#### **Coastal Resilience Community of Practice Meeting Notes**

Thursday, October 19 – 10:00am - 12:00pm

**Purpose of the COP:** Bring together diverse coastal stakeholders to focus on how ecosystem resilience can build local community resilience. We don't necessarily have to have a "thing" to work on but will take on projects as appropriate and mutually agreed on. Website: <a href="https://deq.nc.gov/coastal-resilience-cop">https://deq.nc.gov/coastal-resilience-cop</a>

#### In attendance:

- Adrianna Weber Moffatt & Nichol
- Amanda Merrill Moffatt & Nichol
- Amanda Mueller Climate Leaders Program, NCSU
- Anna Cherry Currituck County
- Brian Byfield NC Office of Recovery and Resilience
- Cat Bowler Audubon North Carolina
- Claire Rapp North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Erin Seekamp NC State University
- Eryn Futral NC Emergency Management
- Gloria Putnam North Carolina Sea Grant
- Holly White NC Office of Recovery and Resilience
- Jennie Turner Currituck County
- Joe Heard Town of Duck
- Kate Jones The Berkley Group
- Kiera O'Donnell Duke University
- Lora Eddy The Nature Conservancy
- Mackenzie Todd NC Division of Coastal Management
- Michelle Lovejoy Environmental Defense Fund
- Phillip Todd Freese and Nichols
- Rachel Love-Adrick NC Division of Coastal Management
- Robin Hoffman NC Division of Water Resources
- Sarah Spiegler North Carolina Sea Grant
- Savannah Newbern Wetlands Watch
- Steve Anderson Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
- Whitney Jenkins NC Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve

#### **Notes**

<u>Presentation:</u> SWISLR RCN: A network for studying saltwater intrusion and sea level rise across the north American coastal plain – Kiera O'Donnell at Duke University, <u>kiera.odonnell@duke.edu</u> & <u>SWISLR\_RCN@duke.edu</u>

#### **Q&A** with Kiera

- You can join the SWISLR listserv they host monthly webinars. Mark your calendars for the next SWISLR project webinar on Nov 3
  - o Is it ok for people not working in research to join? Yes! Webinars are focused on the Project Captains sharing updates.
- Worked with a graphic facilitator at Visual Works, their website is Kiera's slides
- Septic systems have you investigated through SWISLR? We aren't finding studies on septic systems more about water quality and salt in drinking wells. Kiera is very interested, working on a grant on how septic

systems are being inundated on the coast in NC. And septic system overtopping and innovations that folks are using.

- Down East Carteret County questions about septic systems. FEMA folks also asking. Not much done right now, really needed
- Kiera would like to have a follow up conversation when it fails its an issue, but what about in between times?
- Connection opportunity NC Salt Marsh Plan led by Claire modeling project SLR under intermediate SLR scenario. Resulting habitat transformation with saltwater intrusion, transition of forest and farmlands to marsh. Have you looked into that? How to work with coastal habitats and local communities to help with this change. Would love to continue this conversation.
  - o Work with farmland, but not with marsh migration into farmland.
- Greatest needs? A lot of meta-analyses, synthesizing and data sharing. People want to know what we know. These meta-analyses are focused on the six themes listed in Kiera's slides.
  - NC Water Resources Research Institute spring conference <u>call for abstracts is out right now</u>. Data sharing is a need, opportunity
  - NC Sea Grant Coastal Conference next fall
- There's lots of great work going on around septic and groundwater in NC. Sea Grant was a big part of that discussion along with researchers from ECU, Charlie Humphries and Mike O'Driscoll. The Town of Nags Head was involved in research with these guys.
  - o Septic/groundwater work: <a href="https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/coastwatch/current-issue/summer-2022/the-new-pioneers/">https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/coastwatch/current-issue/summer-2022/the-new-pioneers/</a>
  - Town of Nags Head- Decentralized Wastewater Management Plan; addresses interaction of groundwater and septic and highlights research:
     <a href="https://www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4436/Town-of-Nags-Head-DWMP-April-2022?bidId="https://www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4436/Town-of-Nags-Head-DWMP-April-2022?bidId="https://www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4436/Town-of-Nags-Head-DWMP-April-2022?bidId="https://www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4436/Town-of-Nags-Head-DWMP-April-2022?bidId="https://www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4436/Town-of-Nags-Head-DWMP-April-2022?bidId=</a>
  - o Climate Change and Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in the Coastal Carolinas
    - https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Project-Report Climateseptic FINAL 8.31.2022.pdf
    - https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/climate-change-and-onsite-wastewater-treatment-systems-inthe-coastal-carolinas/
  - o Folly Beach Study on septic: <a href="https://research.fit.edu/media/site-specific/researchfitedu/coast-climate-adaptation-library/united-states/east-coast/carolinas-amp-georgia/Sea-Grants.--2017.--SLR-Adaptation-Report-Folly-beach-SC-(2).pdf</a>
- Adaptation attempt to address SWISLR, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge/Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula Climate Adaptation Project: <a href="https://www.cakex.org/case-studies/alligator-river-national-wildlife-refugealbemarle-pamlico-peninsula-climate-adaptation-project">https://www.cakex.org/case-studies/alligator-river-national-wildlife-refugealbemarle-pamlico-peninsula-climate-adaptation-project</a>

<u>Presentation:</u> Town of Nags Head's Estuarine Shoreline Management Plan – Kate Jones, former Deputy Planning Director, now Principal Planner with The Berkley Group

#### **Q&A** with Kate

- Town of Nags Head has a history of good community planning efforts many public access sites on both the
  ocean and sound side. Lucky to have Jockey's Ridge and other public lands to test these ideas. Great example
  for other growing communities, importance of prioritizing public access
- If anyone is interested in the marsh terracing project in Back Bay, VA that Kate mentioned, here is a
  presentation by CJ Bodnar, the Program Manager for Virginia Beach's Public Works Department. The project
  will result in 51 acres of marsh terraces that will support the restoration of the marsh habitat and reduce
  marsh erosion. The project is funded, and they anticipate breaking ground in the spring.
  https://youtu.be/IxOxZ-Gz48k?si=eXqIOSBZApflig0y&t=832

