



INITIATIVE NEWS

Since our SASMI Partnership Council meeting in April, the Leadership Team has been working to review and implement feedback. Council members expressed a need for a series of working groups for specific focus areas to keep SASMI marshing forward, which are currently taking shape. In the meantime, we are also looking forward to kicking off the work of our NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund grant, which will help SASMI partners across the geography identify nature-based solutions projects for the benefit of salt marsh.



Cam Jaggard, The Pew Charitable Trusts

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[**New plan details strategy to save, restore NC's salt marshes.**](#) The North Carolina Salt Marsh Action Plan is officially live! Developed by North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF), the plan has the overarching goal “to protect, restore, and facilitate the migration of salt marshes in North Carolina to minimize loss of function, benefits, and acreage through 2050 and beyond.” The NC Salt Marsh Action Plan builds off SASMI's regional efforts and highlights the importance of protecting and restoring salt marshes in North Carolina and the region, with a strong emphasis on partner collaboration. You can learn more at the link above or [view the plan directly here.](#)

[**INRMP Repository Now Live.**](#) The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and Booz Allen Hamilton have partnered to create the first ever publicly available INRMP repository for the entirety of the DoD. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) serve as the blueprint to manage DoD's lands, waters, and airspace. INRMPs address all the habitats and species found on an installation, providing management strategies and guidance to DoD Natural Resource Managers on how to conserve those habitats and species while supporting the installation's mission. Not every installation has an INRMP; the installation must have significant natural resources (e.g., wetlands; listed, rare or at-risk species; forestry; agriculture) to have a plan. This database allows users to search for INRMPs by installation name, Military Department, state, INRMP effective date, or the responsible USFWS region.

[**Mangroves Move North as the Climate Heads South.**](#) Mangroves have historically been found along coastlines in south Florida, the Caribbean, and Central America, but climate change has allowed them to migrate as far north as Georgia...sometimes displacing salt marsh along the way. Learn more about this phenomenon and its implications in this article.

[**Get Involved with Oyster Reef Restoration Along the SC Coast.**](#) The South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL) is teaming up with partners up and down the South Carolina coast to help restore oyster populations and reef structures--and the services they provide in protecting salt marsh ecosystems. Support for this work is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience grant in which SCCCL, along with the SC Department of Natural Resources and other partners,

was awarded \$1.2 million for oyster restoration in the Beaufort region. Check out the link above for all the opportunities this summer to get involved.

[Coastal Land Trust deal adds 3,000 acres to state game land.](#) A recently closed land deal years in the making just added nearly 3,000 acres to the Gull Rock Game Lands in Hyde County, North Carolina. On March 28, after almost two years of discussions and negotiations, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust purchased 2,926 acres — 4.57 square miles — of open marsh, pond pine woodlands and oak hammocks for \$4.1 million from the Glenn R. Currin and Sue A. Currin Revocable Trusts. The purchase is a victory for the conservation of marsh and other habitats.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[REPI Challenge](#)

The DOD's REPI Program has released the REPI Challenge Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP). The REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge to help meet its ambitious conservation goals while aiming to cultivate new projects, harness creativity, and protect critical testing and training capabilities. For the FY 2025 REPI Challenge, the REPI Program will distribute up to \$30 million in funding to advance efforts that preserve key mission capabilities of strategic importance to DOD and enhance installation and range resilience to climate change and severe weather events. Pre-proposals for the FY 2025 REPI Challenge are due on Monday, **June 10, 2024**, by 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

[Defense Community Infrastructure Program \(DCIP\)](#)

The Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation has announced the 2024 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) Notice of Funding Opportunity. DCIP is a competitive grant program designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation, to enhance military value, cadet training at covered educational institutions, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. Proposals are due Monday, **June 17, 2024**.

[National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#)

USFWS is seeking applications from eligible state agencies for the 2025 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. Applicants may apply for matching grants between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 to fund coastal wetlands acquisition, restoration, and management projects that conserve and enhance coastal wetlands as defined in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. A total of \$20 million is available across approximately 25 awards. Proposals are due **June 21, 2024**.

[National Coastal Resilience Fund \(NCRF\) 2024](#)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Request for Proposals (RFP). NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of natural and nature-based solutions. The goal is to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and to improve habitats for fish and wildlife. Those who have been invited for a full proposal should make their submission by **July 2, 2024**.

[Readiness and Recreation Initiative](#)

The 2024 Readiness and Recreation Initiative Notice of Funding Opportunity has been released. The National Park Service will provide \$40 million in funding from unobligated Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance Program balances as a potential match for REPI Program funding to support projects that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to military families and the public while also promoting military readiness and resilience. Proposals are due **July 12, 2024**.

[Southeast Aquatics Fund 2024](#)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) seeks proposals to voluntarily conserve aquatic habitat in the southeastern United States and Texas. Approximately \$8.45 million is expected to be available for grants this funding cycle. The funding will support projects that improve water quality, water quantity, instream condition, and riparian condition through technical assistance for voluntary actions by private landowners. In some geographies, funding is available to support aquatic connectivity, species recovery, monitoring, and planning. Proposals are due Thursday, **July 18, 2024**.

Contact SASMI Coalition member Will Singleton (will.singleton@nfwf.org) with questions about this opportunity.

[Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program](#)

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments. Deadline to apply is **November 21, 2024**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Salinity Affected Lands in Transition \(SALT\) Conference | June 11-12, 2024 |](#)

[Cambridge MD](#)

Salinity Affected Lands in Transition (SALT) is a conference on saltwater intrusion and sea level rise in coastal agroecosystems. Discussion topics include saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, coastal farming, ghost forests, adaption solutions, mitigation strategies, and more. This conference will be June 11th and 12th at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MD.

[International Conference on Shellfish Restoration | September 15-18, 2024 | Jekyll](#)

[Island GA](#)

The International Conference on Shellfish Restoration 2024 (ICSR2024) is now accepting abstract submissions for presentations and posters. The conference will be held from September 15-18, 2024, on Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA, and will bring together experts from around the world to discuss the latest developments in shellfish restoration and conservation. Submissions may be on any topic related to the restoration or

conservation of marine, brackish, or freshwater molluscan shellfish species, and contributions from researchers, community leaders, natural resources managers, and anyone involved in shellfish restoration or conservation are welcome. The **deadline for abstracts is June 7**. For more information on the conference, or to make an abstract submission or register, visit the link above.

[Restore America's Estuaries Summit | October 6-10, 2024 | Arlington VA](#)

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) proudly presents the 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit. In its 12th year, the 2024 Summit will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned in their work. The Summit Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine restoration and management, including the Great Lakes and international locales.

MARSH Forward!

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