



## INITIATIVE NEWS

We hope those who were impacted by hurricane Helene are recovering and getting the help they need, and thank you to our Coalition members who have provided resources or assistance. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Restore America's Estuaries conference in Washington DC this week, where we will have a chance to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of SASMI's mission with an audience of coastal restoration policymakers, practitioners, and managers.



*Charlie Shoemaker, The Pew Charitable Trusts*

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## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Overview of Living Shoreline Permitting and Regulatory Review in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi](#). This extensively researched guidebook, authored by Matthew Shutz of the University of Georgia, with contributions by many other SASMI partners, serves as a tool for planning how to

approach the more complex permitting processes in each of the covered states. For each state, the guide describes:

- The state coastal zone management program
- State permitting requirements related to water quality and wetlands protection
- State public trust responsibilities for submerged lands
- Federal permitting under Clean Water Act Section 404
- Key design aspects of living shorelines that will affect the ability to obtain necessary permits and approvals.

[\*\*Mapping Marsh Futures.\*\*](#) This past summer, researchers from the Carolina Drone Lab — a collaborative research unit within the University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment — visited four marsh sites along the Currituck Sound as part of a study on the applications of drone technologies for coastal resilience and habitat monitoring. They are partnering with Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) and Audubon of North Carolina to aid in understanding the status of the marshes and the future management of the sound. Learn how these researchers use aerial imagery to assess marsh health in the Outer Banks.

[\*\*New U.S. Sea Level Change Website Released.\*\*](#) The Interagency Task Force on Sea Level Change is pleased to announce the release of a new U.S. Sea Level Change website. This interagency resource delivers sea level rise projections for the U.S. in an interactive and educational format that allows users to explore past, present, and future sea level rise, associated impacts, and adaptation measures for their area. This new platform reflects the U.S. Government's commitment to providing clear and useful information on climate science, designed to meet user needs and connect science to climate adaptation. This website is a collaborative effort from The Interagency Task Force on Sea Level Change (DOD, EPA, FEMA, NASA, NOAA, USACE, USAID, and USGS).

[\*\*FEMA Joins the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership to Support Climate Resilience and Military Readiness.\*\*](#)

On September 24, 2024, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership announces the addition of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to its Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC). The FEMA Office of Resilience joins the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) in designating sentinel landscapes to support mutually beneficial land-use and climate resilience around military installations across the country. Founded by the USDA, DOD, and DOI in 2013, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership's mission is to strengthen military readiness,

conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, increase public access to outdoor recreation, and enhance climate change resilience. FEMA joins the FCC following the signing of an addendum to the Sentinel Landscapes Memorandum of Understanding.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

### **Catalyzing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to Support Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration**

The Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) Program is excited to announce the release of its Catalyzing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to Support Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration request for proposals (RFP). SOAR is soliciting proposals from organizations and individuals to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the shellfish aquaculture industry and to encourage future initiatives to promote DEI to achieve sustainable growth for restoration and aligned industry efforts.

As part of the Catalyzing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to Support Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration RFP, The Pew Charitable Trusts, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, intends to fund three (3) to four (4) proposals, at a value of approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000 each. The anticipated project start date is February 2025, with funding running for 18 months. Industry members or an aligned organization with a clear industry partner are eligible to apply. Funding priorities are listed in the RFP in Appendix A: Scope of Work. Funded projects will be completed in collaboration with Pew and TNC staff leading the SOAR program.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **November 1, 2024**. Please email any questions to Chip Heil ([cheil@pewtrusts.org](mailto:cheil@pewtrusts.org)), the Pew point of contact for the RFP.

### **Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grants Program**

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and

historical disinvestments. To learn more or check eligibility, visit the link above; due **November 21, 2024**.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### [U.S. Sea Level Change Website Webinar | October 8, 2024 | Virtual](#)

The Interagency Task Force on Sea Level Change announced the release of the new U.S. Sea Level Change website on September 23, 2024. This resource delivers sea-level projections for the U.S. in an interactive and educational format that allow users to explore past, present, and future sea-level rise impacts and adaptation measures in their area. The scientific information is coupled with educational content, interactive explainers, key takeaways, video, and audio. To learn more about this effort, register for the informational webinar.

### [Equitable Solutions in Action: Sustainability, Resilience and Stewardship Symposium | October 11, 2024 | Jacksonville FL](#)

Presented by the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board (JEPB) and the University of North Florida Institute of Environmental Research and Education. The symposium brings together residents, government agencies, utilities and innovators in a forum designed to foster an atmosphere of cooperation in environmental achievement. Each year the symposium presents a unique opportunity for members of the community to interact with the regulatory agencies responsible for developing and implementing environmental policy. You can find the full agenda at the link above.

### [SEAFWA 78th Annual Conference | October 12-16, 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.

### [SASMI Summit in Georgia | Multiple Dates through October | Multiple Locations](#)

The Georgia Conservancy cordially invites you to attend the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) Summit! This interactive workshop, to be held at six different locations throughout coastal Georgia, will focus on the long-term resiliency and protection of our coastal salt marsh. The workshops will feature

speakers, mapping resources, videos, light refreshments, and interactive stations designed to foster a community conversation regarding threats to our coastal marshlands and opportunities for restoration and conservation of marshland now and in the future. Dates and locations are as follows (each workshop will follow the same format, so please attend whichever workshop is most convenient). More details at the link above.

Tuesday, October 22 from 4 PM – 6:30 PM, Midway, GA 31320

Thursday, October 24 from 3 PM – 6 PM, Darien, GA 31305

### [\*\*Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2024 Workshops | Multiple Dates through November | Virtual\*\*](#)

The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) is a regional conservation initiative that spans the Southeastern United States and Caribbean. The primary product of SECAS is the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, a living, spatial plan that identifies priority areas for a connected network of lands and waters across the region. We regularly update the Blueprint based on new data and feedback from the conservation community. In 2024, the Blueprint update focuses on the continental Southeast geography. It uses refined prioritization methods and incorporates several new and improved indicators for inland and marine areas. Your input helps to ensure the Blueprint represents on-the-ground conditions and captures your conservation priorities. It also helps staff prioritize future improvements. There are multiple virtual workshop dates available from October 22 - November 7.

### [\*\*Florida Symposium on Flooding Adaptation | October 28-31, 2024 | Kissimmee FL\*\*](#)

During this conference, individuals and teams representing site-specific projects from across Florida's diverse landscape will share their work, process, experiences, and results. In addition to providing participants with opportunities to cultivate new partnerships, this exchange of knowledge will result in the publication of a compilation of abstracts spotlighting solutions to flooding in Florida.

### [\*\*The North Carolina Coastal Conference | November 11-13, 2024 | New Bern NC\*\*](#)

North Carolina Sea Grant's biennial conference serves as a platform for engaging with like-minded participants and potential collaborators dedicated to the prosperity of our state's coastal communities, environments, and economies. Join us for stimulating presentations and discussions featuring researchers, agency and business experts, community leaders, educators, students, and all individuals passionate about coastal topics.

[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.

Wed. Oct 23, 3-4 pm ET: Considerations for Integrating Nature-based Solutions in Planning

Tue. Nov. 26, 3-4 pm ET: Building Coastal Adaptive Capacity through Nature-based Solutions

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!**

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.