- Gloria <u>Coastal Landscapes Initiative</u> one of our goals is to increase the supply of native plants, probably a challenge for folks working in restoration.
  - o From Savannah I wonder if the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals (CBLP) have native and coastal plant sourcing contacts that could be shared.
  - From Claire the North Carolina Coastal Federation is working on developing a "donor marsh" in which we can grow plants for living shorelines. We are also planning to work more with nurseries and marine contractors to find ways to increase their own plant supply
- Timeline? Permitting hurdles? Some project implementation is dependent on getting more grant funding for the Town.
  - o Interesting studies on wind direction idea of cost of this wind modeling? If you have the data for the model the cost goes down. The Town needed bathymetry data. First look at the data you have. Not sure about cost, the cost for whole project \$125K engineering and modeling were a smaller part of that. Research partners are important, they can do some of the background work.
  - o From Holly We can check with the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) on the cost of the wind modeling. The bathymetry work was conducted by CSI and cost around \$25,000-\$35,000. We knew going into the project that there was limited data. Reide Corbett with CSI was able to get a grant from NC Sea Grant to cover the cost of the bathymetry work on their end. That was a huge cost savings for the Town.

#### Round robin – members share what they are working on related to resilience

- Michelle NFWF Coastal Resilience Fund, Coastal Dynamics Design Lab, flood mitigation plan in Northern Sampson County. Overlayed with USDA water quality plan. Opportunity to look at confluence of water quality and water management. Community Floodprint process. Cultural resources process with local Tribe.
  - o From Erin Seekamp Michelle, will you send me more information b/c there could be an opportunity for additional funding from the SE CASC given the cultural resource lens.
- Amanda Mueller NC State Climate Leaders Program hosted 2<sup>nd</sup> climate leaders symposium energy and food, adaptation to extreme weather, and carbon capture were the focus:
   <a href="https://climateleaders.kenan.ncsu.edu/">https://climateleaders.kenan.ncsu.edu/</a>. We also work with undergrad and grad students, looking for internship partners for work on climate issues. We usually have funding to provide students with stipends, so no cost to partners.
- Bryan NC Office of Recover and Resilience, Regions Innovating for Strong Economies & Environment (RISE)
  projects, moving forward. Project concierge service, paper to reality, we help with finding partners, project
  leads, funding sources.
  - Holly we are spending a lot of time on this implementation assistance meeting with communities to help stand-up projects. Working with APNEP, crossover with their goals and RISE projects. Any interest in participating in RISE portfolio projects? Check out the portfolios here:
     <a href="https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/resiliency/resilient-communities/rise/portfolio">https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/resiliency/resilient-communities/rise/portfolio</a>
- Holly Albemarle Algal Bloom Summit, in person event on Friday Nov 3. Registration link:
   <a href="https://bit.ly/AlbemarleHABsummit">https://bit.ly/AlbemarleHABsummit</a>. There is a history of algal blooms in the region, bringing together partners to share what we know, ID gaps and a path forward, reconnect folks working on the issue to enhance collaboration and potentially seek funding.
- Cat marsh restoration pilot projects at Pine Island on Currituck Sound would like to share lessons learned
  on permitting. Also awarded a NOAA underserved communities grant. Working in northern Tyrrell County.
  Looking forward to coordination with the Scuppernong Study Engagement Project Team (including Whitney
  and Lora on this call) and with NCORR and RISE to coordinate on portfolio projects.
  - o From Erin Seekamp: Great news Cat! If you are working with Alligator folks I conducted research there years ago on their adaptive capacity and happy to chat about what we learned.
- Claire NC Salt Marsh Action Plan finished later this year. Focusing on marsh restoration and facilitating
  marsh migration. Lots of room for collaboration with folks. Submitted a NFWF grant, hope to get funding to
  reach out to underserved communities on marsh restoration work to build resilience.

- Eryn Coastal Construction Course to educate coastal code officials, floodplain administrators, building and code officials, planners, local gov. officials, etc. on importance of development codes. To sign up for the course scheduled for Nov 7-9, visit:
  - https://terms.ncem.gov/TRS/courseDesc.do?sourcePage=courseSearch&cofId=155167
- Robin Nonpoint Source Planning Branch meeting soon to pick awardees for <u>205J planning grants</u>. These grants are available to Councils of Governments to do water quality planning.
- Joe After 30 years of working with FEMA, funding with BRIC grant, broke ground yesterday on the Town of Duck's Coastal Resilience Project! Under construction throughout winter and spring – can present on next summer. Successful living shoreline and marsh restoration project: <a href="https://www.townofduck.com/living-shoreline-and-resiliency-project/">https://www.townofduck.com/living-shoreline-and-resiliency-project/</a>.
- Lora Scuppernong Engagement Project community engagement on the Scuppernong Water Management Study, which is an engineering study. Working with Whitney and Woody Webster with the Buckridge Coastal Reserve. Participatory mapping at the community meeting scheduled for Oct 23 in Columbia as well as post-modeling outreach. This will broaden vulnerability understanding and continue to promote partnerships in the area.
  - Also supporting an intern doing a refresh of open space mapping Currituck County. Includes
    conservation subdivisions and setting aside hazard areas as the county grows. The county can use
    this to improve its FEMA Community Rating System points to reduce flood insurance premiums and
    improve connection to conservations lands.
- Rachel Resilience Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) and Division's land use planning program looking how to incorporate those two programs to integrate resilience and land use planning.
  - Also attended the American Planning conference last week in Raliegh interesting presentation from Union County – how zoning is affecting trees. Urban forestry grant for local govts, they only got one application last year. Here's the program's contact: NC Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program, Andrew Pleninger, (919) 857-4842, <a href="mailto:andv.pleninger@ncagr.gov">andv.pleninger@ncagr.gov</a>
- Mackenzie RCCP is now in its second round of Phase 1 and 2 with 15 communities participating. Phase 4, construction phase, five communities are fully contracted, implementing planning ideas from 2021. \$10M was awarded by the General Assembly to continue this effort! Working to figure out how to budget, will have more money for Phases 3 & 4.
- Savannah Wetlands Watch is expanding our "Catch the King" king tide mapping citizen science project into NC this year, and the big mapping event is next weekend, October 27-29th. Here is a link if anyone is interested in sharing or participating: <a href="https://wetlandswatch.org/catchthekingnc">https://wetlandswatch.org/catchthekingnc</a>
- Erin Seekamp NC State will be seeking community partners for six summer AmeriCorps members (working
  in pairs) to conduct asset mapping and vulnerability assessments. Ideally supporting underserved
  communities who may not have funding or representation at the county-level to conduct this first step of
  DCM's RCCP program. Holly & Andrea at NCORR and Tancred and Mackenzie at DCM are partners, along with
  Conservation Corps NC & NC State's Amanda Mueller and Rebecca Ward.

