

PROTECTING N.C.'S SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION IS WORTH IT

Underwater meadows, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), are **crucial to our environment and our economy.**

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation:

- Improves water quality
- Provides habitat for fish and wildlife
- Stores carbon dioxide that would otherwise enter the atmosphere and contribute to climate change

And we have over **130,000 acres** of it! That's **98,500 football fields.**



But N.C.'s SAV is under threat, primarily from **deteriorating water quality.**

A **50% decline** ↓ in North Carolina's SAV could cost well over **\$88 million**, and that's just over the next decade.

-\$55 million  in lost carbon storage

-\$22 million  in decreased residential property values

-\$7 million  in declines in commercial catch for blue crab

-\$4 million  in declines in recreational catch for spotted seatrout and red drum

SAV provides benefits for our communities beyond what we can measure, including:

Supporting and sheltering other economically important species

Protecting our coasts from erosion and flooding

Attracting hunters and birders to our waters

Making our coast a great place to call home

Protecting SAV is far cheaper than restoring it after it has been destroyed.



• What can you do about it? •

LEARN

- **Our Work to Protect NC's SAV** (tinyurl.com/SAVTeam)
- **SAV Extent in North Carolina** (tinyurl.com/SAVinNorthCarolina)
- **Read the full economic valuation** (tinyurl.com/SAVvaluation)

PROTECT

- Advocate for policies that improve water quality and dedicate more resources to SAV protection
- Avoid overusing fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in your home and garden
- Don't tear up shallow SAV with boat props or bottom-disturbing fishing gear

Albemarle - Pamlico
National Estuary Partnership

