



INITIATIVE NEWS

Happy New Year SASMI Coalition! In December, the SASMI Partnership Council gathered in Charleston, SC to continue the business of Marshing Forward. We were pleased to welcome over 35 Council representatives and guests to discuss the activities of our work groups and state teams, upcoming opportunities to pursue resources, and other important topics. We have a lot to work on before the next Council meeting and are excited to hit the ground running in 2025.



Photo by Nancy Walters

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discuss Beneficial Use of Dredged Material](#). Command Navy Region Southeast, Naval Submarine Base (NSB), Kings Bay, GA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hosted a stakeholder engagement with local, state and federal experts on November 14th, at Crooked River State Park, Ga. to discuss Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) and explore implementation opportunities. Currently, dredged sediments are placed into upland

confined disposal sites known as Dredge Material Management Areas (DMMAs). With an estimated 11 MCY of capacity remaining, beneficial use of the dredged material can provide multiple benefits-- including potential marsh restoration.

[**Coastal Barrier Resources System Expands under Reauthorization**](#). Established in 1982, CBRA aims to save taxpayer dollars and reduce development in hazard-prone and ecologically sensitive coastal areas by prohibiting most new federal expenditures and financial assistance within the designated areas. The newly adopted maps add 294,000 acres to the CBRS, which will protect habitats and enhance coastal resilience in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana.

[**Check out the NOAA BIL & IRA Awards Explorer**](#). This Explorer was designed to allow users to find information about all grants and cooperative agreements (“awards”) funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Point locations on the Explorer map are based on a central point representing the general place of performance or the recipient location for the award. This Explorer includes awards made through the end of Fiscal Year 2024 (Sep. 30, 2024) and will be periodically updated as new awards are executed.

[**North Florida Land Trust Receives Donation of Nearly 400 Acres on Amelia Island**](#). North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) scored a big win for conservation on Amelia Island, thanks to a generous donation from the Thornton Family. The family donated approximately 396 acres to the nonprofit land conservation organization to ensure it would remain in its natural state forever. The property is adjacent to Ft. Clinch State Park and runs about two miles between the state park and Egan’s Creek. It is within the Ft. Clinch Optimum Boundary, and protecting the land protects the state park. It is also in NFLT’s Salt Marsh and Coastal Resilience Priority Preservation Area.

[**New Report - Nature-Based Solutions: Evidence for Hazard Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Services**](#).

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage or restore natural or modified ecosystems. They can be used to address societal challenges, simultaneously providing benefits for people and the environment. This report integrates academic and practitioner perspectives to evaluate the effectiveness of 23 nature-based solutions to address hazards and to provide ecosystem services. It

also provides recommendations, both to systematically consider nature-based solutions and to accelerate research, innovation and adaptive learning.

[NOAA Sea Level Calculator](#). This new tool by NOAA allows you to explore how sea levels and coastal flooding have changed in frequency and magnitude for your chosen location. The Sea Level Calculator uses Quick Views to present curated sets of data and interactive visualizations that focus on different dimensions of coastal inundation and sea level rise. These Quick Views can be used to convey important elements of the Sea Level Rise story, including Future Sea Levels, Changes in Flood Frequency, Extreme Water Levels, Observed Sea Level Trends, and Seasonal Variation.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[NSF Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator \(R2I2\)](#)

The Regional Resilience Innovation Incubators (R2I2) is a cross-directorate NSF solicitation led by the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) and the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). R2I2 will support community- engaged team science to co-design high-impact solutions to climate-related societal challenges that leverage recent advances in fundamental climate change and Earth system science research. Each R2I2 project will address specific regional climate challenges and will develop and demonstrate solutions to those challenges that can be effectively applied in real- world settings. Full proposals are due **January 16, 2025**.

[FY26 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Funding](#)

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) is requesting project applications for funding to restore and conserve habitat necessary to support coastal, estuarine dependent, and diadromous fish species. Federal funding available through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) program will be used to support the top ranked proposals. A total of approximately \$200,000 in funding is available to support 2-4 projects each year; however, exceptional projects may be funded for the full amount. The deadline to apply is **January 31, 2025**.