Next meeting in January. Whitney will send a meeting poll

- January meeting topics
  - Discuss ideas for implementation of APNEP BIL strategy Stacey Feken, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
  - o Marae West salt marsh sparrow and MOTUS tower project
  - o NC Salt Marsh Plan Claire Rapp penciled in for January meeting
- Future meeting ideas
  - SASMI final conservation plan Amanda (new coordinator), connection to NC stakeholders state teams/action plans, get more info. Coastal Fed lead partner in NC
  - o RCCP contractor Jamie Heath with Mid East Commission working with RK&K working well together and through all 4 phases of RCCP

# SWISLR RCN: A network for studying saltwater intrusion and sea level rise across the north American coastal plain

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Kiera O'Donnell, Emily Bernhardt, Xi Yang, Ryan Emanuel, SWISLR RCN





# **SWISLR**



What is it?



Why do we care about it?



What do we do?



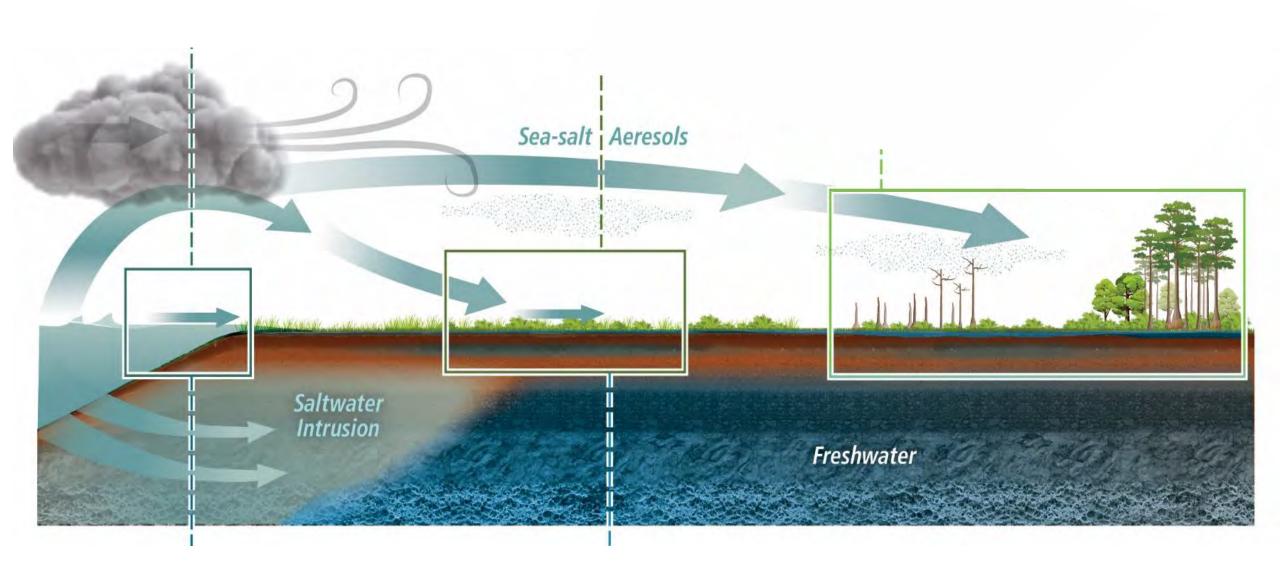
# The Mississippi River's saltwater intrusion problem, explained

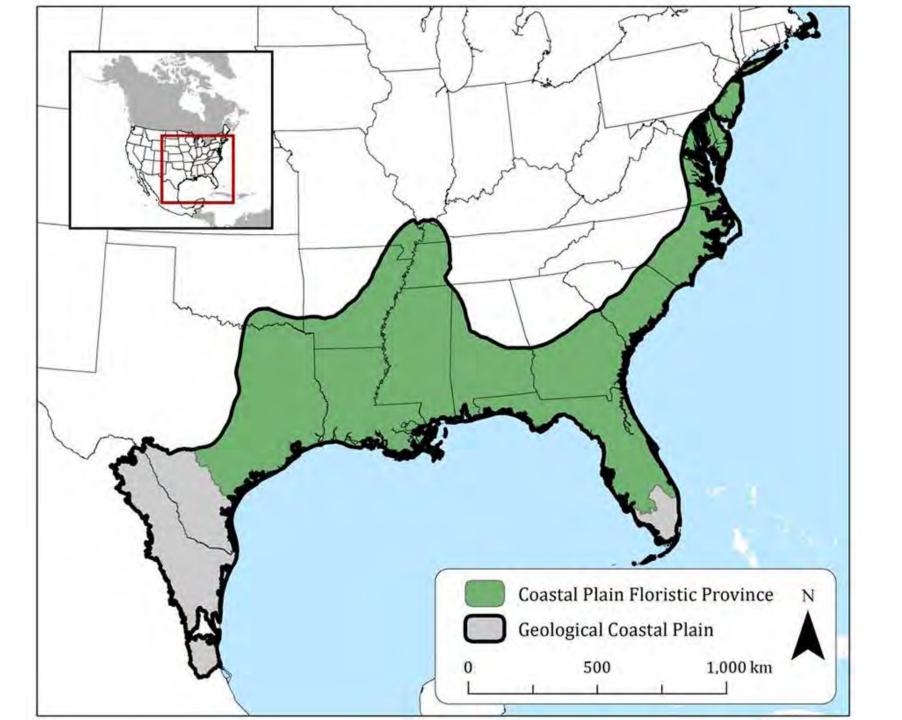
President Biden this week approved an emergency declaration for four parishes dealing with the potential impacts along the drought-stricken river.



