



## INITIATIVE NEWS

With April wrapped up, we are eager to reconvene our SASMI Partnership Council next week in Beaufort, North Carolina. We'll take stock of progress since December and host discussions with our regionally focused Council membership that will help determine how we measure and share our SASMI progress. Thank you to our local partners at North Carolina Coastal Federation for assisting with the meeting logistics!



*Robert Dunn*

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## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

**[2025 U.S. Spring Flood Outlook Released](#)**. Forecasters from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center — part of the National Weather Service — issued the 2025 U.S. Spring Outlook for temperature, precipitation, drought, and flooding for the coming months. They predict above-average temperatures for the East and Gulf Coast regions, while drought conditions continue in the Southwest. Above-average temperatures are likely across much of the U.S., including

locations that experienced colder-than-average temperatures and unusual snowfall during the winter. Learn more about these predictions at the link above.

**[Living shorelines grant will help Beaufort County combat coastal erosion with oyster reefs.](#)**

(Paywalled article). Beaufort County (SC) just got a financial boost to protect its eroding shorelines. A nearly \$170,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund will bolster Beaufort County's efforts to develop living shorelines along its coasts.

**[NC lawmakers urged to support 'living shoreline' program.](#)** North Carolina lawmakers are being asked to renew funding that helps landowners protect waterfronts from erosion and storms. Since 2015, the state has supported a cost-share program to incentivize landowners on coastal waterways and adjacent rivers to build living shorelines. Mary-Margaret McKinney, director of coastal restoration with Native Shorelines (and one of our SASMI partners!), said the state's effort also supports jobs. "There's an entire industry that is building up around living shorelines," said McKinney. "There are jobs – everywhere from coastal engineering and environmental consultants, and technology and manufacturing, all the way to manual labor for the installation." Senate Bill 496 would appropriate \$5 million to continue funding the cost-share program.

**[2025 REPI Report to Congress Released.](#)** The Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program has delivered its 2025 REPI Report to Congress. The 19th annual congressional report summarizes the program's investments from Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 through FY 2024. From FY 2003 through FY 2024, DOD leveraged over \$1.5 billion in Department contributions with nearly \$1.4 billion in non-Department partner contributions to protect, enhance, or restore over 1.3 million acres of land and preserve mission-critical operational assets, infrastructure, and capabilities. Learn more about these efforts in the full report linked above.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

**[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)<sup>1</sup>. 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. Pre-proposals are due **May 6, 2025**.

#### [Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants](#)

NOAA has announced the availability of \$20 million in funding for projects that will advance coastal habitat restoration and resilience priorities. Of the \$20 million in funding available, 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements. Projects selected through this opportunity will span several types of activities, including capacity building and restoration. Applications are due by **May 12, 2025**.

#### [Network for Landscape Conservation: Catalyst Fund](#)

The Catalyst Fund strives to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative landscape conservation and stewardship across the United States by investing in Landscape Partnerships. The Fund couples financial support (through a competitive grant program) with capacity building support (through in-depth Peer Learning) to catalyze Partnership efforts to achieve long-term conservation and stewardship goals. Proposals are due on **May 16, 2025**.

#### [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. Pre-proposals are due **May 20**, and full proposals (by invitation only) are due **July 9, 2025**.

#### [NWF Nature-based Solutions Funding Database](#)

The National Wildlife Federation's Nature-based Solutions Funding Database includes 86 federal grant programs for communities interested in pursuing federal funding and/or technical assistance for nature-based solutions. If you aren't familiar with the database, check it out at the link above.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### [Coastal Inundation CoP Summer Webinar: Resilience Networks | June 24, 2025 | Virtual](#)

Join the Coastal Inundation Community of Practice for a discussion on regional resilience networks. Panelists will discuss the value of regional networks and highlight strategies that have been successful within their regions for building effective networks for coastal resilience.

### [Southeast CASC Science Symposium | September 9-11, 2025 | 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. Save the date and learn more at the link above.

### [The Hope Summit 2025 | September 25-28, 2025 | Charleston SC](#)

The Hope Summit 2025 will be held from September 25 - 27 in Charleston, South Carolina at the Charleston Museum. The theme this year 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 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.

### [NOAA Science Seminar Series | Ongoing | Virtual](#)

The NOAA Science Seminar Series began in 2004 and is a voluntary effort by over 70 NOAA seminar coordinators to integrate and distribute a list of NOAA-hosted, publicly accessible science seminars. Most seminars are accessible online and there are many upcoming topics that may be of interest to SASMI partners--take a look through the list and save the page for future reference!

**MARSH Forward!**

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