

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

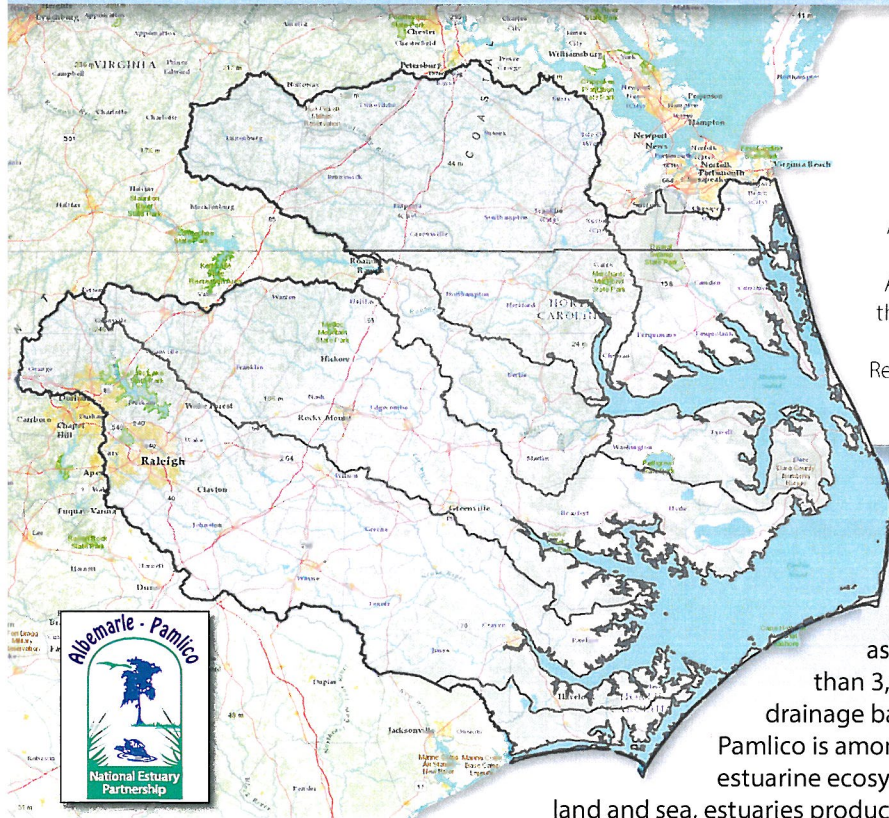
Our mission:

To identify, restore and protect the significant resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system.

Our approach:

The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership pursues its mission with guidance and support from its advisory bodies, regional partners and its ecosystem-based Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. APNEP's initiatives are guided by input from a diverse group of regional partners and stakeholders. Together, we work to protect and enhance one of the nation's most valuable estuaries.

APNEP's comprehensive approach is designed to preserve the integrity of the entire estuarine ecosystem, with a special emphasis on improving water quality in the region's rivers and sounds.



APNEP was among the first of 28 National Estuary Programs established by the Clean Water Act. APNEP is a cooperative effort jointly supported by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Financial support is provided by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Albemarle-Pamlico estuary was designated as "an estuary of national significance" in 1987, and it continues to be recognized as a nationally important resource through its recent designation as one of "America's Great Waters." With more than 3,000 square miles of estuarine waters and a drainage basin of 28,000 square miles, the Albemarle-Pamlico is among the nation's largest and most significant estuarine ecosystems. Due to the mixing of nutrients from

land and sea, estuaries produce more food per acre than even the richest farmland. Estuaries provide habitat for 75 percent of America's commercial fish catch and between 80 and 90 percent of America's recreational fishing catch. In North Carolina, the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary supports billions of dollars of economic activity per year through industries including commercial and recreational fishing, tourism and shipping.

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Resources for Local Governments

APNEP and its partners offer a number of services that can be used by local governments to improve their local riverine or estuarine environments. Many of these tools also provide further economic and environmental benefits for localities and the broader region in which they are situated.

Visit portal.ncdenr.org/web/apnep/lg for more information.

Planning Tools

APNEP's partners maintain several tools that can assist local governments in planning that enhances and protects their environmental resources. A list of these tools may be found at portal.ncdenr.org/web/apnep/planningtools. Upon inquiry, APNEP staff can recommend or discuss specific tools and provide other relevant information or training based on local needs.



Letters of Support

Local governments in the Albemarle-Pamlico region working to secure external funding for environmental initiatives are encouraged to contact APNEP staff to inquire about a letter of support.



Environmental Expertise

APNEP engages a wide variety of scientists, managers and other experts regarding environmental affairs in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. These professionals are often available to provide expertise on local environmental challenges or help bring resources to address an issue.



Grants

APNEP routinely offers grants for restoration projects and community engagement initiatives in the Albemarle-Pamlico region. For notification of grant opportunities, please join the APNEP listserv at www.apnep.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter. APNEP also maintains a list of open grants and several grant databases at portal.ncdenr.org/web/apnep/grants.

Risk Analysis for Water Infrastructure


As part of its commitment to protect the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, APNEP is working with federal, local and private sector partners to support drinking water and wastewater utilities as they consider how to adapt to climate pressures like flooding, hurricanes and eventual sea level rise. A member of APNEP's staff can provide further details for utilities interested in participating.



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