September 29, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EDT

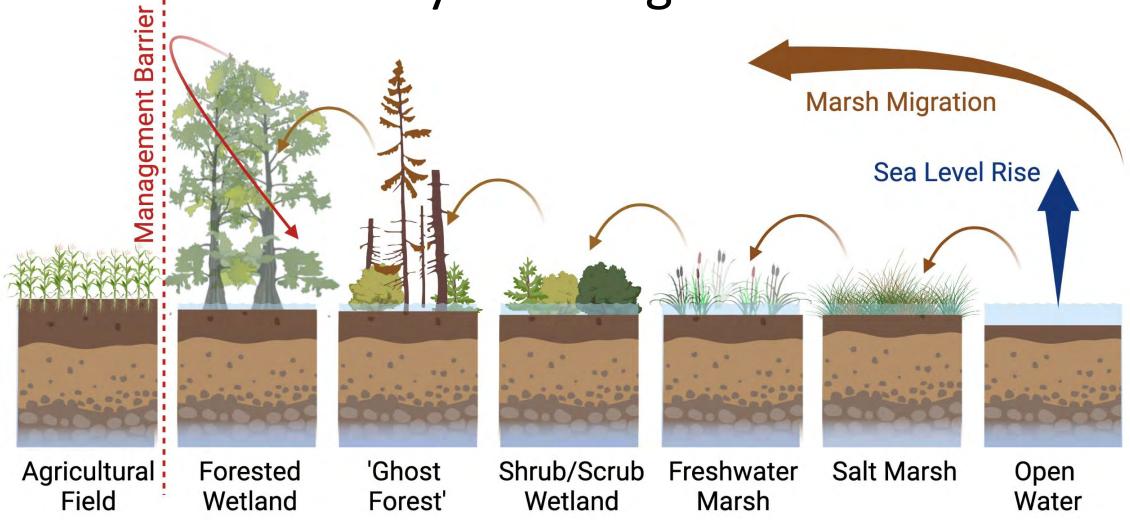
# **How SWISLR Moves:**

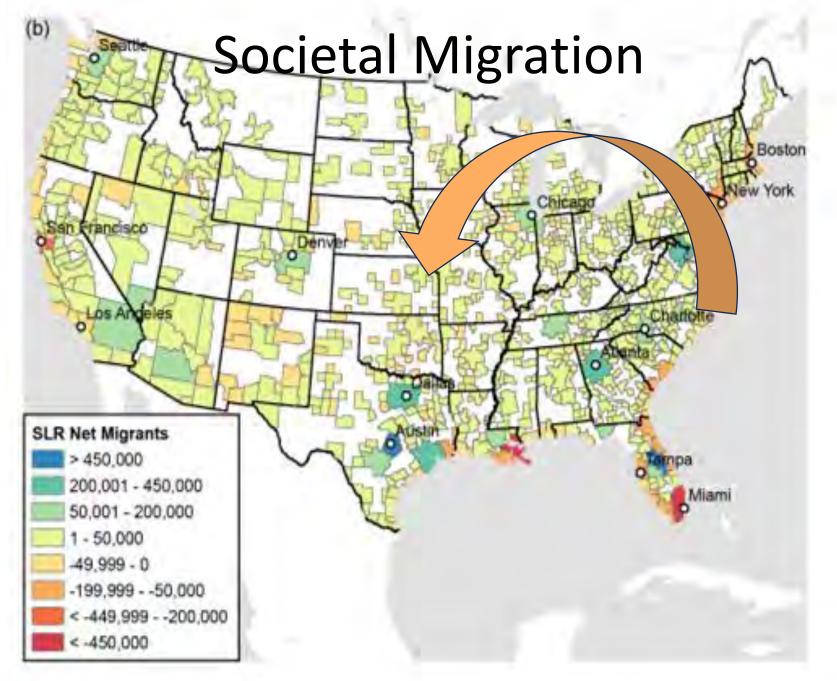






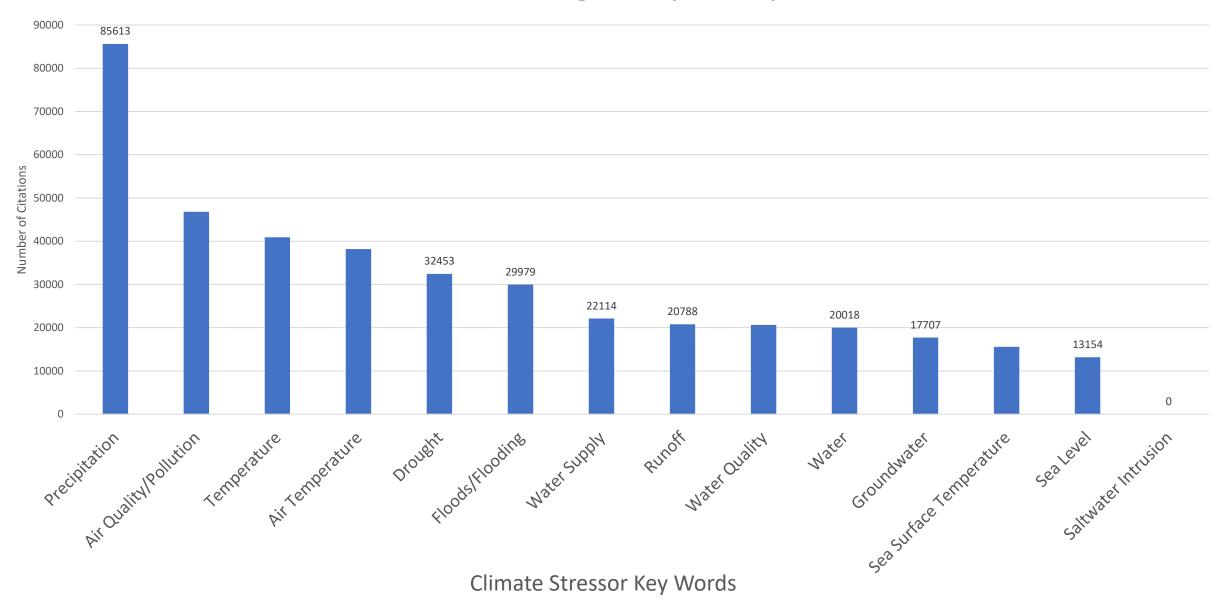
