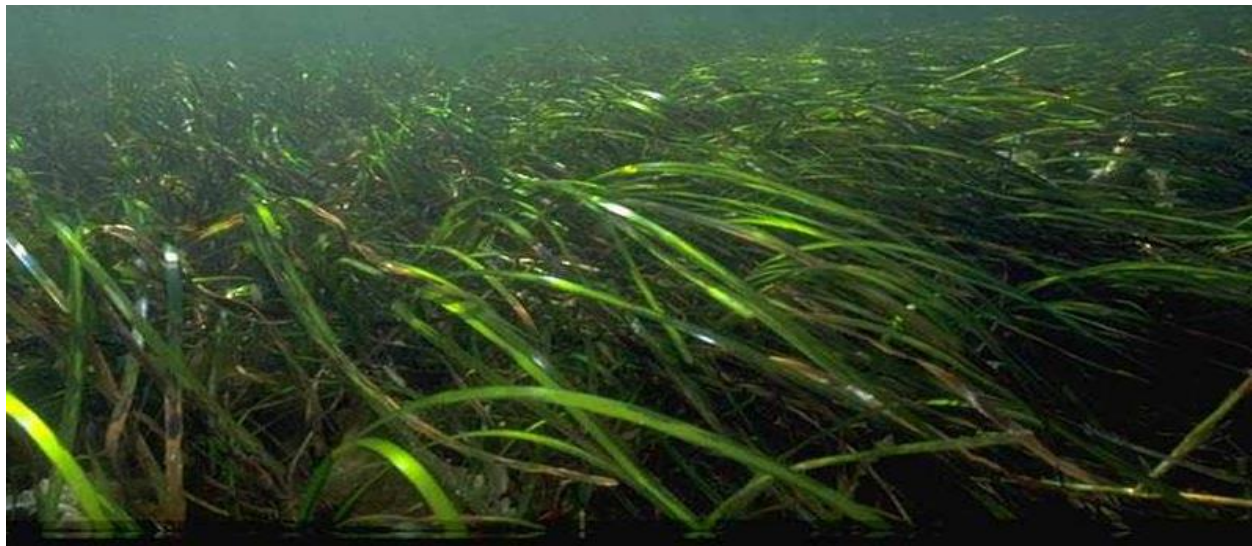




**Extraordinary Eelgrass -- Great Bay's Environmental Superhero**

**August 10 & 11, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 89 Depot Road, Greenland, NH**



This workshop is funded and supported by the National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative Grant: Resilience and Positive Feedbacks: Water Quality Management and Eelgrass Health in the Great Bay Estuary, the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Great Bay Stewards, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, University of New Hampshire and NOAA's Office for Coastal Management.



## **Day 1: August 10<sup>th</sup>, Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center “Barn”**

- 8:30 Sign in, welcome, introductions, overview and logistics
- 8:50 Introduction to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERR) and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cory Riley, Reserve Manager
- 9:00 The Great Bay Estuary – Ecosystem 101 - Dr. Kalle Matso, Director, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
- 9:30 Eelgrass Contribution toward Processing Inputs of Nutrients, Carbon, and Sediments, Anna Mikulis, PhD Student and Project Manager for the Eelgrass Resilience Project/ Former Margaret A. Davidson Fellow, GBNERR
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Let’s Play Games- Eelgrass Traveling Trunk activities to take back to the classroom
- 11:15 Tour the Great Bay Discovery Center Exhibits, Discovery Tank and Boardwalk
- Noon: Lunch (provided)
- 12:30 Travel to Newcastle, NH – Prepare to Get Wet!
- 1:00 What’s so Amazing about this Plant? Taking a deeper look at eelgrass, reproductive biology and genetics, Dr. Kalle Matso, Director, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership and Trevor Mattera, Habitat Program Manager, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
- 1:20 Underwater Exploration - Don your mask and snorkel in this underwater exploration of a coastal eelgrass meadow with Trevor Mattera, Habitat Program Manager, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (equipment provided)
- 2:15 Travel back to the Great Bay Discovery Center
- 3:00 Art meets Science – Paint your own eelgrass masterpiece from original scientific illustration created by Zigmund (Ziggy) Goddard, GBNERR’s NOAA intern
- 3:45 Wrap up and overview of logistics for day 2
- 4:00 Adjourn
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## **Day 2: August 11<sup>th</sup>, Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center “Barn”**

- 8:30 Sign-in, refreshments, Head to water and begin kayak trip!
- 8:45 Paddle the Great Bay Estuary with GBNERR Research Coordinator, Chris Peter. Discover how coastal scientists are monitoring water quality in Great Bay and around the nation through specialized instrumentation.
- 10:45 Break – head back up to Gregg Center, change, etc
- 11:00 Connecting how water quality affects eelgrass health in Great Bay- Chris Peter, GBNERR Research Coordinator.
- 11:15 The Eelgrass Game – Play this custom Great Bay game and learn how human actions impact Great Bay’s water quality and eelgrass populations Each teacher will go home with their own Eelgrass Game! Lynn Vaccaro, Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Chloe Gross, UNH Fellow, Michele Martin, Oyster River Middle School Teacher
- 12:15 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 The Piscataqua Watershed Data Explorer – an exploration of how teachers might use this one-stop tool to access environmental data collected across the Piscataqua Watershed. Trevor Mattera, Habitat Program Manager, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
- 1:15 The Saltmarsh Connection Field Exploration - Saltmarshes are inextricably linked to a healthy estuary. Discover how in this field adventure on the marsh.
- 2:45 Return to Gregg Center – Break
- 3:00 Brainstorming – Challenges and opportunities to incorporate what you have learned back in your classroom
- 3:45 Wrap up/evaluations/stipends
- 4:00 Adjourn