

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
March 2020

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Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership



Sound Stories

March 2020



What a difference a few weeks make.

Just a few weeks ago we hosted a successful workshop with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the Pew Charitable Trusts focusing on water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation habitats. As conditions changed, it was followed by a virtual Science and Technical Advisory Committee meeting the following week.

Now in the midst of the COVID-19 National Emergency, each of us are finding new ways to carry on in our daily lives. Here at APNEP, we quickly transitioned our team to working remotely and as we settle into this new way of conducting business, we continue to work toward our mission of identifying, protecting, and restoring the significant resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system.

Many of our upcoming initiatives have been postponed or cancelled, alongside many of our partners' events. These decisions were difficult but were made with the health and safety of everyone concerned in mind. No matter where you live in the Albemarle-Pamlico region, we'll get through this by supporting one another. By taking opportunities to help each other, such as by [participating in a blood drive](#), [providing food for those](#)

If this current situation affords us anything, it is the opportunity to perhaps spend a little more time outdoors, to the benefit of both our physical and emotional health. Whether you are a walker, biker, runner, bird watcher, or general lover of nature, we encourage you to partake in these activities as much as possible, at a safe social distance and within the confines of the law.

Above all, I hope you will be safe and healthy throughout this crisis. Thank you so very much for your support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



Workshop Identifies Connections Between Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Water Quality

The health of North Carolina's submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is tied to the water quality of our rivers and sounds - and SAV habitat itself in turn helps to improve water quality. We'd like to thank the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries and the Pew Charitable Trusts for collaborating with us to host March 4th's "Making the Connection: SAV and Water Quality" workshop! The data and expert 'lessons learned' presented during the workshop were used by participants to identify

[Learn more](#)



APNEP Funds Installation of Water Level Gages

With its low elevation and many waterways, large parts of the Albemarle-Pamlico region are susceptible to flooding. In response, APNEP has worked with NC Emergency Management to fund the installation of three additional [NC Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network \(FIMAN\)](#) remote monitoring stations. Data from these gages will increase real-time knowledge of flood conditions in the Albemarle-Pamlico region, as well as contribute to knowledge used to address future water management actions in the watershed.

[Learn more](#)

APNEP Meeting Updates

- **March 12th:** The [APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee](#) (STAC) met to discuss the charge from the APNEP Leadership Council during their mid-January planning workshop, with the intention to make the STAC a more effective body. Specific STAC discussion topics included (1) the scope of APNEP technical focus areas during 2020-2021 in addition to the consensus topics of submerged aquatic vegetation and water quality, and (2) emerging topics for deliverables (e.g., issue papers), where members can be proactive and provide recommendations to APNEP on the basis of a technical review.



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.

- *Due to covid-19 impacts, many of APNEP's upcoming events and meetings have either been cancelled or are in the process of being rescheduled. Visit [our website](#) for current event listings and updates.*

APNEP Soundings Blog



Making the Connection Between Underwater Grasses and Water Quality

March 10, 2020

“Clean water is foundational to submerged aquatic vegetation health. And in turn, submerged aquatic vegetation improves water quality – they are integrally linked.” With this connection between healthy water and healthy habitat, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Assistant Secretary for Environment Sheila Holman kicked off the “Clean Waters and SAV: Making the Connection” Technical Workshop on March 4th.

[Read More](#)

Current Grant Opportunities

- May 4: [2020 319\(h\) Grant RFP](#)



- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

[Grant Details](#)

Partner Spotlight



NC Office of Environmental Education Curates Online & Virtual Resource List in Response to Covid-19

Amid closures of public and outdoor spaces throughout the Albemarle-Pamlico region, the [NC Office of Environmental Education](#) has been curating a searchable database with professional development and support for environmental educators, as well as online resources for parents and caregivers now entertaining and educating kids at home. Just click or tap the banner on their website then select "COVID-19 Education Support" under Resource Type.

[Access the database](#)

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- [At Water's Edge, NC teachers explore watershed management along state's coast](#) (UNC Institute for the Environment)
 - [Techniques for Facilitating Virtual Meetings](#) (NOAA Digital Coast)
 - [She Changed the World: North Carolina Women Breaking Barriers](#) (NC DNCR)



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