# **Ecosystem Migration**



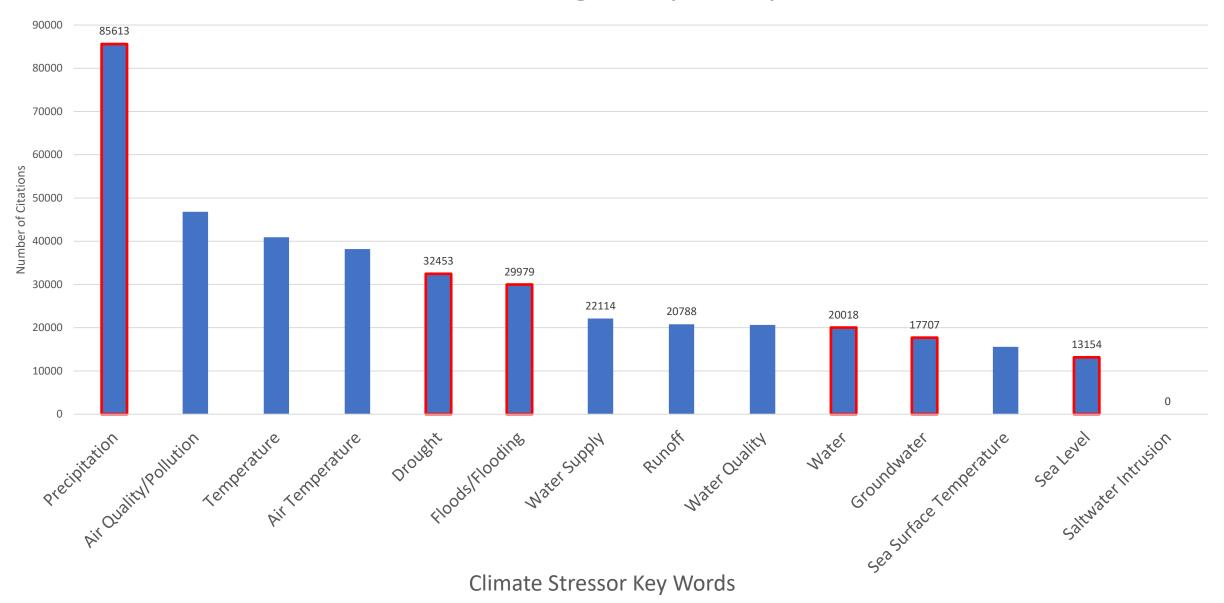


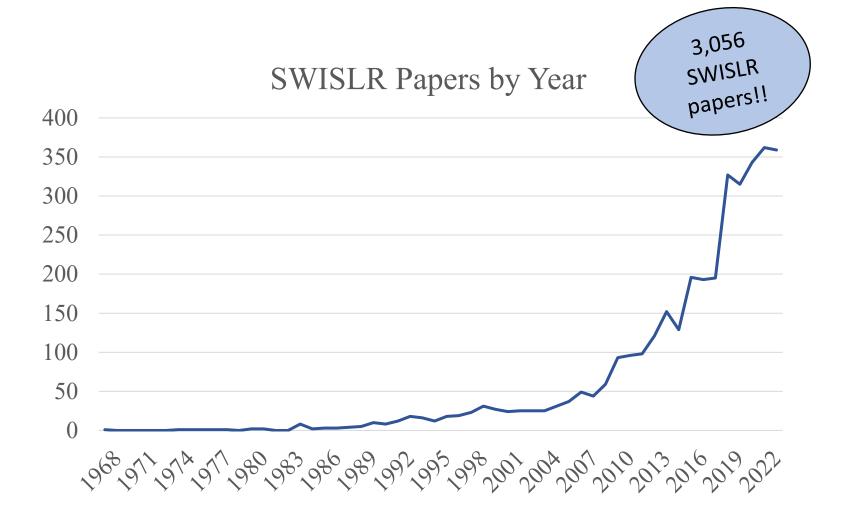


#### Climate Change Scopus Papers



#### Climate Change Scopus Papers







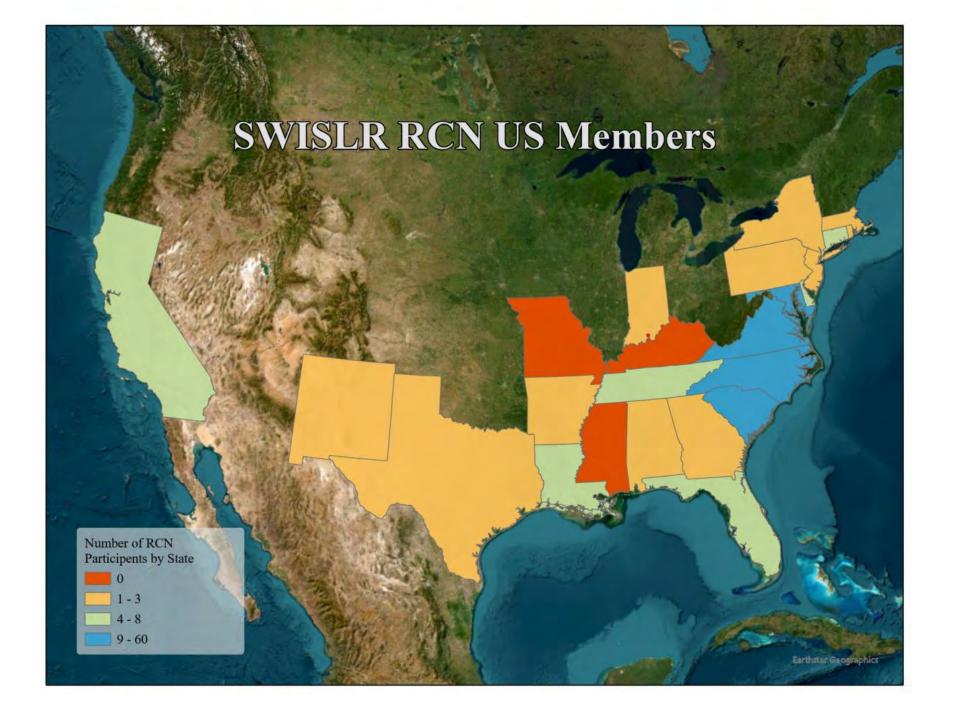
# So much regional variability with SWISLR



