



## INITIATIVE NEWS

SASMI leadership hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Partnership Council last month in Beaufort, North Carolina. Council members representing a broad range of SASMI partners assembled both virtually and in-person to continue the work of “marshing forward” into implementation of the SASMI Plan. One of the most important discussion topics was how to measure and share our progress; there’s much to do on that front and we are excited to share more as that effort takes shape!



*Cam Jaggard, The Pew Charitable Trusts*

---

## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

**What are Key Conditions for Marsh Survival Amid Rising Seas?** As sea levels continue to rise, coastal marshes face increasing risk of inundation and erosion. These wetlands rely on a steady supply of sediment to keep up with rising waters, but the suite of conditions that control sediment accumulation are difficult to predict. A new study led by USGS scientists uses

advanced 3D modeling to identify the key factors that determine whether a marsh gains or loses sediment—findings that could improve efforts to protect these vital ecosystems.

**[Conserving South Carolina's Chelsea Plantation.](#)** Jasper County's Chelsea Plantation – the site of a proposed development that drew widespread, vocal opposition from citizens throughout South Carolina's Lowcountry – is off the market. The purchase of Chelsea by The Nature Conservancy secures over seven miles of frontage along Hazzard Creek, which drains into the Broad River and is part of Port Royal Sound watershed. The waterfrontage also acts as a critical saltwater marsh migration corridor that will help the area adapt to future ecosystem changes and protects the water quality in Port Royal Sound.

**[New Report Highlights the Far-Reaching Benefits of Coastal Restoration.](#)** A newly released report from Restore America's Estuaries sheds light on the critical role coastal restoration plays in supporting our nation's economy. From job creation and housing to national defense and recreation, healthy estuaries are foundational to economic vitality and community resilience. Estuaries drive economic growth by supporting major industries, protecting infrastructure, and enhancing quality of life. See the by-the-numbers breakdown in the full report linked above.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

### **[Land and Climate Grant Program](#)**

This program supports the development of climate-informed land conservation, stewardship, policy, or communications plans that address one or more of the following issues: habitat resilience, carbon mitigation, renewable energy siting or community adaptation to climate impacts such as stronger storms, flooding, drought, fire or extreme heat. Applications are due **June 16, 2025**.

### **[REPI Challenge 2026](#)**

The 2026 REPI Challenge will focus on safeguarding strategic missions across the United States and its territories to restore trust in the military, rebuild our military, and reestablish deterrence. This year, the REPI Program may provide up to \$20 million in funding for activities in the vicinity of DOD installations and ranges that support the 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 2684a, 10 U.S.C. § 2679, and 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1 statutory authorities by preventing land use conflicts

(including unwanted foreign investment), alleviating environmental restrictions, and enhancing military installation resilience. Pre-proposals are due **July 3, 2025**.

#### **NFWF Acres for America 2025**

Acres for America is the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) premier land conservation program and was established to provide urgently needed funding for projects that conserve important large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants through voluntary land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. Full proposals (by invitation only) are due **July 9, 2025**.

#### **NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund 2025**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2025 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Request for Proposals (RFP)<sup>1</sup>. NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards while improving habitats for fish and wildlife. Full proposals (by invitation only) are due **July 17, 2025**.

#### **FWS Coastal Program FY25**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Coastal Program is a community-based program that helps coastal areas with technical and financial support to address complex conservation challenges of priority coastal ecosystems. This support is mainly provided through cooperative agreements with conservation partners and landowners, including state and Tribal agencies. The goal is to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitats on both public and private lands. Proposals are due **September 30, 2025**.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **How Communities are Fast Tracking Flood Readiness | June 16, 2025 | Virtual**

Extreme precipitation events, tropical storm surges, King Tides, and compound flooding events have both inland and coastal communities alike addressing the fundamental question: “Are we ready?” This 60-minute interactive webinar hosted by Hohonu will feature multiple guest speakers, data-driven flood protection strategies, real-world case studies, and an open floor for questions and peer discussion.

#### **[Coastal Inundation CoP Summer Webinar: Resilience Networks | June 24, 2025 | Virtual](#)**

Join the Coastal Inundation Community of Practice for a discussion on regional resilience networks. Panelists will discuss the value of regional networks and highlight strategies that have been successful within their regions for building effective networks for coastal resilience.

#### **[Southeast CASC Science Symposium | September 9-11 | Asheville, NC](#)**

The 2025 SE CASC Regional Science Symposium will be held September 9-11, 2025, at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Asheville, NC. Goals of the symposium include sharing science resources and tools, identifying gaps and needs for actionable science production and delivery, and providing a venue for researchers, managers, and other resource people to share information about current activities, plans, and opportunities for collaboration.

#### **[The Hope Summit 2025 | September 25-28 | Charleston, SC](#)**

The theme of this year's Hope Summit is "promoting resilience, regeneration, and the restoration economy through community-driven solutions." There will be a two-day conference on Thursday the 25th and Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> at the Charleston Museum with a film festival running from Friday night to Saturday night at the same location. Early Bird conference passes will open in early April along with applications for the Next Generation Conference Scholarships for students and early career professionals.

#### **[79th Annual SEAFWA Conference | October 26-29, 2025 | Biloxi, MS](#)**

The Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizens' organizations, universities, private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource-related organizations.

#### **[NOAA Seminar Series | Ongoing | Virtual](#)**

The NOAA Science Seminar Series began in 2004 and is a voluntary effort by over 70 NOAA seminar coordinators to integrate and distribute a list of NOAA-hosted, publicly accessible science seminars. Most seminars are accessible online and there are many upcoming topics

that may be of interest to SASMI partners—check out the current list and save the page for future reference!

