



INITIATIVE NEWS

This October saw the arrival of cooler temperatures and another great event celebrating the release of the SASMI Plan. Thanks to our partners at The Georgia Conservancy for hosting a reception at the Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens. The event was a huge success and a great way to kick-off SASMI implementation in Georgia!

In other news, a SASMI regional proposal for NOAA's Transformational Habitat funding opportunity is taking shape thanks to our partners at GA Sea Grant. Learn more about that program in "Funding Reminders" below.



Photo by Cameron Jaggard, The Pew Charitable Trusts

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[**Grant to support living shoreline, wetland restoration work.**](#) NEWPORT — The North Carolina Coastal Federation recently received \$1.53 million from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund to support several efforts, including the nonprofit organization’s living shoreline cost-share program and large-scale wetland restoration in Carteret County. The Coastal Federation promotes living shorelines as an environmentally friendly method to stabilize eroding shorelines in lieu of installing a bulkhead or seawall. The Federation has worked with contractors to install over 8,835 feet of living shorelines on over 55 projects in 2023 alone.

[**Video Explains Key Takeaways from 2022 Interagency Sea Level Rise Technical Report.**](#) A new video shares the most up-to-date sea level rise projections for the United States and encourages viewers to take some initial steps. The video highlights key takeaways from the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report, with a focus on the impacts on coastal communities. Viewers are encouraged to consider actions they can take within their communities and directed to existing web tools for assessing the timing and severity of local impacts from sea level rise. The full Technical Report [can be accessed here](#).

[**Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2023 now available.**](#) The latest update to the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, version 2023, is now available! The major change to the Blueprint this year was expanding consistent methods to the U.S. Caribbean and open ocean of the Gulf of Mexico and some missing parts in the Atlantic. As part of that expansion, there are now 18 new Caribbean indicators for land, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. There are 9 new or improved indicators for the continental marine areas. Huge thanks to the 91 people from 41 organizations who attended workshops and provided feedback on the draft version. Learn more about this latest version in this article.

[**Conservation easement protects land in MCAS Beaufort’s critical flight space.**](#) The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Open Land Trust (OLT) have announced the permanent protection of 488.33 acres, known as “Bowers Farm,” on the South Wimbee River in the St. Helena Sound in the ACE Basin. The conservation easement was funded by the DoD and South Carolina Conservation Bank and is held in partnership between DoD and Open Land Trust. The easement significantly reduces housing density and incompatible development on the property, while protecting the public’s scenic enjoyment from Whitsell Road and the Wimbee River. The

conservation easement also protects wildlife habitat, scenic forested road frontage and water quality, and allows for marsh migration over time.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[NOAA 2024 Effects of Sea Level Rise](#)

Providing the scientific foundation for coastal decision making, particularly related to sea level rise and coastal flooding, is key to supporting adaptation and planning for long term coastal resilience. The ESLR Program is soliciting research proposals to evaluate and quantify the ability of nature-based solutions (NBS) to mitigate the effects of sea level rise and inundation (i.e., storm surge, nuisance flooding, and/or wave actions) on coastal communities, ecosystems and infrastructure. The deadline for Letters of Intent for both focus areas is **November 13, 2023**, and for full applications is **January 24, 2024**. [View the full NOFO here](#).

[NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience](#)

\$240 million in funding is available for habitat restoration and coastal resilience through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Projects selected through this funding opportunity will have a transformative impact for coastal communities and tribes across the country. They will help sustain our nation's fisheries, make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and help protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. They will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise, and more. Full proposals are due **November 17, 2023**.

[Climate Ready Workforce Initiative](#)

Sea Grant and the NOAA Climate Program Office, with support from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management, have opened the Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative funding opportunity. NOAA envisions making between 10-20 awards under this competition, at amounts ranging from \$500,000-\$10 million each, to establish programs aimed at training people for and connecting them with good jobs related to climate resilience and assisting employers in developing a 21st century workforce that is climate literate,

informed by climate resilience, and skilled at addressing consequent challenges. Letters of Intent are due Thursday, **November 30, 2023**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Webinar: New Online Tool Can Help Identify Carbon Storage Potential in Oregon's Coastal Habitats | November 7, 2023 | Virtual](#)

Pew's Blue Carbon Network is hosting a webinar on November 7, 2023 at 9:00 Pacific/ 12:00 Eastern that will showcase a new tool developed for Oregon's Coos Bay estuary that estimates current and potential blue carbon values to help inform land management and climate policy and funding decisions. This tool can be a model for other states and regions interested in protecting and restoring coastal wetlands for blue carbon and other benefits. The webinar will feature experts from Silvestrum Climate Associates, Sea & Shores Solutions and the Institute for Applied Ecology. We invite you to share this invitation with your network. More information about the webinar including registration can be found at the link above.

[Webinar: REPI Project Insights Across Regional Partnerships | November 8, 2023 | Virtual](#)

The REPI Program supports regional initiatives that aim to conserve natural ecosystems and enhance military missions. This support has led to positive outcomes for endangered species, local economies, and national defense. Join us on November 8, 2023, to hear how the REPI Program supports projects across different regions to address emerging issues, protect natural resources, and enhance compatible land uses that benefit partner priorities and DOD mission capabilities.

[Now recruiting for the 2024 Environmental Conservation Corps Crew | Application Deadline: December 3, 2023 | South Carolina](#)

The Environmental Conservation Corps (ECC) is The Sustainability Institute's AmeriCorps-accredited workforce development and service-learning program for young adults pursuing careers in conservation and environmental fields. Through this program, participants can expect to gain desirable field skills and training while addressing coastal resilience and habitat restoration needs in the Lowcountry region.

The current openings are for Opportunity Youth Service Initiative (OYSI) positions, available to young adults, aged 17-24, who will not be in school nor working full time (part-time/weekend jobs are permitted). Six-month and 12-month positions are available.

Benefits include:

- Trainings: Build knowledge and skills in a diversity of conservation and sustainability jobs
- Certifications: Receive free professional certifications relevant to the field
- Compensation: Earn a living stipend, paid bi-weekly, and a Segal Education Award upon successful completion of AmeriCorps term
- Connections: Meet and work with a wide variety of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations
- Teamwork: Experience working in a team of peers and within a nonprofit organization
- Leadership: Help lead critically important conservation projects to combat climate change

For more information or to apply, [please visit this link](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to the ECC Program Coordinator, Darby Reed, at darby@sustainabilityinstitutesc.org.

MARSH Forward!

This newsletter is distributed by the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative Please share salt marsh related news, learning opportunities, publications, and management tools by emailing amanda.gobeli@ag.tamu.edu | [Unsubscribe](#) from this list.