Job Opportunities: [Water Resources Engineer](#), [Landscape Architect](#)

Ecological consulting firm Biohabitats has two open positions in its Southeast Bioregion (Charleston office). They are currently seeking diverse candidates who have a passion for ecology and implementing

natural systems solutions. Candidates should either already be located in the Lowcountry or be willing to relocate there. Learn more about these opportunities at the links above.

[Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#)

Up to \$75 million in funding is available for fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will support projects that reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish around the country. There will be applicant webinars on November 20 and December 3, and the closing date is **February 10, 2025**.

[Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#)

Up to \$20 million in funding is available for fish passage and tribal capacity building under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will support U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and tribal organizations in implementing fish passage work and building tribal organizational capacity. There will be applicant webinars on November 20 and December 3, and the closing date is **February 27, 2025**.

[Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program](#)

The WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program provides cost shared funding to states, Tribes, and other entities as they study, design and construct large-scale aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in the improvement of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat. For eligible activities and more information, see the link above; first round of applications are due by **April 15, 2025**.

[Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)

NOAA is announcing the availability of \$20 million in funding for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities. Of the \$20 million in funding available, 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements. Projects selected through this opportunity will span several types of activities, including capacity building and restoration. Applications are due by **May 12, 2025**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Salt Marsh Conservation Workshops | January 21 and 23, 2025 | Multiple Locations in GA](#)

The Georgia Conservancy cordially invites you to attend two rescheduled South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) Summit workshops. The Liberty County SASMI Workshop is January 21 in Midway and the McIntosh County SASMI Workshop is January 23 in Darien. These interactive workshops will feature speakers, mapping resources, videos, light refreshments, and interactive stations designed to foster a community conversation regarding threats to our coastal marshlands and opportunities for restoration and conservation of marshland now and in the future. They aim to engage community members, academic institutions, agencies, and everyone who cares for our coastal marshlands in an open discussion which will form the basis of the Georgia SASMI Implementation Workplan.

[SECASC Project Lightning Talks | January 22, 2025 | Virtual](#)

Join us for lightning talks from some of the newly funded Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center research projects! Each project will be represented by the PI and key partners. They will present their projects in a short 5-minute talk with time for discussion and questions at the end. Relevant projects include:

- Rebecca Irwin, “Synthesis of the State of Climate Adaptation Science and Practice in the Southeast and US Caribbean”
- John Kupfer, “Social-ecological Vulnerability in Human Communities Surrounding Large Protected Areas in the Southeast”
- Kathryn E.L. Smith, “Triage and Decision Support Tool for Evaluating Vulnerability of Indigenous Shell Middens and Loss of Marsh Habitat Diversity to Sea Level Rise”

[NOAA Webinar Series - Challenges and Opportunities of Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation | January 23, 2025 | Virtual](#)

This webinar series features projects funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office, Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI) Division’s Adaptation Sciences (AdSci) and Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) programs, focused on the research and application of nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation. Attendees must register for each webinar episode separately; find more information and registration at the link above.

[Coastal GeoTools Conference | January 27-31, 2025 | Wilmington NC](#)

The Coastal GeoTools conference, established in 1999, is typically held every two years and focuses on geospatial data, tools, technology, and information for coastal resource management professionals. Coastal GeoTools 2025 will be the thirteenth in the conference series. Conference themes include Enhancing Resilience through Relationships, Information, and Technology; An Emphasis on Tribal and Indigenous Applications; The Power of Partnerships for Resilience; Innovation, knowledge sharing, the effective use of geospatial technologies, and partnerships. Learn more or register at the link above.

[Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership \(SCDRP\) Annual Meeting | February 4-5, 2025](#)
[| Wilmington NC](#)

Since its inception in 2016, the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP) has grown into one of the largest cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, regional networks for resilience professionals from Federal, state, territory, and local government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, business, and industry. The 9th annual meeting will focus on the topic of Cultivating Climate-Resilient Communities. Learn more or register at the link above.

MARSH Forward!

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