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Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)  
September 2019

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# Albemarle - Pamlico

## National Estuary Partnership



# Sound Stories

September 2019



Many communities affected by Hurricane Dorian in early September were still recovering from last year's Hurricane Florence, further complicating efforts to rebuild. As you are able, please consider donating to the [NC Disaster Relief Fund](#) or [volunteering](#) with one of the partner organizations in our region, many of whom are working hard to increase the region's resiliency in preparation for extreme weather events in the future.

While the fragility of our estuarine system is often highlighted during hurricanes and storms, it is also a time when we witness the ecosystem services that estuaries provide and the important role they play in building coastal resilience for both natural and human communities. The estuary's abundant resources and unique ecosystems were also brought to the forefront during National Estuaries Week this September 14th through the 21st. [Featured on our blog](#) in honor of Estuaries Week was an exploration (from A to Z) of the ecology, history, and culture that make the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary worth protecting. If you missed Estuaries Week this year, there are many ways you can protect our estuaries year-round - check out [our website](#) for a list of volunteer opportunities with

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bill Crowell  
APNEP Director

# APNEP News



## APNEP and Partners Meet to Discuss Progress on Coastal Resilience Grant

This month, APNEP met with partners from the [Virginia Institute of Marine Science](#), Wetlands Watch, and the Virginia Coastal Policy Center for an annual meeting to discuss progress on the NOAA Coastal Resilience grant, **Using Natural and Nature-Based Features to Build Resilience to Storm-Driven Flooding**. The project is focused on increasing the use of natural and nature-based features (NNBFs) to build resilience in coastal communities to flooding caused by storms and extreme weather events.

The project team is wrapping up the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of project, nearing completion of GIS and co-benefits analyses. The team is currently developing outreach strategies and interactive tools for use with local governments and agency representatives to identify opportunities and criteria for using NNBFs to increase resilience to flooding and simultaneously generate credits for local governments in other resource management and hazard mitigation programs such as:

- National Flood Insurance Community Rating System
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL program for nutrient and sediment load reductions; and
- Virginia stormwater management program.

APNEP will continue to share information about the project with partners and stakeholders to evaluate the feasibility of the approach in North Carolina.

Learn more about [Using Nature-Based Features to Build Resilience to Storm-Driven Flooding](#)



## Estuaries Week Highlights the Value of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary

September 14th through the 21st was Estuaries Week, both nationally and in North Carolina. NC Governor Cooper proclaimed North Carolina's Estuaries Week as a celebration of the integral role our estuarine system plays in the state's economy, history, and culture. In addition, organizations across NC's coastal plain and barrier islands marked the occasion with [volunteer opportunities and educational events](#).



## SciREN Connects Educators and Researchers

APNEP participated alongside partner organizations and graduate researchers in the [Scientific Research and Education Network's \(SciREN's\)](#) fall networking event at Raleigh's [NC Museum of Natural Sciences](#). Researchers at SciREN events share lesson plans they've created with educators, with the goal of bringing together teachers and scientists for collaboration and information-sharing. APNEP staff shared our suite of estuary and coast-themed lessons, all of which are also [available on our website](#). If you live in eastern North Carolina, mark your calendar for [SciREN Coast](#) in winter 2020!

Learn more about SciREN

## APNEP Meeting Updates

- **September 4:** [APNEP's Ecological Flows Action Team](#) met to discuss plans and next steps for Phase II. Grady McCallie of the NC Conservation Network and Katherine Baer gave a presentation on their report, *Protecting and restoring flows in our southeastern rivers: A synthesis of state policies for water security and sustainability*, followed by a team discussion on outreach and engagement with policy makers, elected officials, and the public. Team Co-Leads Dr. Bob Christian and Dr. Mike O'Driscoll shared results from recent studies and recommendations for the team to consider when developing a detailed plan for pilot studies to evaluate flow-ecology relationships.
- **September 12:** [APNEP's Science and Technical Advisory Committee](#) met to discuss next steps in the development of a monitoring strategy for the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. The first phase of the strategy will focus on the region's estuarine resources, particularly water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).



## 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](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov).

- **October 8-9** | [RAE & NCCF Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop](#) (Beaufort, NC)
- **November 19-20** | [NC Sea Grant Coastal Conference](#) (Wilmington, NC)
- **January 14-15, 2020** | [APNEP Leadership Council Meeting](#) (TBD)



## A-Z in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary

September 17, 2019 - In honor of National Estuaries Week, we've highlighted just a few of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system's historical, ecological, and geographical highlights. Click the link below to explore the Albemarle-Pamlico from A-Z!

[Read the blog post](#)

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## Current Grant Opportunities



- 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](#)

[Grant Details](#)

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## Partner Spotlight



## NC Office of Environmental Education Receives 2019 Outstanding Partner Award

A well-deserved "2019 Outstanding Partner" award from the [Environmental Educators of North Carolina](#) went to the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Environmental Education (pictured here with NC DEQ Secretary Regan and staff from DEQ Public Affairs). The NC Office of Environmental Education not only maintains a [comprehensive resource database](#) for environmental education in North Carolina, but also manages North Carolina's [Environmental Educator Certification Program](#). Congratulations to Lisa Tolley and Marty Wiggins for all their hard work!

[Learn more about the Office of Environmental Education](#)

## What We're Reading

- [Learn about Algal Blooms in Northeast North Carolina](#) (NC Sea Grant)
- [For Ocean Fish, What Happens Upstream Doesn't Stay There](#) (Pew)
- [What is an Estuary? Video](#) (NOAA)
- [Seven Recipes Using Invasive Species](#) (Chesapeake Bay Program)

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