

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP) June-July 2017 Updates

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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

June - July 2017 Updates



APNEP Reflections

In the middle of a North Carolina summer, it can be tempting to hunker down inside, enjoy the AC, and reemerge only when you see leaves changing color. We might be doing a little of that here at APNEP, but we've also ventured outdoors to assist with one of our longest-running outreach programs - a multi-

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ecosystems of North Carolina. This year, our Summer Teacher Institute was facilitated by the UNC Institute for the Environment as a part of the year-long [ExPLORE NC program](#).

In addition, APNEP partners and contractors have been conducting boat-based submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring at stations in the Roanoke and Neuse River watersheds this summer. This work will contribute to a multi-year baseline of SAV status and trends within a [SAV "sentinel network"](#) planned for the entire Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system.

We are also working on preparing for our *2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium: Eyes on the Horizon*, to be held this November 1st at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Visit our [website](#) for details and to [register](#) for the Symposium!

In other news, last week N.C. Governor Roy Cooper joined local leaders representing over 30 coastal municipalities and over 200 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community groups in voicing opposition to seismic testing and offshore oil drilling off of North Carolina's coast. Shared concerns include the risk to our economy and environment, including our sounds and estuarine waterways, with few clear benefits to the state.

Stay cool everyone!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director



THE ASSOCIATION OF
National Estuary Programs



National Estuary Program News

Mark your calendar! This September 16th - 23rd, celebrate National Estuaries Week, organized by [Restore America's Estuaries](#), by participating in an event that highlights the importance of healthy estuaries. Or even better, host your own event! Don't forget to register your event [on their website](#). To find out more about National Estuaries Week, visit: <https://estuaries.org/national-estuaries-week>



ANEP Website



ANEP Facebook Page

Announcements



3rd Annual Joint APNEP - North Carolina Sea Grant 2017 Graduate Fellowship

Don't forget - North Carolina Sea Grant and APNEP are accepting applications through **July 31st** for the 2017 Graduate Fellowship in Estuarine Research. The fellowship provides funding for applied research within the North Carolina portion of the APNEP region to graduate students based in North

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2017
ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO
ECOSYSTEM
SYMPOSIUM
Eyes on the Horizon

NOVEMBER 1st
McKimmon Center | Raleigh

Registration is now open!

Join us November 1st at the 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium, a one-day event where stakeholder groups come together to discuss how we can continue to identify, protect, and restore the resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. For more details and [to register, visit our website.](#)



Calling all Researchers and Educators - Registration for SciREN Triangle 2017 is Now Open!

SciREN Triangle, to be held this September 21st at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, is a free networking event for researchers and educators. The event gives researchers the opportunity to share lesson plans based on their research, get feedback from teachers, and collaborate on curriculum development. Visit [SciREN's website](#) to register for the event and lesson-planning workshop.

APNEP News

APNEP-Sponsored Workshop Discusses the Future of *Phragmites* Management

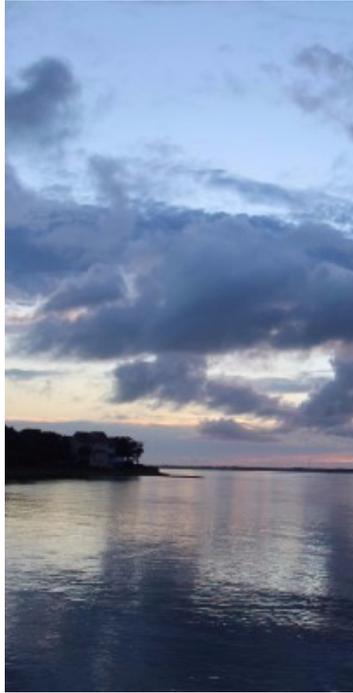
Federation and sponsored by APNEP and the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Training Program, concluded that continued collaboration between partners is needed to manage *Phragmites*, an invasive wetland plant, in North Carolina. Because we work throughout watersheds, APNEP is well-positioned to facilitate coordination between a diverse group of partners as work on this issue continues. *Phragmites* is one of the many invasive species for which APNEP's [Invasives Action Team](#) is working to develop monitoring and management strategies.