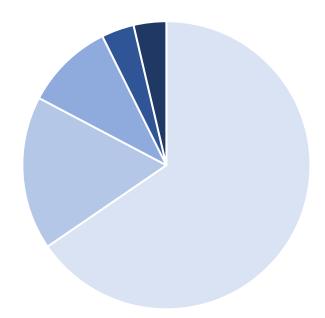
# So much regional variability with SWISLR

The SWISLR RCN was created to build a connective intellectual network to expand out capacity to forecast and prepare for SWISLR impacts. The RCN focus on 6 major themes:

- 1. Who is engaged in decisions about climate risk prevention, climate adaptation and SWISLR mitigation and who is excluded?
- 2. What proportion of the NACP has recently undergone and is currently vulnerable to significant ecosystem transitions as a result of SWISLR?
- 3. How are water management and climate change interacting to determine the magnitude, extent, and duration of SWISLR within and across the NACP?
- 4. What are the consequences of SWISLR for farms and coastal fisheries?
- 5. How is SWISLR affecting the structure, biodiversity, and function of ecological systems throughout the NACP?
- 6. How are coastal communities interpreting, responding to and managing for SWISLR impacts and risk?

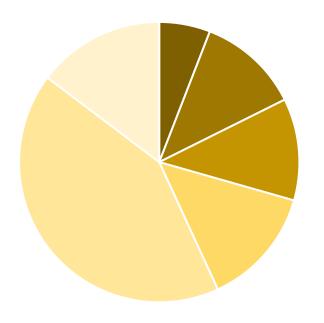


#### **RCN** Affiliations

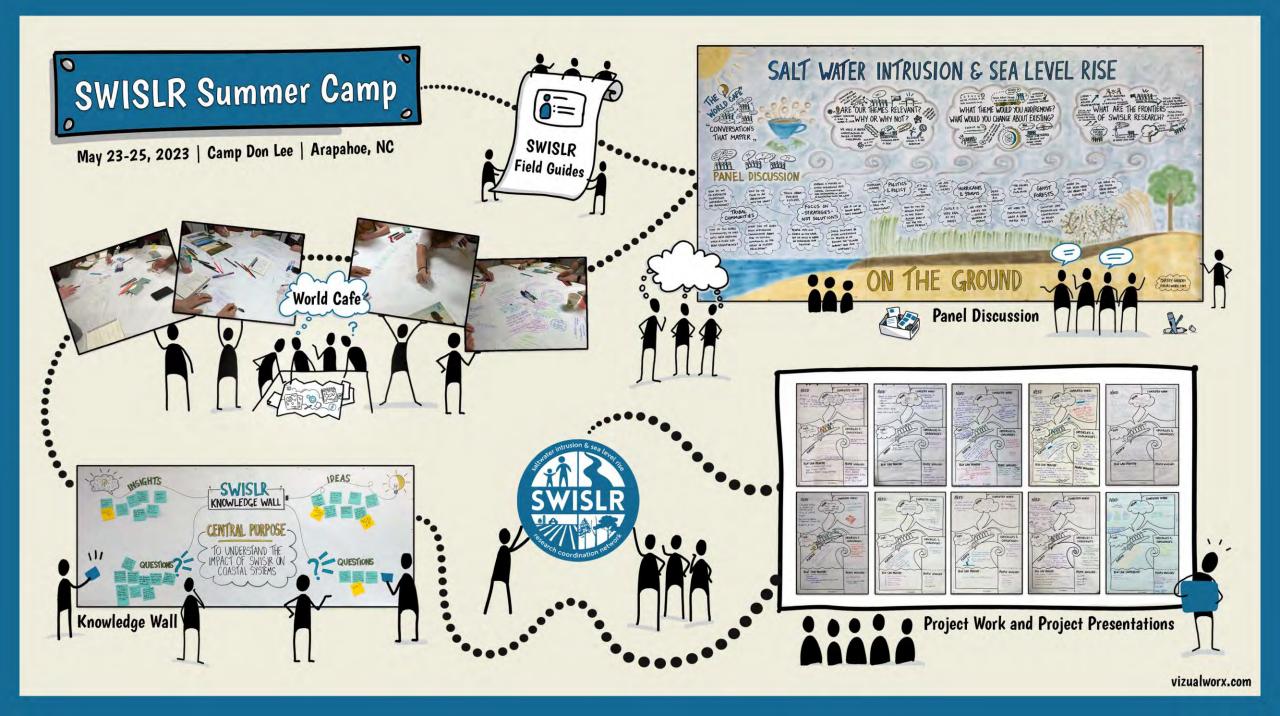


- Academic/ Research Institution
- State/ Federal Agency
- NGO
- Extention
- Community

