



INITIATIVE NEWS

State roadmaps are nearing completion! We're looking forward to the release of these important resources at the end of this month, which are the product of many months of work by our state teams to focus the strategies and actions of the regional SASMI plan down to the state level. Keep an eye out for that announcement, and please be prepared to help us spread the word!



Andy Johnson, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[New Mapping Tool Can Help South Carolina Prepare for Sea-Level Rise](#). This article highlights a new interactive mapping tool helping coastal communities in South Carolina visualize how salt marshes may migrate with rising seas and better plan for the impacts of sea-level rise. By showing where future marshland and development conflicts could occur, the tool supports smarter infrastructure siting, conservation efforts, and resiliency planning—and offers a model other states can adapt. Learn more at the link above.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program](#)

The FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity is not just about rebuilding—it's about transforming local economies after disaster, with an emphasis on improving communities' economic outcomes and resilience to future disasters. This funding opportunity encourages broad based local engagement and places special emphasis on projects that involve private industry in disaster recovery and economic renewal. Readiness and Implementation grant applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing (rolling) basis until funds are exhausted or the Notice of Funding Opportunity is canceled; Industry Transformation grant applications are due on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**.

[2026 Climate Smart Communities Initiative](#)

CSCI awards provide funding and technical assistance to advance community-based climate resilience in communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Grants typically range from \$60,000 to \$115,000 based on the scope of work proposed in the application. The program prioritizes funding for communities that include historically disinvested populations at increased risk to climate-related impacts. The competition is open to US-based project teams composed of a climate adaptation practitioner and representatives from a local or regional government entity and a community-based organization. Applications are due by **Thursday, March 12**.

[National Coastal Resilience Fund 2026](#)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2026 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Request for Proposals (RFP). 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 on **Tuesday, March 31**.

[Effects of Sea Level Rise Event Response Program](#)

The NCCOS Effects of Sea Level Rise (ESLR) Event Response Program provides timely support for gathering data prior to, during, and/or immediately after weather-related or anthropogenic events affecting coastal ecosystems and communities. This is an ongoing opportunity, and

applicants can initiate a request for support by emailing the ESLR Event Response Program at nccos.eslr.event.response@noaa.gov. Learn more about the program at the link above.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Coastal Cultures Conference 2026 | March 20-22, 2026 | St. Helena Island, SC](#)

The 2026 Coastal Cultures Conference will center on historic St. Helena Island, SC and journey to the Port Royal Sound and May River in Beaufort County, SC. This annual conference hosted by the Gullah/Geechee Sustainability Think Tank brings together a wide variety of diverse environmental leaders focused on ensuring not only the sustainability of the coast and our waterways but also the cultural heritage of communities such as that of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. This year, the event will include a coastal adaptation and sustainability tour on the South Carolina coast, the Bluffton Gullah Cultural Heritage Center, Gullah/Geechee Party with a Purpose, Gullah/Geechee Living Marketplace, and the annual Coastal Culture Circle of Engagement.

[Marsh Madness Salt Marsh Conservation Expo | March 21, 2026 | Okatie, SC](#)

Join Port Royal Sound Foundation and others to learn about the valuable services our salt marsh provides and the work going into conserving it. Followed by an Oysters, BBQ & Bluegrass social in the evening!

[Annual Meeting of the National Shellfish Association | March 22-26, 2026 | Portland, OR](#)

The National Shellfisheries Association is hosting their next Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in March 2026. There are many topics which may be of interest here, but take special note of the "Shellfish Restoration & Conservation" session moderated by Peter Kingsley-Smith. This segment will feature a diversity of presentations related to research and efforts to restore, enhance or conserve molluscan shellfish species (not just oysters!). Living shorelines, ecosystems services, sustainability, and increased resiliency are all relevant themes for talks submitted to this session.

[NC Water Resources Research Institute Conference | March 25-26, 2026 | Raleigh, NC](#)

WRRRI's annual conference brings together all sectors and all disciplines working in water resources across North Carolina. Here you'll find water utilities, students, consultants,

academics, nonprofits, state agency staff, among many others, working across fields including stream restoration, water supply planning, stormwater management, water quality and groundwater dynamics, community engagement and many more!

[National Adaptation Forum | May 12-14, 2026 | Pittsburgh, PA](#)

The National Adaptation Forum is a biennial convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day. The Forum provides opportunities for professional development through training sessions, facilitated presentations and panels, and formal and informal networking sessions. The overall goal of the National Adaptation Forum is to move beyond adaptation awareness into adaptation action by highlighting the breadth of adaptation activities occurring in the United States and around the world.

[Climate Change Preparedness Conference and Workshop | May 20-22, 2026 | Las Vegas, NV](#)

This conference will bring together 300+ senior leaders and experts, including representatives from Native American tribes, local and regional communities, city and county governments, state and federal agencies, NGOs, international organizations, consulting firms, academia, and private industry.

[Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal and Estuarine Summit | September 22-25, 2026 | San Francisco, CA](#)

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) proudly presents the 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit in partnership with Save the Bay (STB) in San Francisco, California. This event will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned. The Summit will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine restoration and management, including the Great Lakes and international locales. These topics are crucial as coastal communities pursue new, more robust strategies to manage, protect, and restore their resources in a changing climate and the need to support all community members.

Interested in presenting at RAE? The [2026 Call for Proposals](#) is now live and submissions are due **March 13**. Let us know if you plan to be there so we can connect!

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.