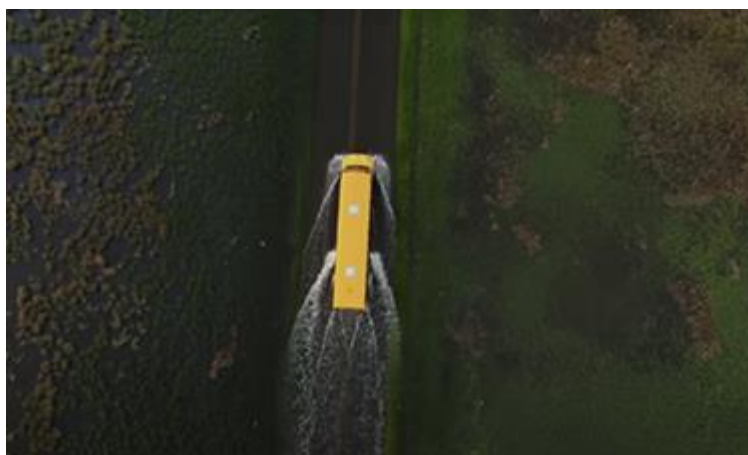




INITIATIVE NEWS

The big news this month is that we have a new series of videos to share, produced by our partners at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology! This is same crew that made our awesome SASMI overview film, and now with this latest film series they have tackled the topic of marsh migration. Details and links to the videos can be found below.



Cornell Lab of Ornithology; screenshot from Marsh Migration Primer

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

New SASMI Film Series on Marsh Migration! Videographers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) have been hard at work for more than a year creating a series of short films addressing the topic of marsh migration. The series, which currently includes 3 films, is based on SASMI Coalition input that identified marsh migration as a priority topic for communication and outreach, with a need to convey what marsh migration is as well as its impacts at both the

regional and local level. These videos do a great job of that; you can view them on the [SASMI website](#), or on YouTube at these links:

Marsh Migration Primer: https://youtu.be/f7FUa38Y_Hc
Adaptation in Local Communities: <https://youtu.be/CAyldu5wyb4>
Restoring Habitat Connectivity: <https://youtu.be/gdP9ehBOp5A>

Thank you to our partners at Cornell for their work on these films! If you have questions or comments for them, you can reach out to Andy Johnson (asj43@cornell.edu) or Megan King (mk2226@cornell.edu).

[Living Shorelines Community Assistance Program Accepting Applications in SC](#). The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Living Shorelines Community Assistance Program webpage and application is now live and available to coastal residents of South Carolina to apply for and receive fully permitted and professionally designed living shorelines to prevent erosion and restore salt marsh on private and community properties!

Utilizing federal funding (NOAA), TNC will manage:

- The assessment of individual sites through an online application and property site visit
- Permitting responsibilities required by SCDES
- Engineering survey and design
- Installation of living shorelines for qualifying projects

*Applicants will hold permits for the shorelines and will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the shoreline upon project completion.

Learn more at the link above or contact Susanna Hopkins at susanna.hopkins@tnc.org with questions.

[SCDNR's largest single-day oyster reef build happening at Parris Island](#). On June 21, 2025, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) staff, partners and volunteers will install 500 feet of oyster castles on the shorelines of Parris Island in the agency's largest ever single-day build. Funded through the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Military

Enhancement Fund, the build will bring together partners from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, the Town of Port Royal, Global Eco Adventures and Coastal Carolina University.

New SECOORA SET Map Infographics. Now available: newly developed Surface Elevation Table (SET) Map Infographics, which illustrate surface elevation trends across each of our SASMI states and the region. These maps, courtesy of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), show where monitoring stations are located and whether those sites are keeping pace with sea level rise. These infographics were created to support clear, accessible communication around coastal elevation change. Thank you to all the dedicated SET data collectors who provide access to this critical information!

Study to Forecast Ecological ‘Tipping Points’ for U.S. Wetlands. Scientists with Texas A&M AgriLife Research are leading a NASA-backed effort to develop a predictive tool that could transform how the U.S. approaches wetland conservation. The study also includes collaborators from Pennsylvania State University. Together, the researchers are analyzing “big data” sets, including satellite imagery and 25 years of weather data, to detect early warning signs of decline in tidal wetlands across the country. They aim to produce a new tool that identifies and predicts tipping points to help decision-makers invest restoration and remediation funding where it can help the most.

FUNDING REMINDERS

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)¹. 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

NOAA's Coastal Ocean Reanalysis (CORA): Filling Gaps on Maps Through Community Based Modeling | July 15, 2025 | Virtual

CORA pairs historical observations from NOAA tide gauges with modern computer models to fill gaps in historical records. The dataset helps create a more complete and consistent picture of historical water levels by modeling waves and water levels between NOAA tide gauges. This celebrated, novel approach of combining models and observations can be used to better assess long-term sea level change and compare current flood risks to those of the past, especially in areas where such data is currently unavailable. Please bring questions and come ready to engage! Space is limited due to the interactive nature of this session.

Blue Carbon as Natural Infrastructure: Funding Protection and Restoration of Coastal Habitats | July 29, 2025 | Virtual

Blue carbon habitats—such as tidal marshes, seagrasses, and mangroves—play a critical role in sequestering carbon, buffering storm impacts, supporting wildlife, and improving water quality. Reliable financing is essential to protecting these habitats; without such investment, there can be major barriers between idea generation and project implementation. In this webinar hosted by the Pew Charitable Trusts, speakers will discuss Maryland's groundbreaking Conservation Finance Act and pay-for-success program, Duke University's project registry for nature-based solutions, and Louisiana's carbon credit feasibility assessment.

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 26th 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.

Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop | October 29-30, 2025 | New Haven, CT

Co-hosted by Restore America's Estuaries and Save the Sound, the Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop will be the nation's largest gathering focused on the science, practice, and policy of living shorelines and nature-based solutions, with an expected 200+ attendees including landowners and professionals working in the marketing, design, construction, or permitting of nature-based shoreline stabilization. The Workshop will include field sessions, plenary presentations, an Expo Hall, dozens of poster presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a networking reception.

Poster presentation submissions are still being accepted for this event! Learn more or register at the link above.

MARSH Forward!

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