# **RCN** Theme Participants



- Theme 1 Theme 2
- Theme 3 Theme 4
- Theme 5 Theme 6







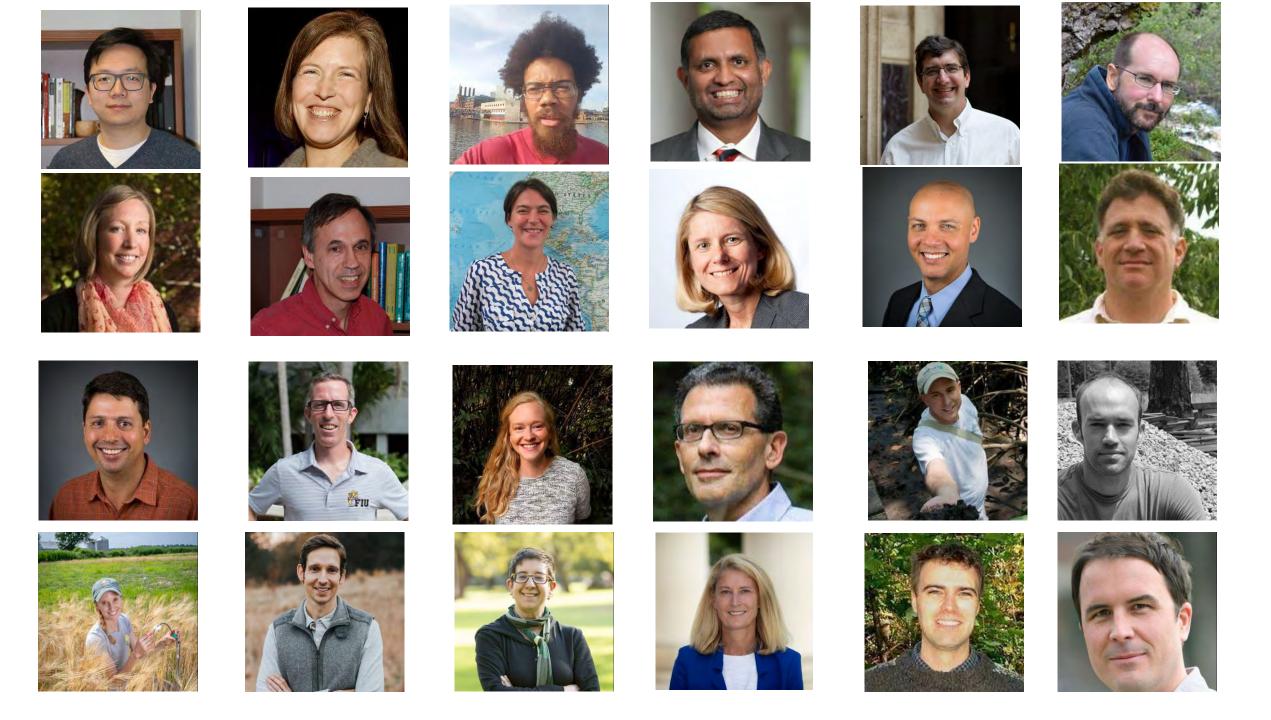


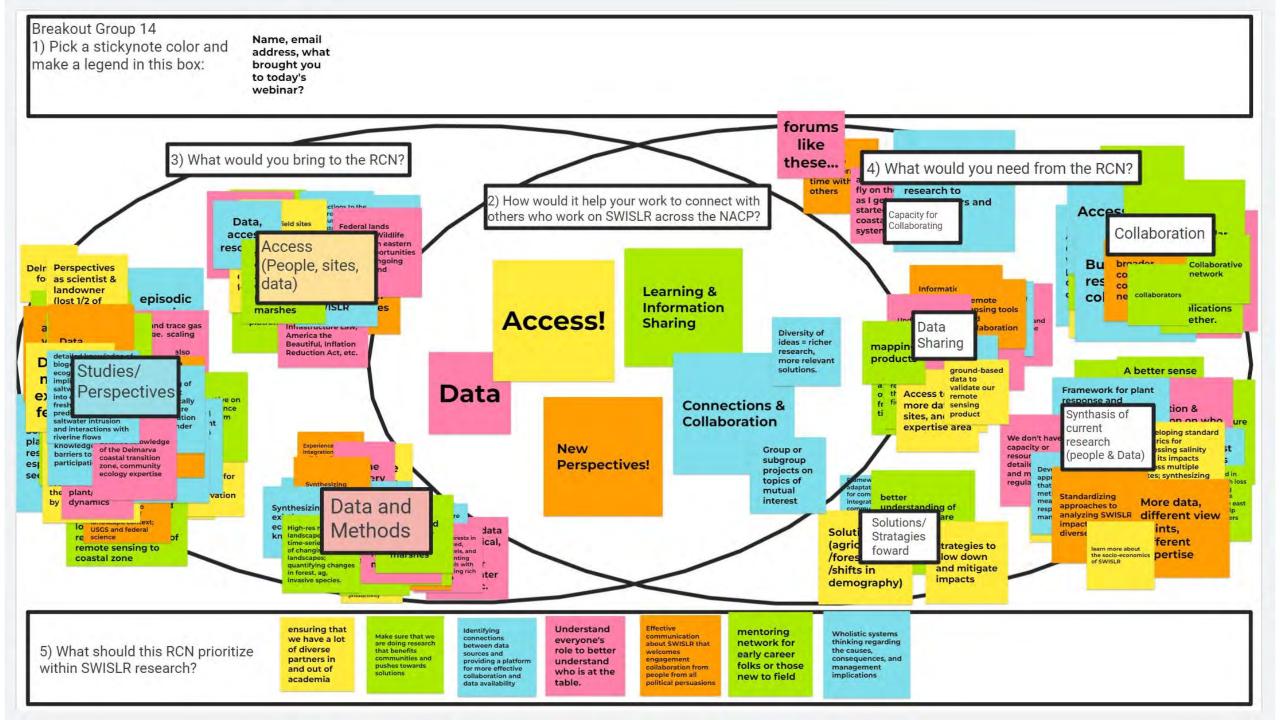


Let's Talk about SWISLR!

















