



## INITIATIVE NEWS

Our SASMI Partnership Council (SPC) is gearing up to reconvene on Amelia Island, Florida, December 10-11. The SPC, whose members span the SASMI geography, will focus on how to support implementation of the state roadmaps and elevate SASMI at the regional and national level. Planning is also underway for a virtual workshop titled [“State of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh,”](#) which will take place on December 3rd and focus on the latest research regarding salt marsh sustainability.



*Cam Jaggard*

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## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[New Research Shows What the Future Ocean Might Look Like.](#) A new study published in the journal Science charts the ways human activity is profoundly reshaping oceans and coastlines around the world. This New York Times article delves into the science of the study and includes the voices of SASMI Coalition members Queen Quet and Liz Fly.

[\*\*Bulkheads lead to salt marsh erosion, total loss.\*\*](#) Researchers found in a recent study that, over the long term, bulkhead structures have a “significant negative effect” on marsh habitat size. Principal investigator Brandon Puckett explains, “Our study found bulkheads nearly tripled the rate of marsh loss over a 32-year period. All of the 45 marshes we studied in front of a bulkhead got smaller or disappeared entirely.” Learn more in the Coastal Review linked above.

[\*\*New Publication Expands on RAD Framework Applications.\*\*](#) A new publication highlights the application of the Resist–Accept–Direct (RAD) framework to manage ecological changes in Tidal Freshwater Forested Wetlands (TFFWs) in South Carolina. A one-day workshop, part of a three-day conference in March 2024, significantly expanded the range of perceived decision space, demonstrating RAD's effectiveness in fostering engagement and generating diverse strategies for managing ecological transformations in coastal wetlands. This approach offers a model for similar efforts in other estuarine and coastal landscapes.

[\*\*St. Helena Island Prevails Again.\*\*](#) On September 23rd, South Carolina's Beaufort County Council rejected a development agreement that would have greenlit a golf resort on St. Helena Island. The County Council voted 10-1 to oppose the golf resort plans on St. Helena, reinforcing their commitment to preserve the heritage of the Gullah/Geechee people who live in this important sea island community. St. Helena Island has Beaufort County's most notable concentration of Gullah/Geechee culture and land ownership today.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

We do not have any open funding opportunities to share at this time. Check back here or on the [SASMI website](#) for future updates.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### [\*\*Florida Climate Week | October 6-12, 2025 | Virtual\*\*](#)

It's Florida Climate Week! Now in its fifth year, FCW is a powerful celebration of engagement, education, and collective action focused on the climate and resilience challenges facing the state of Florida. This weeklong initiative invites all Floridians to tune in to expert-led virtual

sessions, connect through community events, take meaningful action, and amplify their voices for a sustainable future. FCW is free and open to all; check out the link above for more info.

#### **[Georgia Resiliency Conference 2025 | October 20-21, 2025 | Jekyll Island, GA](#)**

The Georgia Resiliency Conference is hosted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and brings together more than 430 leaders and experts from the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors to collaborate, raise awareness of work across the state, highlight progress and identify opportunities to do more. Learn more or register at the link above.

#### **[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.

#### **[South Carolina Nature-Based Exchange Symposium | November 11, 2025 | Charleston, SC](#)**

A day-long symposium to celebrate nature-based solutions in South Carolina. Learn about completed and ongoing nature-based projects implemented across the state and provide your own project updates by contributing a case study to a Digital Library. Through this combined effort, more knowledge on existing nature-based projects will be made available, strengthening the state of the practice. Registration is open through October 17th, and continuing education credits are available.

[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.

**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](mailto:amanda.gobeli@ag.tamu.edu) | [Unsubscribe](#) from this list.