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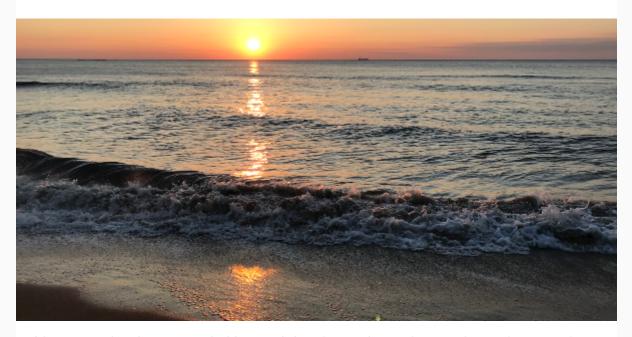
Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
June 2020

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Sound Stories

June 2020



It's no surprise that our work this month has focused on <u>submerged aquatic vegetation</u> - early summer is when all three of the high-salinity SAV species that predominate our sounds are growing, meaning that it is also the perfect time for <u>mapping this habitat</u>. Additionally, we're excited this month to publish the <u>Summary Report and presentations</u> from the March 2020 workshop about the connections between SAV and water quality that we hosted alongside the <u>NC Division of Marine Fisheries</u> and <u>The Pew Charitable Trusts</u>. And if that isn't enough, Pew has been publishing an <u>interview series</u> with SAV experts that we encourage you to check out!

I'd also like to remind our partners that letters of intent for the <u>NEP Coastal Watersheds</u> <u>Grant Program</u>, funded by the EPA and administered by <u>Restore America's Estuaries</u>, are due on August 7th. This is an exciting opportunity to work together with our partners to

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including our evaluation criteria for supporting partner proposals, on our website.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Crowell

APNEP Director

APNEP News



Joint Fellowship in Estuarine Research

APNEP & North Carolina Sea Grant are now accepting applications for our 2021 Graduate Fellowship in Estuarine Research! Fellows must conduct their research within the North Carolina portion of the Albemarle-Pamlico region and address one or more of the Fellowship's focus areas. **Applications are due August 3rd.**

Fellowship Details

APNEP Announces
Evaluation Criteria for
Coastal Watersheds
Grant Program
Proposals

The <u>NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant</u>

<u>Program</u> will fund projects within the geographic boundaries of the 28 National Estuary Programs, including the

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of acknowledgement from the relevant National Estuary Program and APNEP can formally partner (meaning receive funds in the proposal) with a maximum of three proposals. In response, APNEP will be utilizing evaluation criteria for determining which proposals to formally partner on; these criteria are available on our website. Letters of intent are due August 7, 2020.

Submitted proposals must molade d let

Learn more about the grant application process



NC DEQ Submits State Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan to Gov. Cooper

On behalf of the Climate Change Interagency Council, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has submitted the North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan to Governor Roy Cooper. As directed by Executive Order 80, the plan is the state's most comprehensive effort to date, based on science and stakeholder input, to address North Carolina's vulnerability to climate change and is the result of almost a year of stakeholder engagement with diverse federal, state, academic, community, and non-profit organizations. APNEP staff assisted in planning Coastal Resilience workshops

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resilience project, <u>funding of water level monitoring stations</u>, and continued involvement in multiple <u>coastal resilience initiatives</u>.

Read the Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan

Clean Waters and SAV: Making the Connection A technical workshop to develop water quality strategies to protect and restore submerged aquatic vegetation

Clean Waters and SAV: Making the Connection Workshop Summary Report Published

In March 2020, APNEP partnered with the <u>NC Division of Marine Fisheries</u> and <u>The Pew Charitable Trusts</u> to coordinate a technical workshop for SAV and water quality experts in North Carolina, with the goal of discussing the connection between clean waters and SAV health. These discussions will inform the 2021 <u>Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)</u> as well as help define short- and long-term strategies for SAV protection and restoration in the state. The <u>Summary Report and presentation slides</u> from the workshop are now available on our website.

View Workshop Summary Report and Presentations

Aerial Flights Capture Data for Third High-Salinity SAV Map

We're excited to announce that aerial imagery of the high-salinity submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat in the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed was collected in late May and early June through our

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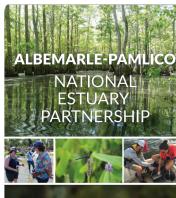
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2019 flights, will be used to create North Carolina's third SAV map.

Learn more





Our Mission

TO IDENTIFY, RESTORE, AND PROTECT THE SIGNIFICANT
RESOURCES OF THE ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE SYSTEM

APNEP Finalizes Revamped Outreach Materials

Although unfortunately we haven't yet returned to our usual slate of in-person outreach and engagement events, when that day comes we'll be ready with some redesigned brochures and printed materials! With brochures for educators, partner organizations, and the general public, we can't wait to engage with a wide variety of audiences using these new materials.

View the redesigned brochures



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coming Events & Meetings

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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.

 August 5th, 10:00am - 12:00pm (Webex) | APNEP Leadership Council Meeting (contact apnep@ncdenr.gov for details)

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



- July 13: NC WRRI and USGS 104(b) Research Funding
- July 15: <u>2021 Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Applications</u>
- August 7: NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program
- Ongoing: <u>NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief</u>
 Fund
- Ongoing: NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program

Grant details

Partner Spotlight



The Pew Charitable Trusts Highlights Importance of NC's Seagrasses

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this resource in North Carolina's estuarine waters. Their <u>April article</u> discusses the benefits seagrasses provide to wildlife, water quality, and the economy, while this month's article interviews <u>APNEP SAV Team</u> Lead Dr. Jud Kenworthy about how our state's seagrasses are "a diamond in the rough."

Read the interview with Dr. Kenworthy

What We're Reading

- The Importance of Black Birders Week and Its Lasting Impact (NCSU)
- <u>The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth</u> (Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture)
- Where Do Eels Come From? (New Yorker)











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