Algal Blooms Prompt Regional Collaboration

After blooms [were reported in the Chowan River earlier this summer](#), a regional stakeholder group has been convened to coordinate response and communication about future blooms. More recently, blooms have been spotted in the nearby Perquimans and Little Rivers. As summer progresses, blooms become more likely in the rivers along North Carolina's southern coast, such as the Pamlico River.

and elsewhere, and is working to help fund temporary signs to provide the public with information at Chowan River access points during the summer.



APNEP Provides 2017 Funding for N.C. Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program

APNEP has provided bridge funding to the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2014, when budget cuts threatened to suspend sampling at over 30 coastal swimming sites throughout the Albemarle-Pamlico region. Many are located at public beaches or near popular summer camps. Before you head out to swim this summer, check out the [DMF website](#) for the map of sampling locations and latest advisories.

APNEP Management Conference Updates

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APNEP through a series of interviews with past and present partners. Check out the entire archive [on our website](#), and reply to this newsletter to let us know if you would like to participate!



May 26th, 2017 - Did you know that sturgeon were once abundant in Virginia's Nottoway River? Learn more about these now-rare fish and the [Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper Program](#) from Jeff Turner, Riverkeeper, Executive Director, and Founder of the Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper program. Photo courtesy of BNRP.

[Read more](#)



June 26th, 2017 - Retired [NC State Extension](#) Agent Marjorie Rayburn speaks about helping to forge APNEP's current [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#), starting a "Water Quality Stewards" program as chair of the Chowan River Basin Council, and about advocating for the importance of outreach as part of APNEP's vision.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events & Meetings

[SciREN Triangle Educator Open House](#)

August 19, 2017 - NC Museum of Natural Sciences Nature

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Watershed Management Workshop for the Roanoke River Basin

August 22, 2017 - Warren Amory Civic Center, Warrenton
RSVP via email to info@kerrtarcog.org; contact thorne@ucpcog.org if you have any questions.

[SciREN Triangle Lesson Plan Workshop](#)

September 21, 2017 - NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Nature Exploration Center

[APNEP Science & Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\) Meeting](#)

November 30, 2017 - location TBD

APNEP Outreach



NC ExPLORE Teacher Institute

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This summer, we partnered with the UNC Institute for the Environment for the 4-day ExPLORE NC Teacher Institute. A cohort of nineteen 4th and 5th grade teachers from central and eastern North Carolina joined experienced environmental educators down at the coast for a week of learning, beachcombing, and kayaking! Teachers learned about outdoor- and inquiry-based activities they could take into their classrooms on topics such as living shorelines, nature journaling, river basins and watersheds, water density, and much more.

We were joined throughout the week by educators from many partner organizations, including N.C. Sea Grant, the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Swansboro High School, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, the U.S. EPA, and the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve.

This year's Teacher Institute is part of a year-long ExPLORE NC program, which will include weekend retreats and professional development opportunities for the cohort of teachers. To learn more about ExPLORE NC, [visit their website](#).

[Visit APNEP's website](#) to learn more about past teacher institute programs. The call for applications is usually in the late winter or early spring, and the institute itself is held during the summer.



Soundings Blog

A fresh take on the region's salty affairs



July 13th, **Protecting North Carolina's Coastal Habitats with Jimmy Johnson**

Telling the story of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan - how North Carolina's fisheries habitats are protected through collaboration within the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality.

[Read more](#)



Current Grant Opportunities

[205\(j\) WQ Management Planning Grant:](#) The 205(j) grant funds local Councils of Government (COGs) water quality planning projects. The application period for FY17 205(j) Water Quality Planning grant proposals is now open, and will close on September 8th, 2017. The updated RFP, application and review criteria are available on the 205(j) program [website](#).

