

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
April 2019

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The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories

April 2019



The end of April means that another year of [Shad in the Classroom](#) is coming to a close. At this moment, thousands of baby shad released into the Neuse River during the program are slowly making their way downstream. And after participating in Shad in the Classroom, hundreds of students have returned to their classrooms with a concrete sense of how the Albemarle-Pamlico region's waterways are special, how they connect with our sounds, and why they are worth protecting.

As shad season winds down, APNEP's [submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\)](#) mapping is ramping up. Over the next few months, APNEP will be coordinating with the Department

the third such map APNEP has facilitated over the past decade in an effort to assess the status and trend of this invaluable natural resource. Additionally, we are working with our partners to develop an improved understanding of the role of SAV in our ecosystem and coastal economies.

At a national scale, bi-partisan support continues for estuary protection. A recent meeting of the Association of Natural Estuary Programs, Restore America's Estuaries, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association included discussion of goals and future topics for congressional briefings hosted by the [Congressional Estuary Caucus](#). Lessons learned about climate resilience will be featured in the next briefing to be held on May 16.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



33 Classrooms Participate in 2019's Shad in the Classroom program

Spring has arrived in North Carolina, and that means pollen dust clouds, colorful flowers, and lots and lots of shad! This April we were excited to support another year of the [NC Museum of Natural Sciences' Shad in the Classroom program](#). Thirty-three classrooms across the Albemarle-Pamlico region, from headwaters to the mouth of the estuary,

After raising American Shad eggs inside the classroom, students traveled to the Neuse River to release their baby shad and in doing so contributed to ongoing species restoration efforts. Accompanying activities, such as macroinvertebrate sampling, water quality testing, nature walks, and lesson plans, foster environmental stewardship and appreciation for the connections between all parts of a watershed.

[Learn more about Shad in the Classroom](#)

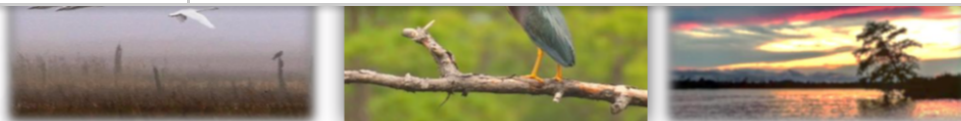


NC DEQ Division of Coastal Management Continues Coastal Resiliency Collaboration with June 2019 Summit

In response to the Governor Roy Cooper's [Executive Order #80](#) that his cabinet agencies prepare a North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan by March 1, 2020, the N.C. Division of Coastal Management is partnering with the North Carolina Coastal Federation and a diverse group of coastal community stakeholders to convene a series of regional workshops and summit to highlight and evaluate the utility of potential strategies that could be included in state's plan, especially as it applies to the coast of North Carolina.

The summit comes after regional workshops geared towards soliciting input from elected officials and local government staff on their top priorities, challenges, and needs for building resilience to natural hazards and climate change in their communities. These regional workshops will be held May 2nd in Elizabeth City and May 14th in Wilmington.

[Learn more and register for the Summit](#)



Teacher Workshop

Discovering Our Southern Watersheds

Teachers in Southeast Virginia Invited to Attend Watershed Workshop

Educators working in Virginia Beach's "[Southern Watersheds](#)," which stretch south from the more rural, agricultural portion of the city towards the NC-VA state line, often don't know that their waterways drain into Albemarle Sound and not the Chesapeake Bay. To increase knowledge of the unique history and natural resources of this region, APNEP is partnering with Virginia-based organizations, including [Lynnhaven River NOW](#), to organize a workshop for educators of the Southern Watersheds. The workshop will be held on July 22, 2019 at the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge and will include opportunities to learn about the Southern Watersheds, get connected with local resources, and even get out on the water!



Learn more and sign up for the workshop

APNEP Committee Updates

April 26th - The [APNEP Air Resources Monitoring and Assessment Team](#) met to discuss their Team's progress on ecological indicator report development for monitoring the state

indicators for monitoring the ecological health of Albemarle-Pamlico region.



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.

- **May 14th, 10:00am-4:00pm** | [APNEP Leadership Council Meeting](#) (Raleigh, NC)
- **June 11th-12th** | [North Carolina Coastal Resilience Summit](#) (Havelock, NC)
- **July 22nd, 9:00am-3:00pm** | [Discovering Our Southern Watersheds Teacher Workshop](#) (Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, VA)

Soundings Blog



Shad in the Classroom Reaches Students (and Fish) from Stream to Sound

April 16th, 2019

"There's definitely a baby shad in there," she insists, pointing to the bottom of the cup, and as I look more closely I can see the tiny fish swimming around. This shad larvae is just one of thousands being raised by schools across eastern North Carolina this month as part of the Shad in the Classroom program, and thanks to the hard work of these students will soon be making his or her new home in the waters of the Neuse River.

Current Grant Opportunities



- 5/3/19: [FY2019 319\(h\) Nonpoint Source Grant RFP](#)
- 5/20/19: [National Coastal Resilience Fund - 2019 RFP](#)
- 6/15/19: [Duke Energy Powerful Communities: Storm Resiliency Grants](#)

Grant Details

Partner Spotlight



Amended Living Shoreline Permitting Process Decreases Time, Money Needed to Place Marsh Sills

The NC Department of Environmental Quality recently announced a streamlined permitting process for marsh sills, a type of living shoreline. If you were thinking about installing a living shoreline, the process just got a little easier!

Read the article

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Past Issues

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- [As coastal flooding surges, 'living shorelines' seen as the answer](#) (Food and Environment Reporting Network)
 - [What's in a Name? A Lot, It Seems!](#) (NC Sea Grant Coastwatch Currents)
 - [Assembling the Puzzle of Climate Resilience](#) (Coastal Review Online)



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