



Agenda

National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Northeast Decision Calendar Workshop

18 October 2018

830AM – 4PM

[Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife \(MassWildlife\)](#)

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Breakfast and Lunch provided

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Background

Summers in the Northeast have grown longer and hotter, and this presents a growing challenge to the health of its residents. These heat extremes can have severe consequences – decreasing labor productivity and air quality, increasing energy consumption, discomfort, and psychological distress – and sometimes result in avoidable deaths.

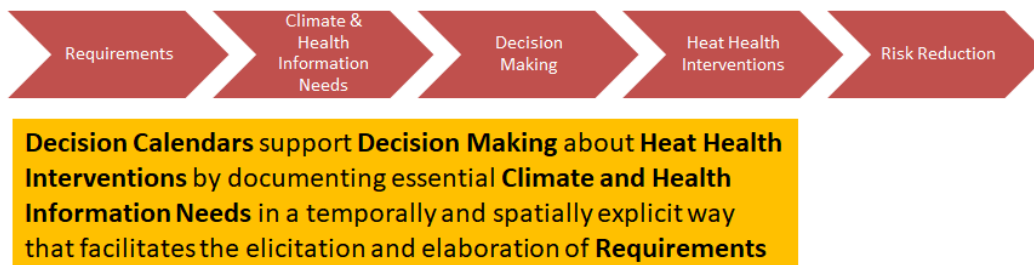
In response to the threat of extreme heat, many state and local governments, as well as other organizations, have been taking action to alleviate heat risk both in the near term and long term. In an effort to better understand and inform these risk management actions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched NIHHIS: The National Integrated Heat Health Information System. NIHHIS is a platform to improve and deliver information that supports decision-making by practitioners who protect Americans' health from heat stress as well as to inform research priorities in the health, social, and Earth sciences.

With support from the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team, we have developed this workshop to focus on improving understanding of New England's most heat-vulnerable populations, the interventions taken to reduce their risk, and the information needed to inform the effective deployment of these interventions. This workshop captures this information in the form of 'decision calendars' which will be used to inform NOAA, CDC, and other information providers of the required information to manage heat risk across the Northeast.



Overall Goal

Develop **prototype decision calendars** that document discipline specific and timescale explicit decisions made to reduce heat health risk – and the information needs to support those decisions.



Key Workshop Outcomes

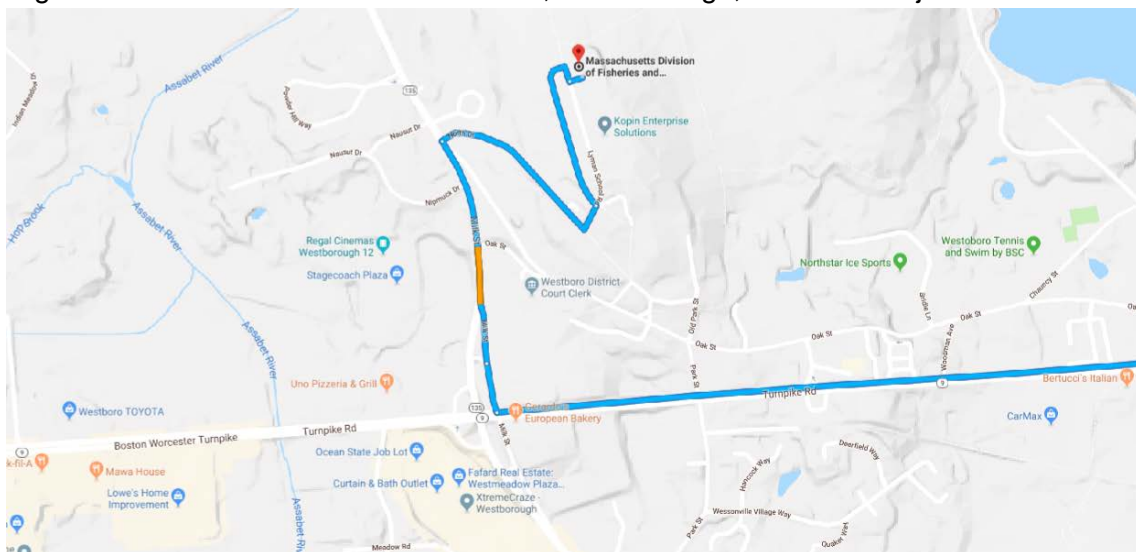
- Build and strengthen the **network** between a multidisciplinary set of heat-health decision-makers through relationship and awareness building.
- Identify and document locally-contextualized **interventions** at the planning and preparedness timescales, with important constraints and considerations noted.
- Discipline-specific decision makers will use **planning scenarios** to explore decision contexts behind the identified interventions, and specific **information needs** will be documented to support decisions in the form of **decision calendars**.

Workshop Location & Start

Meeting registration at 830am, and Kick-off at 9am. Meeting ends by 4pm.

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/masswildlife-fhg>

Parking is available onsite. 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 – just north of Rt. 9.



Workshop Agenda

0830-0900 **Registration and Breakfast Provided**

0900-0930 **NIHHIS Opening, Context Setting, Introductions**

0930-1015 **Presentations Round I: Local Decision-Makers & Interventions**

This session outlines the growing hazard for the city and the local vulnerability profile, with talks featuring current interventions used to manage heat health risk.

- **Doug Casa**, Korey Stringer Institute
Activity modification and HSI prevention in active outdoor populations
- **Alisha Pegan**, City of Boston Office of Environment, Energy and Open Space & **Andrea Burns**, Boston Commission on Affairs of the Elderly
Interdepartmental Heat Health Planning & Threshold Updates
- **Matt Cahillane**, NH Department of Health
Caretaker Training & Other Education & Awareness Activities
- **Darci Schofield**, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Planning, design, and prioritization of nature-based solutions for UHI

1015-1025 **Introduction to Concept Mapping Breakout Exercise**

1025-1035 **Break and Transition to Breakouts**

1035-1115 **Breakout I: Concept Mapping**

Participants develop concept maps linking risk factors, risk reduction actions, and populations of concern as a precursor to creating decision calendars.

1115-1130 **Report Out from Breakouts**

1130-1150 **Break and Working Lunch Set-up**

1150-1235 **Presentations Round II: Local Decision-Makers & Interventions**

This session covers the science of decision-making under uncertainty using climate information, and new approaches to managing urban problems.

- **Erin Polich & Michael Colanti**, Boston Public Health Commission
Care for vulnerable populations: homeless, elderly, children
- **Jared Ulmer**, VT Dept. Public Health
Interdisciplinary Coordination on Heat Thresholds & Long term climate comms.
- **Catherine Ratte**, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Mitigating heat risk in suburban and rural settings
- **Rui Shi**, Johns Hopkins University
Long-term planning and decision-making under uncertainty

1235-0135 **Breakout II: Timeline Mapping**



Plotting decisions on a timeline for interventions and identifying key decision-makers, information needs, and uncertainty tolerances.

0135-0155 **Report Out from Breakouts**

0155-0205 **Short Break & Transition**

0205-0230 **Presentations Round III: Climate Extremes & Infrastructure**

This session covers future climate scenarios and the likelihood of extreme events and disaster scenarios.

- **Keith L. Eggleston**, Northeast Regional Climate Center
Climate extremes and the new normal
- **Michael McPeck**, National Grid
Extreme heat and energy infrastructure

0230-0310 **Breakout III: Timeline Stress Testing**

Stress testing the decision timelines using climate extremes and scenarios.

0310-0330 **Report Out from Breakouts**

0330-0345 **Wrap-up and Adjourn**