

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
August 2019

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The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories

August 2019



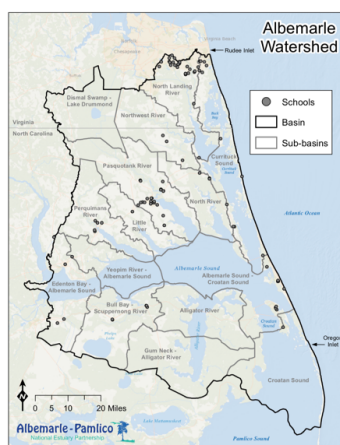
As summer begins to draw to a close, APNEP staff are focusing on a number of initiatives that will take place this fall. With data collected over the summer, APNEP and partners will be beginning creation of a third [map of the region's submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\)](#). This map will help us to assess long-term trends in both SAV and water quality in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary. We'll also be publishing a ArcGIS Story Map that showcases the collaborative efforts underway in order to protect this vital resource.

In early September, APNEP's [Ecological Flows Action Team](#) will meet to discuss the Team's next steps, which may include detailed pilot studies on flow-ecology relationships in the APNEP region and incorporation of outreach or communication initiatives. You can learn more about the Team's previous work in [our recent blog post](#).

hope you'll join us in celebrating, whether you live within sight of the sounds or far upstream. [Learn more about National Estuaries Week and how you can get involved.](#)

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



Virginia Partnerships Connect Up and Downstream

This month, a map of the entire VA-NC Albemarle Watershed and a resource toolbox for educators in Virginia's Southern Watershed was made [available on the APNEP website](#). APNEP staff also attended focus group meetings hosted by the City of Virginia Beach to discuss flooding in the watershed and attended the annual in-person meeting for a [VIMS project](#) that aims to build coastal resilience through increasing use of natural and nature-based features. Over the next year, APNEP will be meeting with NC stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of implementation of this project in North Carolina.

Check out Southern Watershed Teacher Resources



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Boat-based submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) surveys of the low-salinity parts of the sound have been continuing this month, led by [Dr. Joe Luczkovich](#) and his ECU research team. In addition, finalization of data for the 2013-2014 map of SAV in the high-salinity, eastern part of the estuary is almost complete, and the final map should be made public in early September. Stay tuned this fall for more SAV-related news!

[Learn more about SAV monitoring in the Albemarle-Pamlico region](#)



Chowan Algal Bloom Forum Raises Awareness of History and Potential Causes of Recent Blooms

Over 130 citizens and local government officials attended a community forum about recent harmful algal blooms in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound on Saturday, August 24th. While researchers and government officials don't yet know why blooms have returned after a decades-long absence, data suggests that increased nutrients and higher water temperatures are playing a role.

The forum was organized by [NC Sea Grant](#) and [NC State University researchers](#) as part of a [NC Sea Grant Community Collaborative Research Grant](#), and other partners such as APNEP, the [Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group](#), the [NC Department of Environmental Quality](#), [UNC Institute of Marine Sciences](#), [NC Department of Health and Human Services](#), and [NOAA](#) assisted in organizing and speaking at the event. A recording of the forum will be made available soon for those who weren't able to attend.

[Read more about the Algal Bloom Forum](#)



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.

- **September 4, 10:00am-3:00pm** | [APNEP Ecological Flows Action Team Meeting](#) (Raleigh, NC)
- **September 12, 10:00am-3:00pm** | [APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#) (Murfreesboro, NC)
- **September 14-21** | [National Estuaries Week 2019](#) (Nationwide)
- **October 8-9** | [RAE & NCCF Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop](#) (Beaufort, NC)
- **November 19-20** | [NC Sea Grant Coastal Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)

Current Grant Opportunities



- 9/13/2019: [205\(j\) Water Quality Management Planning Grants](#)
- 9/13/2019: [FY2020 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Applications](#)
- 9/24/2019: [NC DOJ Environmental Enhancement Grants](#)
- 10/07/2019: [NC Sea Grant Research Opportunity for Resource Management Needs](#)
- 11/12/2019: [Emergency Coastal Resilience RFP](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Partner Spotlight



Congratulations to Dr. Wilson Laney

We'd like to congratulate Dr. Wilson Laney on his receipt of the Governor's Conversationist of the Year Award! In addition to his career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NC State, Dr. Laney has also served tirelessly on multiple APNEP committees, including our [Science and Technical Advisory Committee](#) and our [Leadership Council](#).

[Read more](#)

What We're Reading

- [From Megalodons to bull sharks, eastern North Carolina has shark past and present](#) (Washington Daily News)
- [Visible Change: Alligator River 'Ghost Forests'](#) (Coastal Review Online)
- [Equity and Inclusion in Environmental Education Toolbox](#) (EENC)
- [North Carolina's Islands: the beauty of the Outer Banks](#) (The Guardian)



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