



SOUTH ATLANTIC SALT MARSH INITIATIVE BRIEF

Overview

The South Atlantic region of the U.S. harbors approximately one million acres of salt marshes that benefit wildlife, communities, the economy and national defense. Sustaining this valuable resource in the face of persistent threats will require a concerted effort by all who depend on it.

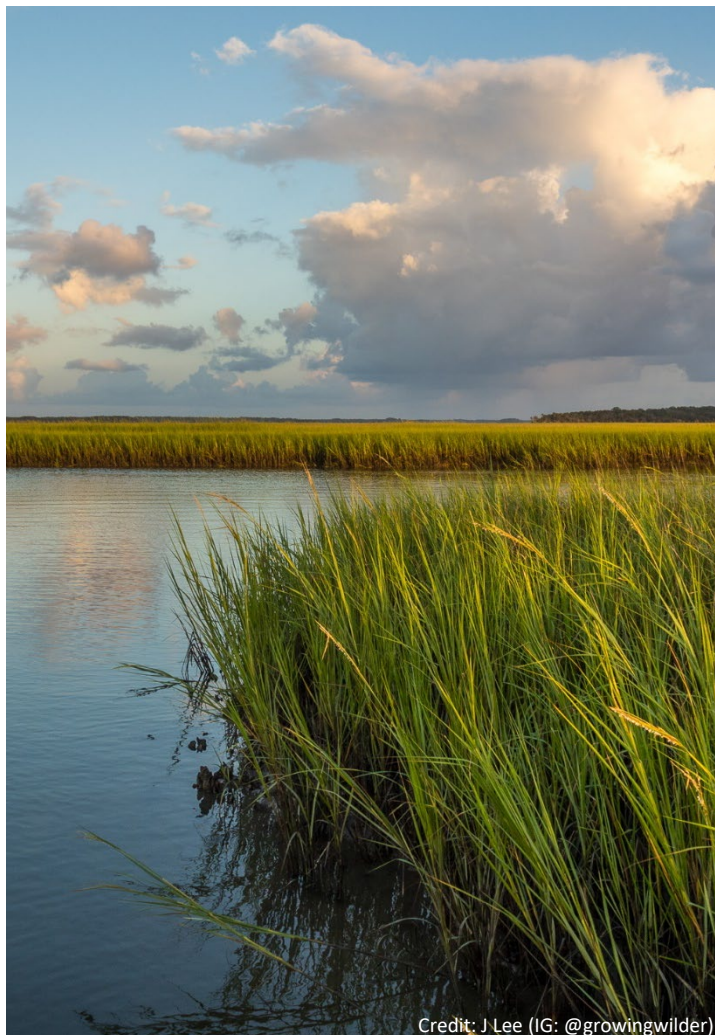
A regional effort and voluntary, non-regulatory partnership, the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) brings together leaders from the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and other local, state, and federal partners, communities and nongovernmental organizations to determine the greatest threats to the salt marsh ecosystem, and opportunities to ensure its survival in the four-state region from North Carolina through Brevard County in east-central Florida. This coalition effort officially launched in May 2021, and since then SERPPAS and The Pew Charitable Trusts have brought together approximately 300 diverse partners across the region.

The goal: To enhance the long-term abundance, health and resilience of the approximately one million acres of salt marshes within the South Atlantic states to ensure no overall loss of the benefits these wetlands provide to fish, wildlife and people.

The SASMI Plan

SASMI's pathway to the protection, restoration and migration of this great expanse of salt marsh is the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Plan. The action-oriented 10-year plan, which is scheduled for release in mid-May 2023, is the culmination of over a year of work by the SASMI's broad and diverse coalition. The SASMI Steering Committee, Working Group and broader Coalition will serve as the initial foundation and co-creators that will design, build out and populate the enduring governance structure necessary to implement the regional plan. These partnerships will ensure this work brings greatest value and builds upon existing policies, programs, projects and funding opportunities, while also identifying and addressing gaps and capacity needs necessary to sustain this vital resource in the face of new and persistent challenges.

For more information, please contact SASMI Coordinator Amanda Gobeli at amanda.gobeli@ag.tamu.edu.



Credit: J Lee (IG: @growingwilder)

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The extent of salt marsh within the SASMI geography.

Salt marsh data are taken from NOAA's Coastal Change and Analysis Program (C-CAP).
NOAA, Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) Regional Land Cover 1996 to 2011 (Charleston, SC: NOAA Office for Coastal Management), <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/ccapregional.html>.

Protected areas are drawn from the USGS Protected Areas Database (version 3.0).
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Gap Analysis Project (GAP), Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) 3.0 Spatial Analysis and Statistics: U.S. Geological Survey data release, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9K1BB5D>.

