



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Grants available for environmental restoration projects in N.C., Va. estuary

RALEIGH – The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, or APNEP, is offering \$150,000 in grant money for projects that restore the estuarine ecosystem that spans parts of North Carolina and Virginia.

The grant money can be used for a wide range of projects, including those that create new oyster reefs, remove invasive species such as hydrilla, restore wetland areas or improve river herring habitats. Project proposals are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 17.

“The estuary is a shared North Carolina and Virginia treasure,” said Bill Crowell, director of APNEP. “We’re always pleased to provide restoration opportunities for an area so important to the livelihood of our coastal communities.”

The full request for proposals can be found at www.apnep.org.

Estuaries are areas where river and ocean waters mix, supporting a rich array of terrestrial and aquatic life. The Albemarle-Pamlico estuary provides coastal storm protection, a key nursery area for many coastal fish and shellfish, and beauty and recreational opportunities for the region’s residents and visitors. The estuary supports the region’s tourism and fishing industries.

APNEP supports ecosystem-based management of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary and its watershed, an area that spans northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. APNEP pursues its mission by working closely with residents, scientists, universities, businesses, non-profit organizations and local and state government agencies. The program is a joint effort between the N. C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

For more information about this grant opportunity or the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, please contact Jim Hawhee, APNEP’s community specialist, at (919) 733-0121 or jim.hawhee@ncdenr.gov.

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