

# **Integrated Monitoring Network and Robust Ecosystem Assessments: Towards Improved Understanding of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System**

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**Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership**

**APNEP Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting**

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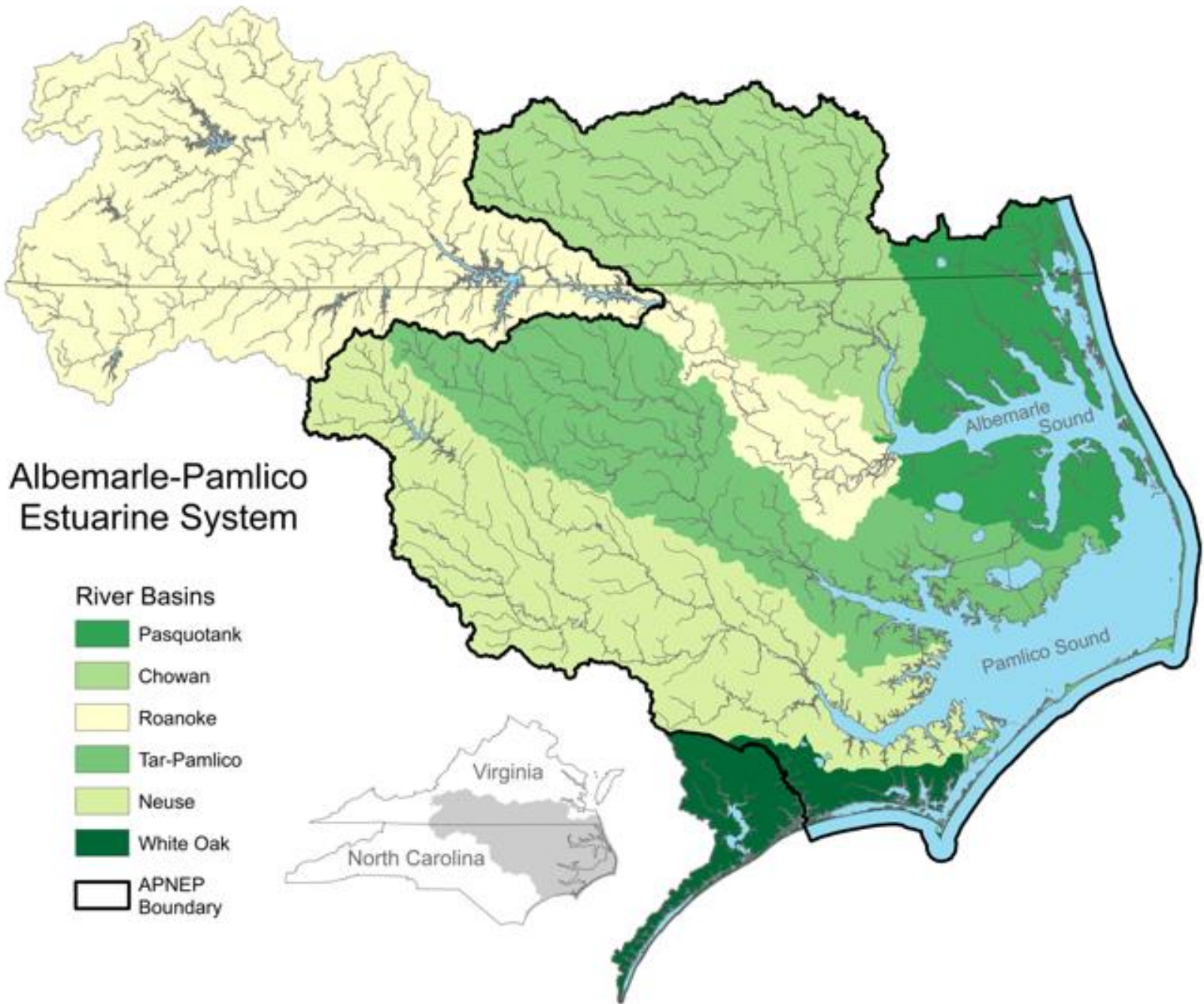
# APNEP Mission

*“To **understand**,  
restore, and protect  
the significant  
resources of the  
Albemarle-Pamlico  
estuarine system.”*



# APNEP's Four Questions

- What is a healthy APES?
- What is the status of APES?
- What are the greatest challenges facing the APES?
- What actions should be taken to move toward a healthier APES?