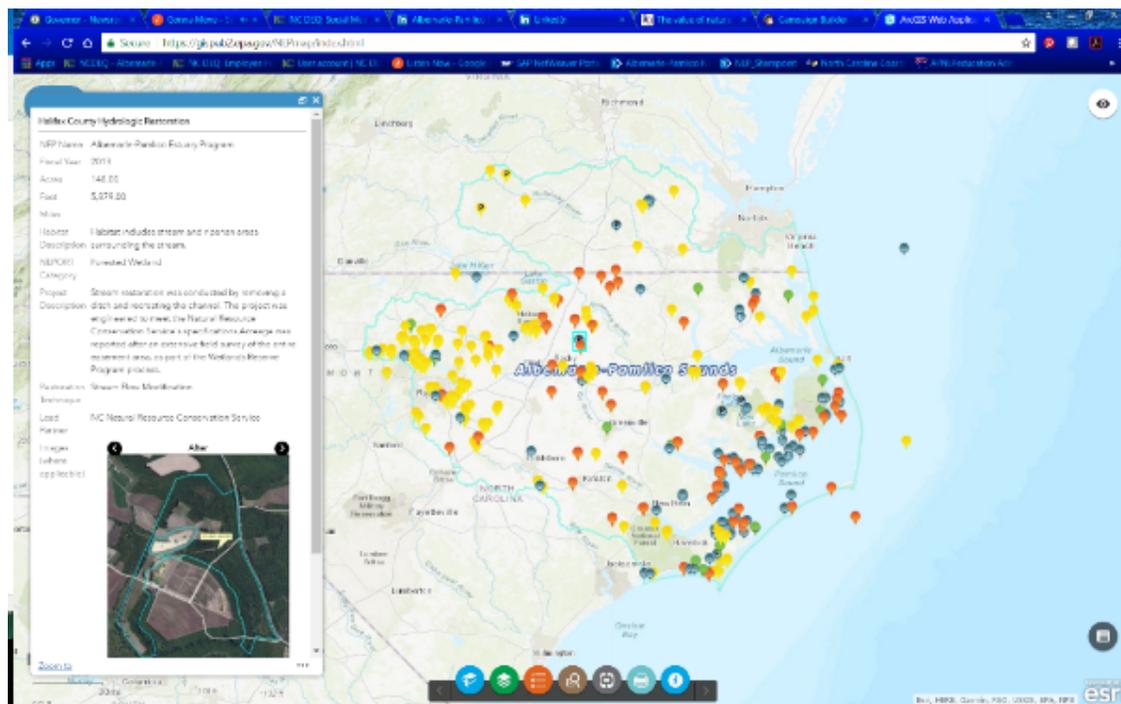
Resources and other grant opportunities can be found on [APNEP's website](#).

Partner Spotlight



VIMS Grant Award

Congratulations to the [Virginia Institute of Marine Science Center for Coastal Resources Management \(CCRM\)](#) for receiving a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant! APNEP looks forward to partnering with Policy Board member Dr. Carl Hershner on this project to address flooding issues through the use of nature-based infrastructure. For more information, visit [NOAA's website](#).



Habitat Protection and Restoration Reporting due August 18

Please do not forget to submit data on your habitat protection and restoration efforts in the APNEP region by **August 18!** Our annual request for the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) report the state submits to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was sent via email July 13.

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September 30, 2017. Many of you are familiar with this report, but for those unfamiliar with the process, this reporting helps ensure continued funding for APNEP from EPA.

APNEP has consistently reported some of the highest habitat protection and restoration efforts in the National Estuary Program, and typically the bulk of acreage in Region 4. Help us keep up the trend--collectively, you protected over 8,000 acres last year! Data is shared on EPA's Interactive [NEP mapper](#).

If you did not receive a request and would like to contribute, please contact Stacey Feken at stacey.feken@apnep.org. For those that are not aware, we are also happy to provide letters of support to assist with seeking continued funding sources for these and related efforts in the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Resources

- [Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Campaign](#): a campaign to empower recreational water users to stop the transport and spread of invasive aquatic species
- [Monitoring and Responding to Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins in Recreational Waters](#): information for public health officials and others involved in water quality monitoring - how can waterbody managers respond to potentially harmful algal blooms in their communities? (EPA)
- [Green Infrastructure Effectiveness Database](#): an online database with information about the effectiveness of different types of green infrastructure in reducing coastal hazards such as floods and storms (NOAA)
- [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#): a web-based portal to help communities make informed financing decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs (EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center)



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