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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
January 2021

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Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership



Sound Stories

January 2021

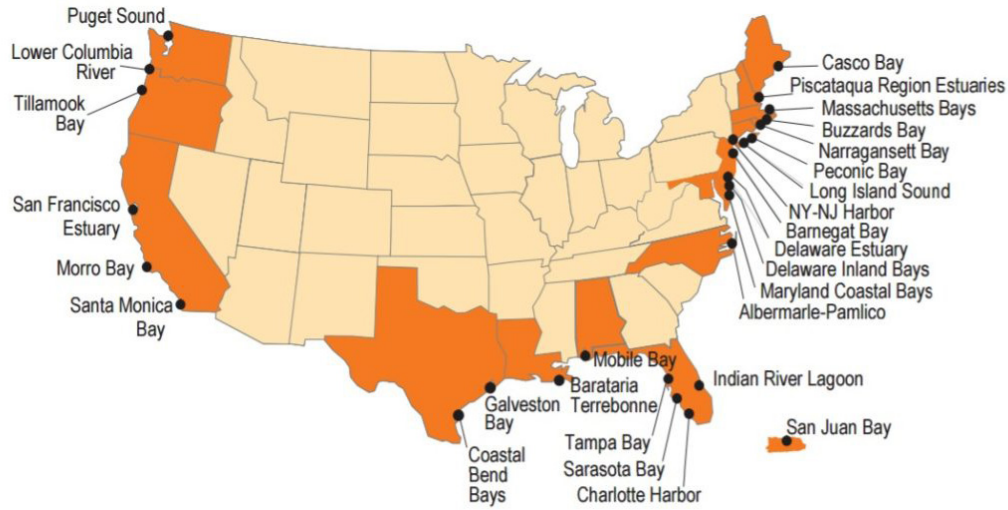


Happy New Year from everyone on the APNEP team! We were excited to hear in early January that the House resolution reauthorizing the [EPA's National Estuary Program](#) had been signed into law. The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership is one of many National Estuary Programs based within estuaries across the United States, all of which are dedicated to utilizing local stakeholder input to protect and restore their watersheds.

Stay tuned over the next few months as we publish new updates related to our [submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\) mapping efforts](#), [Climate Resilience in Tribal Communities project](#), continued [North Carolina-Virginia interstate collaboration](#), and more!

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

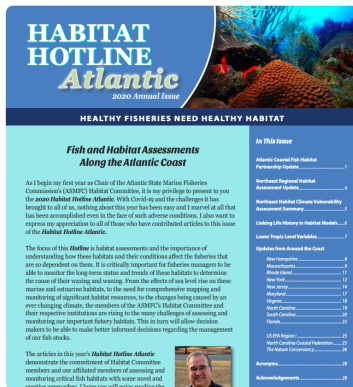
APNEP NEWS



National Estuary Program is Reauthorized

Earlier this month, President Trump signed [H.R. 4044, the "Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act,"](#) into law. This reauthorizes the [National Estuary Program](#), of which APNEP is one of over twenty watershed-based NEPs, through fiscal year 2026. We are grateful for strong bipartisan support and recognition of the need to protect and restore our estuaries of national significance!

[Learn more](#)



2020 *Habitat Hotline* Features NC Habitat Protection Initiatives

We're excited to share the annual issue of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission *Habitat Hotline*, which features an introduction from APNEP Coastal Habitats Coordinator Jimmy Johnson and article on habitat protection efforts in North Carolina written by Jimmy and APNEP Watershed Manager Trish Murphey (p. 19)! The focus of the Hotline is habitat assessments and the importance of understanding how these habitats and their conditions affect the fisheries that are so dependent on them.

[Read the Habitat Hotline](#)

Meeting Summaries

- **APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Executive Board Meeting (January 13th)** - The [STAC](#) executive board members worked to facilitate dialogue between leadership of the SAV Team and Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Team in order to develop consensus on the water quality metric descriptions in the draft SAV Monitoring Plan. Additionally, members finalized the STAC recruitment plan for anticipated expertise needed in 2021 and scheduled a February meeting to discuss science and technology input for the 2022 CCMP addendum.
- **Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting (January 21st)** - The CHPP Steering Committee met remotely to hear presentations on three draft issue papers. These papers were “Wetland Protection and Restoration with Focus on Nature-Based Methods,” “Habitat Monitoring to Assess Status and Regulatory Effectiveness,” and “Reducing Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) from Wastewater Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality.” The committee voted to support the proposed management and research options in the I & I paper. Proposed recommendations from the wetland paper and the monitoring paper will be presented at future steering committee meetings.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

- [APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Board Meeting](#) | February (Virtual)
- [APNEP Leadership Council Meeting](#) | March 11, 1:00pm - 3:00pm (Virtual)

Due to COVID-19, many of APNEP's scheduled meetings have been rescheduled or moved online. [Visit our website](#) for up-to-date information.

Current Grant Opportunities



- February 4th: [Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund 2021 RFP](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Grant details

Partner Spotlight



**NORTH CAROLINA
MARINE DEBRIS
SYMPOSIUM**

NC Marine Debris Symposium Goes Virtual and Global

The 8th annual [North Carolina Marine Debris Symposium](#), hosted by Carolina Coastal Riverwatch, will be held February 10th through 12th this year. The 2021 Symposium will be completely online and will offer attendees the opportunity to collaborate, network, and learn about marine debris research, policy, advocacy, and more.

Learn more and register

What We're Reading

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- [Scenic North River Landing Photo Captures Prize](#) (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation)



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