# How does APNEP operate: Monitoring & Assessment Teams



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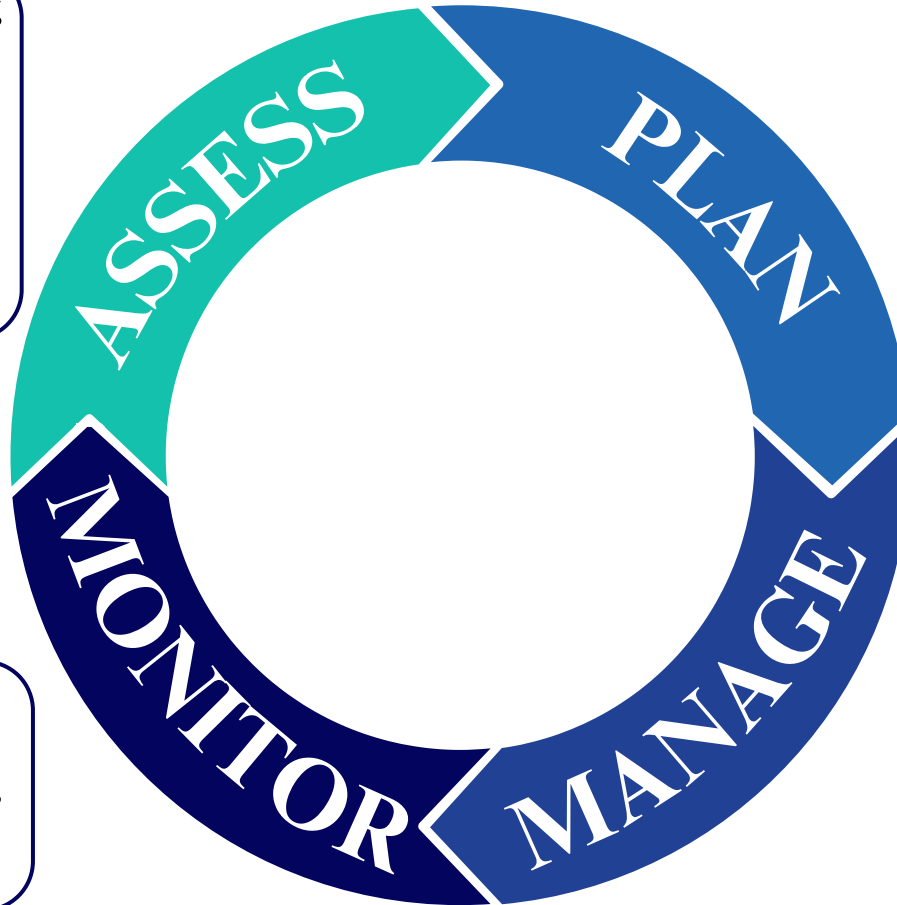
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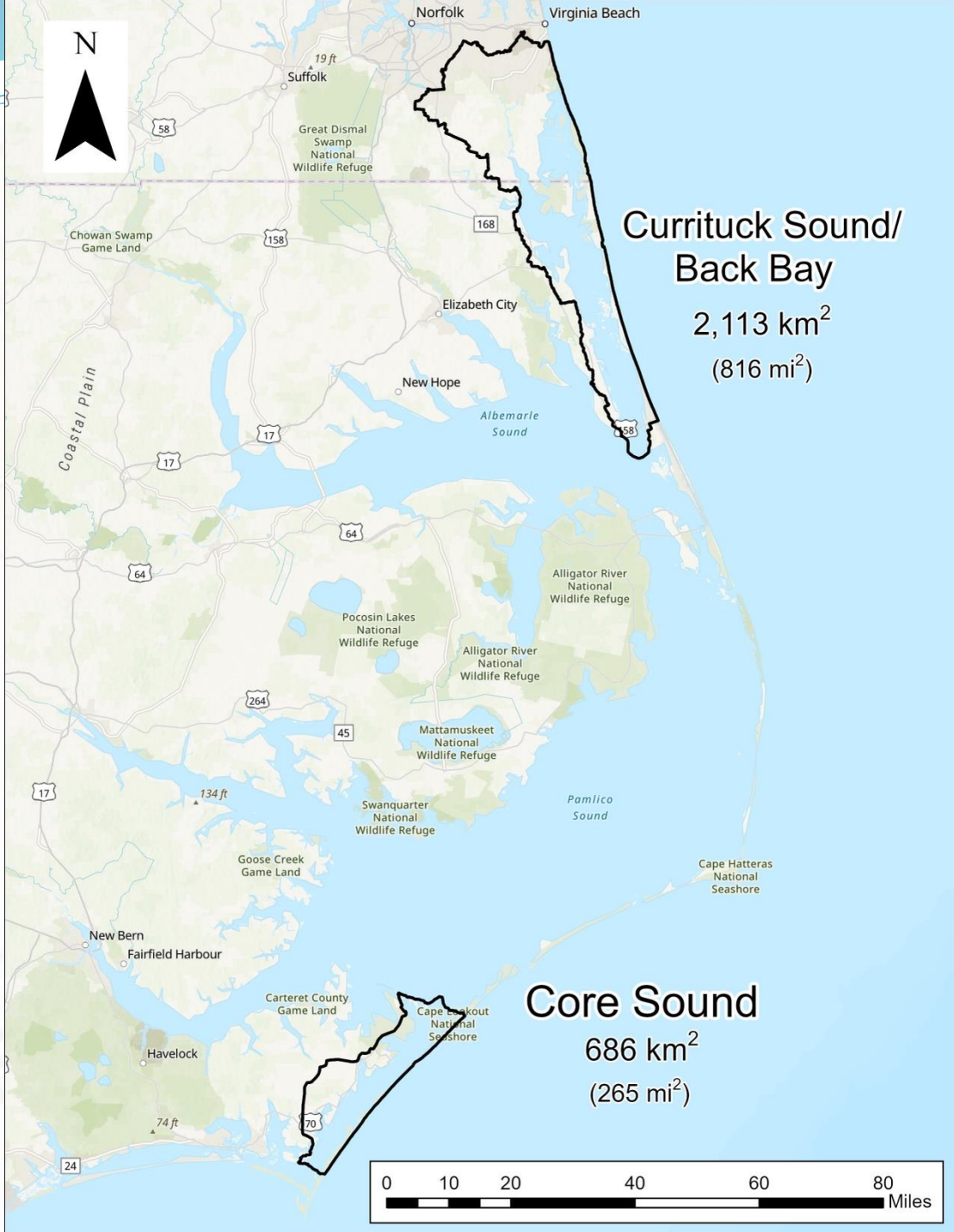
- Identify success of meeting ecosystem targets
- Evaluate performance of system-wide model
- Forecast changes in ecosystem services based on feasibility of management scenarios



