



## INITIATIVE NEWS

The holidays are here again, and we're looking back at all the work done by our SASMI friends and partners this year. From the funding and implementation of nature-based restoration projects, to the preservation of marsh migration space, to the creation of new tools and resources to assist with future work—we are truly thankful for all you have accomplished and are eager to keep Marshing Forward into the new year!



*Andy Johnson, Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

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## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA Announce \$139 Million in New Grants to Support Coastal Resilience Projects.** On November 25th, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA announced \$139 million in new grants to support nature-based solutions for coastal resilience in 31 coastal states and U.S. territories through the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) grant program. A total of 94 grants will promote capacity development, design, and implementation of nature-based solutions to both enhance the resilience of coastal communities and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The grants will generate more than \$140 million in matching contributions for a total

conservation impact of \$280 million. Learn more about the funded projects and NCRF program at the link above.

**[Fall 2024 Natural Selections Newsletter: Habitat Connectivity](#)**. The latest edition of the Natural Selections newsletter is here! This Fall edition explores the challenges that habitat fragmentation causes for wildlife, communities, and military installations, highlighting the partnerships that exist to provide conservation corridors and mitigation efforts in support of wildlife and to sustain the military mission. It also features an article highlighting SASMI and the work of some of our South Carolina partners.

**[Performance Assessment of Three Living Shorelines in Cedar Key, Florida, USA](#)**. A community-driven effort in Cedar Key, Florida, USA, resulted in the construction of three living shoreline retrofits intended to bolster failing coastal infrastructure and restore habitat functions in Daughtry Bayou. A multi-year monitoring program tracked changes in elevation and vegetation communities across the entire shoreline profile from lower-intertidal to upland/transitional zones and measured wave attenuation during typical and extreme (hurricane) conditions. Learn the results in this scientific article.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

### **[NSF Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator \(R2I2\)](#)**

The Regional Resilience Innovation Incubators (R2I2) is a cross-directorate NSF solicitation led by the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) and the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). R2I2 will support community- engaged team science to co-design high-impact solutions to climate-related societal challenges that leverage recent advances in fundamental climate change and Earth system science research. Each R2I2 project will address specific regional climate challenges and will develop and demonstrate solutions to those challenges that can be effectively applied in real- world settings. Letters of intent are due **December 16, 2024**.

### **[Job Opportunity: GIS Analyst](#)**

Consolidated Safety Services, Inc. (CSS) is seeking to hire an experienced GIS Analyst to join the NOAA Coastal Resilience team and become part of an inter-agency project modeling coastal wetland changes with sea level rise! We need a qualified individual to identify, prepare, process, and manage geospatial data to support a variety of environmental assessment, restoration, and coastal habitat modeling projects. The candidate will use geographic information systems (GIS) to manage geospatial data,

generate maps of results, and contribute to product development for various coastal resilience projects. Apply at the link above, or learn more about the project [here](#).

#### **ACFHP Announces FY2026 Funding Available for Habitat Conservation Projects**

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) is requesting project applications for funding to restore and conserve habitat necessary to support coastal, estuarine dependent, and diadromous fish species. Federal funding available through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) program will be used to support the top ranked proposals. A total of approximately \$200,000 in funding is available to support 2-4 projects each year; however, exceptional projects may be funded for the full amount. The deadline to apply is **January 31, 2025**.

#### **Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants**

Up to \$75 million in funding is available for fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will support projects that reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish around the country. There will be applicant webinars on November 20 and December 3, and the closing date is **February 10, 2025**.

#### **Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants**

Up to \$20 million in funding is available for fish passage and tribal capacity building under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will support U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and tribal organizations in implementing fish passage work and building tribal organizational capacity. There will be applicant webinars on November 20 and December 3, and the closing date is **February 27, 2025**.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SEAFWA 78th Annual Conference | December 9-13, 2024 | Augusta GA**

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 Climate and Societal Interactions Division Nature-Based Solutions Webinar Series | Multiple dates through January 2025 | Virtual**

This webinar series features projects funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office, Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI) Division's Adaptation Sciences (AdSci) and Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) programs, focused on the research and application of nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation. Attendees must register for each webinar episode separately; find more information and registration at the link above.

**Tue. Dec. 17, 3-4 pm ET:** Utilizing Nature-Based Solutions for the Advancement of Multiple Objectives, Co-Benefits, and Health

**Thur. Jan. 23, 2025 1-2 pm ET:** Challenges and Opportunities of Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation

**Coastal GeoTools Conference | January 27-31, 2025 | Wilmington NC**

The Coastal GeoTools conference, established in 1999, is typically held every two years and focuses on geospatial data, tools, technology, and information for coastal resource management professionals. Coastal GeoTools 2025 will be the thirteenth in the conference series. Conference themes include Enhancing Resilience through Relationships, Information, and Technology; An Emphasis on Tribal and Indigenous Applications; The Power of Partnerships for Resilience; Innovation, knowledge sharing, the effective use of geospatial technologies, and partnerships. Learn more or register at the link above.

**MARSH Forward!**

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