

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)  
May 2019

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## The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

# Sound Stories

May 2019



While it may be turning into a classic hot and humid North Carolina summer, it's not stopping APNEP and our partners from planning a variety of initiatives for the upcoming months. Volunteers at partner organizations along our sounds have been taking daily water clarity measurements ahead of planned [submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\)](#) aerial surveys in June, which will become the basis for a map of SAV extent and density in the region. Staff from APNEP, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries, and other organizations will also be going out into the field to groundtruth those surveys this month to ensure their accuracy.

We're also excited to announce that applications for the next year of our joint [APNEP-NC](#)

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fish consumption advisories, and we look forward to seeing a wide range of proposed projects from this year's applicants as well.

The June 11-12th [NC Coastal Resilience Summit](#), hosted by the NC Department of Environmental Quality and NC Coastal Federation, will be a great opportunity for those living and working in our region to learn more about the issues faced by eastern North Carolina due to climate change and sea level rise, as well as the innovative strategies being implemented by our partners to address these issues. [Registration is still open](#); we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bill Crowell  
APNEP Director

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## APNEP News



### APNEP and NC Sea Grant Announce Joint Fellowship

APNEP & North Carolina Sea Grant are now accepting applications for our 2019 Graduate Fellowship in Estuarine Research. Fellows must conduct their research within the North Carolina portion of the Albemarle-Pamlico region and address one or more of the Fellowship's focus areas. **Applications are due July 29th.**

[Learn more and apply for the Fellowship](#)

### APNEP Welcomes Aquatic Invasives Intern

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[Adam Hester](#), our Aquatic Invasive Species Communication and Outreach Intern for the summer. Adam is a rising sophomore in Western Carolina University's Natural Resource Conservation and Management Department and will be working on aquatic invasive species communications, outreach, and citizen science.

## Summer 2019 Spotlight on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

This summer APNEP and partners, including the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries, will be coordinating to create another map of the region's submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). To determine the best times for aerial SAV surveys, APNEP is collaborating with partners across our region to collect daily secchi disk data on water clarity. We'd like to thank all of our partners, including The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina, Hammocks Beach State Park, North Carolina Coastal Federation, and U.S. Coast Guard Station - Hatteras Inlet for their help collecting this critical data. Stay tuned over the next few months for updates on SAV flights, groundtruthing field work, and more!



[Learn more about SAV monitoring in the Albemarle-Pamlico region](#)

## APNEP Committee Updates

Pamlico region.

**May 15th** - The [APNEP and NC Coastal Federation Living Shorelines Action Team](#) met to discuss inclusion of living shorelines in the NC Oyster Blueprint and updates on the National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop. Highlights from the meeting included a presentation on Natural and Nature-Based Features and their use in building resilience to storm-driven flooding by researchers from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. APNEP is collaborating with VIMS on this project and asked for input from the Living Shorelines Action Team regarding expansion of this type of project into the Albemarle-Pamlico region.



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact [apnep@ncdenr.gov](mailto:apnep@ncdenr.gov).

- **June 11th-12th** | [North Carolina Coastal Resilience Summit](#) (Havelock, NC)
- **July 22nd, 9:00am-3:00pm** | [Discovering Our Southern Watersheds Teacher Workshop](#) (Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, VA)

## Soundings Blog

### Partners Work Together to Protect North Carolina's Underwater Meadows

*May 22, 2019*

Did you know it's estimated that North Carolina is among the top three states in the country in submerged

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protect the state's underwater grasses. In our newest blog post, learn how we're continuing to collaborate on current efforts to monitor this important natural resource!

[Read the blog post](#)

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## Current Grant Opportunities



- 6/15/19: [Duke Energy Powerful Communities: Storm Resiliency Grants](#)

[Grant Details](#)

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## Partner Spotlight



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## Climate Change on Eastern NC

The NC Department of Environmental Quality's and NC Coastal Federation's June 11-12 [North Carolina Coastal Resilience Summit](#) in Havelock will [feature a range of panels and talks](#) on topics dealing with climate change and coastal resilience in North Carolina, including a panel discussion moderated by APNEP's Stacey Feken about strategies for maintaining climate ready estuaries in the state. Other topics will include the intersection of climate change and tourism, the military, environmental justice issues, and infrastructure. The Summit is open to any interested stakeholders and costs \$45.00.

[Learn more and register for the summit](#)

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## What We're Reading

- [Researchers Find 'World's Oldest Wetland Tree' \(Sci News\)](#).
  - [How Sea Level Rise Affects Birds in Coastal Forests \(NC State News\)](#).
  - [Embracing the Salt and Adapting to Sea Level Rise \(Science Friday\)](#).
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