

# Clean Waters and SAV: Making the Connection

## Technical Workshop

### Agenda

March 4, 2020

William G. Ross Jr. Environmental Conference Center  
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences  
121 West Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603

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#### Workshop Goal:

Your participation today will help provide input for the NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan revision to develop collaborative management strategies to preserve and improve water quality suitable for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) growth in NC coastal waters.

#### Expected Outcomes:

1. Communicate the scientific links between SAV health and water quality and how other states successfully implemented water quality improvements that protected and restored SAV.
  2. Identify gaps and priorities for monitoring SAV and water quality in NC that are sufficiently robust to determine trends and needed water quality management changes.
  3. Identify management strategies that can be implemented in the near-term for SAV protection and restoration while information gaps are being filled to support long-term management strategies.
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#### MORNING SESSION (Moderator: Tim Ellis - APNEP)

##### 9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

- Opening remarks (Assistant Secretary Sheila Holman - NC DEQ)

##### 9:10 Purpose of workshop (Anne Deaton - NC DMF)

##### 9:25 Regional examples of where collaboration has led to water quality and SAV successes (Holly Greening and Rich Batiuk - CoastWise Partners; Brooke Landry - Chesapeake Bay Program, MD DNR)

- Chesapeake Bay: Science to management through collaboration
- Tampa Bay: Path to full SAV restoration through collaboration
- Chesapeake Bay: Management to dissemination, engagement, and continued research
- Five opportunities for collaboration applicable to NC
- Questions, answers, and discussion

##### 10:25 Status of NC's estuarine water quality (Jim Hawhee - NC DWR; Hans Paerl and Nathan Hall - UNC-CH)

- Existing and developing water quality management strategies
- Past and present estuarine water quality challenges
- Water quality monitoring and assessment

##### 11:25 Status of NC's SAV system (Jud Kenworthy - APNEP)

##### 11:55 Current NC SAV conservation and management strategies (Anne Deaton ; Tim Ellis)

##### 12:05 PM Networking Lunch (provided)

**AFTERNOON SESSION** (Moderator: Leda Cunningham - *The Pew Charitable Trusts*)

**12:50**      **Group activity**

**Questions for discussion:**

**Q1:** *What additional information/data is needed to define status and trends in NC SAV?*

**Q2:** *What additional information/data is needed to define water quality and loadings associated with SAV in NC, and the links between SAV and WQ?*

**Q3:** *What types of management strategies could be taken in the near-term for SAV protection and restoration while waiting on other information/data to support long-term strategies?*

- Breakout Session I - High Salinity SAV
- Breakout Session II - Low Salinity SAV
- Full group prioritization activity
- Summary of priorities and follow-up full group discussion

**4:05**      **Next steps and timelines for proceeding with workshop outcomes** (Anne Deaton)

**4:20**      **Closing Remarks - Call to Action** (Bill Crowell - *APNEP*)

**4:30**      **Adjourn**