

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
May 2020

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Sound Stories

May 2020



As spring turns to summer, APNEP and our partners continue to adjust to a new, socially-distant normal. In May, the [APNEP Leadership Council](#) met via videoconference and provided valuable feedback on our recently published 2020-21 Annual Work Plan as well as the continued refinement of focus areas for the Partnership. If you're interested in learning more about the projects APNEP has completed over the past year and what we have planned for next year, the Work Plan is [available on our website](#).

The recently-announced [NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program](#), funded by the EPA and administered by Restore America's Estuaries, is an exciting opportunity to work together with our partners to protect and restore our estuary. Learn more about the grant program [on the RAE website](#) and contact us at apnep@ncdenr.gov to discuss partnership opportunities and letters of support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

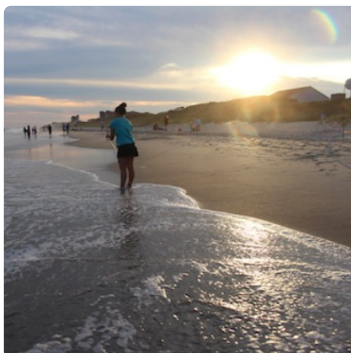
APNEP News



NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program Announced

[Restore America's Estuaries](#), in close coordination with and financial support from EPA, is administering the [NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program](#). This grant program funds projects within the geographic boundaries of the 28 National Estuary Programs, including the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed. The NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program is a nationally competitive grant program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal areas within Congressionally-designated "estuaries of national significance." Letters of intent are due August 7, 2020. Contact us at apnep@ncdenr.gov to discuss partnership opportunities and letters of support.

Coastal Watersheds Grant Details



APNEP Annual Work Plan Published

We've published our annual work plan, which documents completed and ongoing APNEP projects, as well as plans for upcoming projects in 2020-2021.

[Read the Work Plan](#)

SAV Spotlight: 2020 Aerial Mapping Underway



North Carolina's high-salinity submerged aquatic vegetation habitat in our estuary. This data, combined with imagery from 2019 flights, will be used to create the state's third SAV map. These maps will allow APNEP and partners to better understand whether SAV, a vital fish habitat and indicator of water quality, is in a long-term decline in the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

[Learn more](#)

APNEP Meeting Updates

May 11: The [Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#) Steering Committee met on May 11. This Steering Committee is comprised of two members from each of North Carolina's three regulatory commissions with coastal jurisdictions. The committee received presentations from several agency staff regarding progress with the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP), and a review of the progress made in implementing the 2016 Plan. Presentations on the new NC Marine Debris Actions Plan, on Virginia's successes and challenges to restoring oyster populations, and an update on the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan and water quality issues which will need to be addressed in the 2021 CHPP.

May 20: The [APNEP Leadership Council](#) met to discuss APNEP's [2020-21 Annual Work Plan](#) and continued refinement of focus areas for the program. APNEP staff continue to follow up on directives from the January 2020 Leadership Council meeting, including exploring opportunities to partner with local governments.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring &

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

APNEP Soundings Blog



10 Ways You Can Protect Our Estuary

May 22, 2020

The Albemarle-Pamlico watershed stretches from central North Carolina and Virginia eastward to the coast. But no matter where you live in the watershed, the creeks, streams, and rivers that flow nearby connect you to the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary downstream. With that in mind, we wanted to share 10 ways that you can help keep the waters of the estuary healthy for the animals, plants, and people that depend on it!

[Read More](#)

Current Grant Opportunities



- July 13: [NC WRRRI and USGS 104\(b\) Research Funding](#)
- August 7: [NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Partner Spotlight



NC Coastal Federation's Distance Learning Lab Compiles Educational Resources

The [NC Coastal Federation](#) has compiled partner educational resources that enable people throughout the Albemarle-Pamlico region to dive deeper into the world of coastal sciences and solutions while staying home and socially distant. The NCCF has collected resources on topics such as Clean Water, Coastal Investigations & Explorations, Oysters, Estuaries & Living Shorelines, and Marine Debris.

[Access the Distance Learning Lab](#)

What We're Reading

- [15 Facts About Oysters and the Need to Protect Them](#) (Pew)
- [American Shad Restoration Efforts Continue](#) (Coastal Review Online)
- [The Lunar Sea](#) (Hakai Magazine)
- [Christina Koch Describes View of NC Coast](#) (Coastal Review Online)



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