- Articulate goals, desired outcomes, and indicators
- Set targets and thresholds for ecosystem indicators
- Derive and adjust management objectives and actions based on system-wide model

- Implement monitoring strategy
- Propose future monitoring improvements
- Data management

- Implement management actions
- Secure funding for all phases
- Propose future management options



# Volunteer Perspective

## Remembering Stephen Chalmers

Stephen Chalmers was a strong voice and force for the Indian River Lagoon. He served as a volunteer on MRC's Board of Directors for 36 years, tested water quality (see a news feature pictured here!), and in his own words "My interest is that our community makes informed decisions today for cost and spiritual benefits in the future". Steve passed away earlier this month at the age of 84. We are forever grateful for all Steve did for the Lagoon, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Learn about Steve's life and legacy:

### STEPHEN CHALMERS OBITUARY

#### 3 couples devote weekends to water

FLORIDA TODAY

Testing the quality of the water in the Indian River off Rocky Point has become a part of the weekend routine for three Malabar couples.

Stephen and Maryanne Chalmers spend about 30 minutes each weekend collecting water samples from the river in the South Broward community as part of the Volunteer Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Network.

The Chalmers take turns with team members Terry and Gayle Boyden and Dan and Jo Faden taking depth readings and testing river water for its temperature, clarity, acidity, pH and the amount of oxygen dissolved in the water.

The couples sometimes brave high winds or rain and mosquitoes in gathering the data.

Their results are sent to the Marine Resources Council of South Florida in Ocala, where Director Robert Preece is building a database on long-term trends in water quality changes.

"We have funding for 70 sites and have 60 already," Preece said. "Monitoring sites dot the Indian River from Mims in the north to the St. Lucie Utility and Manatee Park in the south."

Photographing Stephen Chalmers in volunteers was an interest in the lagoon's life. "There is a very real danger of disaster," he said.

Volunteers participate in a two-hour training program and are issued logs to take instructions. To volunteers, call 882-8182.

Prepared by Florida Today for contributor Elizabeth...



INDIAN RIVER off Rocky Point Road in Malabar has been adopted by Stephen and Maryanne Chalmers, Terry and Gayle Boyden and Dan and Jo Faden, all of Malabar, as part of the Volunteer Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Network. Above, the Faden's test a water sample's pH level. At left, the Chalmers test a sample's specific gravity.

By James Florida Today

