



INITIATIVE NEWS

It's hard to believe we're almost through another year. With the end of 2025 in sight, we will have one more Coffee with SASMI this year dedicated to celebrating our successes. This is a recurring special edition of Coffee that takes place between the November and December holiday seasons, set this year for **Friday December 5th (10 AM ET)**. If you are a Coalition member with a success to share, please join us and speak up during our open forum so we can celebrate together!



UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Coastal Habitat Restoration with Dredged Material: A Guide for Southern States.](#)

The [SERPPAS](#) Nature Based Solutions Regulatory Best Practices Sub Work Group has produced two great new resources for those looking to implement dredged material projects! The guide linked above focuses on the beneficial use of existing or non-navigationally related dredged material for strategic

sediment placement, namely coastal marsh enhancement projects and bird island creation, in five of the SERPPAS states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. It is designed for planning teams working in these scenarios, with a goal of providing a basic overview of the regulatory landscape. It provides a summary of procedures and analytical requirements that apply nationwide and then detailed information about state-level requirements for each state.

You may also want to check out the “Beneficial Use of Dredge Materials (BU) for Military Installation, Community and Ecosystem Resilience: A [communications best practices guide](#) for SERPPAS Partners.”

[Introducing the SE CASC Project Explorer](#). The Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SE CASC) recently debuted their Project Explorer, a new interactive map that makes it easy to see where and how SE CASC science is being useful and used. The map brings together over 90 projects across the Southeast and Caribbean, each designed to support the people, places, and ecosystems that depend on climate adaptation science. Check out the Explorer or learn more at the link above.

[Natrix partners with NC Coastal Federation for AI-powered coastal restoration analysis](#). A resilience and restoration technology company is teaming up with our SASMI partners at the North Carolina Coastal Federation to analyze the impacts of coastal ecosystems along the state coast. Natrix, based in North Carolina, will analyze shoreline changes and identify where restoration can most benefit the coast. Learn more about how this emerging technology will be used to increase the impact of coastal restoration projects in this article.

[Young photographer documents disappearing salt marshes to inspire action](#). Soren Goldsmith, a photographer and National Geographic Young Explorer, is on a mission to inspire change with his photos. Although the salt marsh he's capturing is located outside our SASMI geography in Massachusetts, his message and mission should be familiar to all of us. Read or watch the full interview with Soren, and check out some of his great photos, at the link above.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[\(Georgia\) Coastal Incentive Grant Program](#)

The Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) Program is a competitive pass-through subgrant program made possible by a grant to GA DNR from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

through Congressional funding pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Its purpose is to support the Coastal Management Program's mission to balance economic development in Georgia's Coastal area with preservation of natural, environmental, historical, archaeological, and recreational resources for the benefit of Georgia's present and future generations. Pre-applications are due **December 5, 2025**.

National Fish Passage Program FY25

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) provides technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies. Fish passage projects benefit communities by reducing flood risk, improving recreational opportunities, and improving roads while supporting native fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. NFPP project examples include dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain restoration, and the installation of fishways. Applications are due by **December 31, 2025**.

Parks and Open Space Florida Forever Grant Program

The Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program provides funding to local governments and eligible nonprofit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans. The program provides local governments the opportunity to leverage local dollars with state dollars to optimize conservation benefits and encourages both public-private partnerships and land acquisition initiatives. Applications are due by **January 19, 2026**.

2026 Climate Smart Communities Initiative

CSCI awards provide funding and technical assistance to advance community-based climate resilience in communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Grants typically range from \$60,000 to \$115,000 based on the scope of work proposed in the application. The program prioritizes funding for communities that include historically disinvested populations at increased risk to climate-related impacts. The competition is open to US-based project teams composed of a climate adaptation practitioner and representatives from a local or regional government entity and a community-based organization. Applications are due by **March 12, 2026**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Meeting \(CERF\) | November 9-13, 2025 | Richmond, VA](#)

The theme for the CERF 2025 Conference is “Estuaries: Tradition and Transition” to encompass the history of estuarine research while understanding emerging challenges and future opportunities. The planned program draws on the deep heritage of estuarine science in the Chesapeake Bay region where CERF started and where the 2025 meeting will be held, but embraces how estuarine and coastal research, management, and education are world-wide and of more importance than ever. Learn more about the event or register at the link above.

[TNC/Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Reef Build | November 15, 2025 | Beaufort, SC](#)

The Nature Conservancy and the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort are looking for volunteers to build an oyster reef made of concrete Oyster Castles along the Broad River. The Oyster Castles will provide a surface for young oysters to settle on and grow, while also helping stabilize the eroding shoreline, by protecting it from waves and enabling sediment to accumulate behind it. The reef will be comprised of four 500-foot-long sections and will be built throughout 2025-2026 to provide habitat and a feeding area for over a hundred species of fish, crabs and shrimp. Learn more above or contact Susanna Hopkins (susanna.hopkins@tnc.org) with questions.

[SECAS Third Thursday Web Forum | November 20, 2025 | Virtual](#)

This month’s topic: Improvements in Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2025
Every year, the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) updates the Southeast Conservation Blueprint to incorporate new data and address input from new partners. Version 2025 focused on updating the priorities across both the continental Southeast and U.S. Caribbean. It used refined prioritization and connectivity methods and incorporated a number of new and improved indicators for both inland and coastal areas. This webinar offers an overview of these changes.

MARSH Forward!

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