

Role of Regional (L2) Coordinators in the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC)

The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) is envisioned as a network of organizations, agencies, and individuals working together to assess road-stream crossings to evaluate and mitigate their role in disrupting aquatic connectivity. This network is structured into different levels.

Level 3 (L3) coordinators: central coordinators who maintain key components of the NAACC, including field protocols, an online database, and scoring systems

Level 2 (L2) coordinators: regional coordinators who oversee surveys across a fairly large geographic area (state, large watershed)

Level 1 (L1) coordinators: local coordinators who oversee and organize observers

Observers: technicians and trained volunteers who collect data

Given the size and diversity of the thirteen-state North Atlantic region, we foresee the need for an intermediate level of coordination between L3 and L1 coordinators; this is provided by L2 coordinators. These L2 coordinators could operate at the statewide level and/or work with others to coordinate different regions of one state. L2 coordinators may also coordinate areas that overlap portions of two or more states, such as multi-state watersheds. L2 responsibilities can be shared among multiple individuals or organizations. At this early stage in the NAACC, we are emphasizing flexibility to identify and implement a system of distributed coordination that will work in the startup phase as well as over the long term.

The basic responsibility of L2 coordinators is to oversee surveys in their geographic regions. More specific responsibilities include:

- Recruiting and supervising L1 coordinators who will organize and supervise groups of observers to assess road-stream crossings.
- Coordinating training: This doesn't necessarily mean provide training, but rather ensuring that L1 coordinators and observers have access to training.
- Ensuring data quality, by making sure QA/QC procedures are implemented.
- Serving as a point of contact for L3 coordinators.

L2 coordinators will receive training from L3 coordinators and will have database credentials that allow them to enter and edit data, and add and edit observers.