



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Proposals for Estuary Education Campaigns Sought by Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program

RALEIGH – The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program is seeking proposals for innovative education and outreach campaigns that address coastal environmental issues in one of the nation's richest estuarine systems.

Proposals can include media campaigns, ecotourism programs, social marketing, event planning, educational support programs and organization of stewardship opportunities. Educational, nonprofit, tribal, government institutions and businesses that offer appropriate expertise are eligible for funding. More information on eligibility requirements and other details are available at the program's website, www.apnep.org.

"Effective conservation of the sounds' natural, economic and cultural treasures can only be accomplished with the support of the communities that affect them," said Bill Crowell, director of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, or APNEP. "Therefore, outreach and education efforts are absolutely essential to our program's mission."

Up to \$50,000 in grants may be awarded for campaigns in the program's watershed in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Grant proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Dec. 31.

The APNEP Policy Board Executive Committee will select which grant proposals to fund and determine funding amounts. All awards depend upon the availability of funds.

Estuaries are areas where river and ocean waters mix, supporting a rich array of terrestrial and aquatic life. The Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system provides a key nursery area for many coastal fish and shellfish, which in turn support the region's fishing and tourism industries. Estuaries also provide other important functions, including coastal storm protection and the filtration of runoff. The Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system has been designated an "estuary of national significance" by the Environmental Protection Agency, which provides funding to support the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program's mission.

This request for proposals is separate from one that APNEP issued Nov. 15 for demonstration projects. The deadline for the earlier request for proposals was Nov. 30.

Further inquiries may be directed to Jim Hawhee, APNEP's community specialist, at (919) 733-0121 or Jim.Hawhee@ncdenr.gov.

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