



INITIATIVE NEWS

Summer is flying by and many of our partners and volunteers have been doing great work out in the marsh—you can read about some of those efforts in the articles below. Our State Implementation Teams are also making progress in identifying and prioritizing projects for their state roadmaps, which will guide implementation of the regional SASMI Plan in each of our four states. Multiple SASMI members have also put in proposals for this year's National Coastal Resilience Fund grant opportunity, and we wish them the best of luck!



Nicole Dix, GTMNERR

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Volunteers paddle and plant spartina grass to restore West Ashley's Old Town Creek marsh.](#) The Old Town Creek, a well-used waterway and marsh which runs through the Maryville community of Charleston SC, is undergoing restoration efforts after years of storm and other damage. Volunteers from the South Carolina Department of Natural

Resources' SCORE program, Charleston Waterkeeper, and other community members recently gathered to plant spartina grass. Volunteers had to use an unconventional method to access the designated planting areas: paddleboards! Learn more about this unique effort in this article.

[Land-based sensors reveal high frequency of coastal flooding](#). Our current understanding of coastal flood frequency and sea-level rise impacts is predominantly based on tide gauges, which do not measure water levels on land. Here, researchers present data from a novel network of land-based flood sensors in North Carolina to demonstrate that tide-gauge data are poor indicators of flooding: floods occur 26–128 days annually, an order of magnitude greater than what regional tide gauges suggest in some places. Learn more in this scientific article.

[Duke Experts Explore Ways to Build Community Resilience](#). With extreme weather events happening with greater intensity, and federal disaster response and preparedness programs under threat, experts at Duke University are urgently thinking through ways for communities to become more resilient in the face of disaster – from training a new generation of engineers, to implementing nature-based solutions and new insurance methods, to preparing emergency responders. Read more about their approach in this article.

[Volunteers on Parris Island attempt the largest, single-day oyster reef build](#). Leading a team of several dozen volunteers, some of whom had traveled hours to participate, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources hoped to set a record for the organization: They wanted to build the longest artificial oyster reef constructed in a single day. The planned reef would stretch along the shore of the southern edge of Parris Island for more than 500 feet and was designed to improve the coastal resiliency of Parris Island, which is home to one of just two facilities in the U.S. that turns recruits into Marines.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[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. Full proposals (by invitation) are due ~~September 1, 2025~~ (correction: **Sept. 2 at 8pm**).

FWS Coastal Program FY25

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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

SECAS Third Thursday Web Forum: Impacts of coastal wetlands restoration on carbon dynamics | August 21, 2025 | Virtual

"Impacts of coastal wetlands restoration on carbon dynamics" with Kevin Kroeger, former U.S. Geological Survey Research Chemist at the Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center. Kevin will discuss how a deeper understanding of carbon flux within coastal wetlands ecosystems can inform best practices for management.

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.

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.