## How did this project come about??

- 2016 NC Sea Grant VCAPS Project
- 2018 Identified in Policy via the Town Comprehensive Plan Rewrite
- 2020 Identified as a strategy in the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Board of Commissioners Support via CIP
- 2020 Grant Application NFWF



# Estuarine Shoreline Management Plan Project GOALS Identify priority sites and strategies to protect the estuarine shoreline

- Build public awareness of estuarine shoreline loss and its causes and consequences
- Describe legal and permitting barriers and pathways to implementation
- Preserve recreational access to the sound

- Public Input
- Public Education
- Project Partners
- Engineering & Modeling
- Site Selection
- Site-specific Design Solutions
- Visualization & Final Plan
- Legal & Permitting Analysis
- Implementation



#### **Public Input and Public Education**

- Public Survey of the Wider Community
- Local Advisory Committee 5 total meetings
- Public Meeting/Workshop to collect feedback
- Webpage and Social media
- Stakeholder interviews



#### Partners!

- ECU Coastal Studies Institute
- **NC Coastal Federation**
- The Nature Conservancy
- **NC State Parks**
- **Dare County**

#### **Consultant Team**

- **Biohabitats**
- Moffat Nichol



#### **Engineering Analysis**

- WEMo Wave Exposure Model
- **Shoreline Erosion**
- **Shoreline Condition**
- Generates wave heights and frequencies for predictable events and exceptional storms





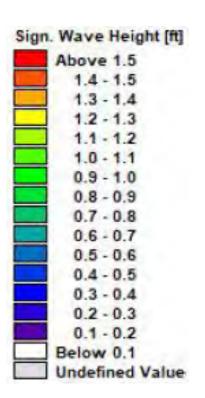


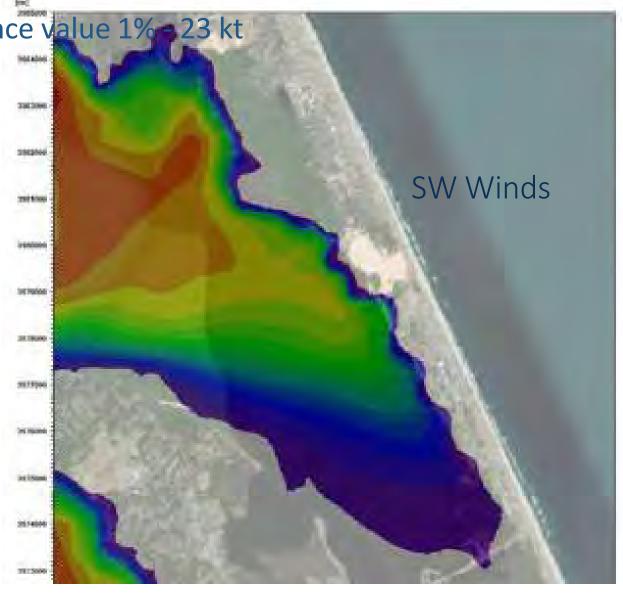
NAGS HEAD ESTUARINE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### **Engineering Analysis**

 Significant Wave Height (Hs) for SW wind direction and 10% exceedance value 1% 23 kt

• Exceedance = the chance a value will be exceeded within a certain time







#### Nags Head Estuarine Management Plan

#### LIVING SHORELINE WITH BREAKWATER PROTECTION





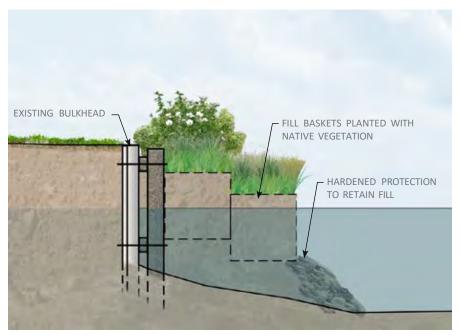


#### APPROPRIATE EXISTING TYPOLOGIES

- Exposed, Solid Bulkhead Structures with Low Marsh Zone
- Exposed, Failing, Vegetated Banks
- Exposed Salt & Brackish-Water Marshes
- Exposed, Low Banks & Beaches



#### GREEN BULKHEAD ENHANCEMENTS



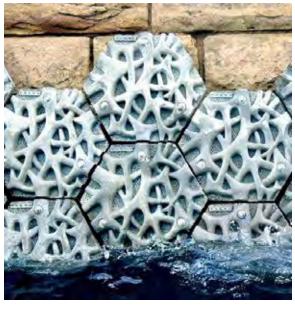






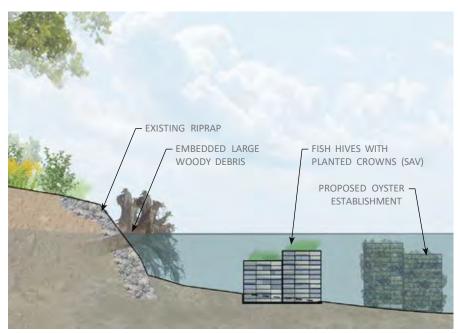
#### APPROPRIATE EXISTING TYPOLOGIES

- Sheltered, Solid Bulkhead Structures
- Sheltered Riprap
- Sheltered, Vegetative Low Banks
- Sheltered, Scrub-Shrub/Wetlands
- Exposed, Solid Bulkhead Structures
- Exposed Riprap





#### EMBEDDED LWD HABITAT & BREAKWATERS





- Exposed Riprap
- Exposed, Failing, Vegetated Banks
- Exposed Salt & Brackish-Water Marshes
- Exposed, Low Bank and Beaches







#### **RESILIENCY TERRACES**







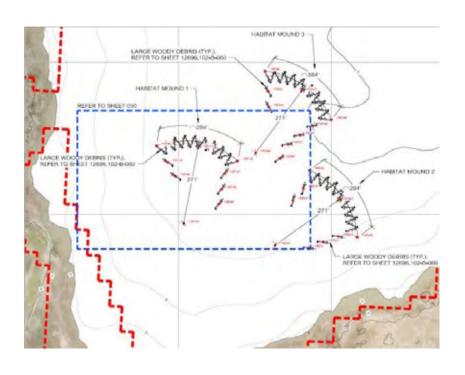


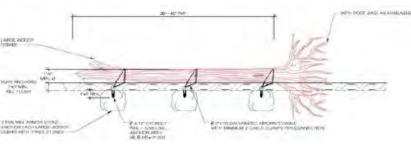
#### APPROPRIATE EXISTING TYPOLOGIES

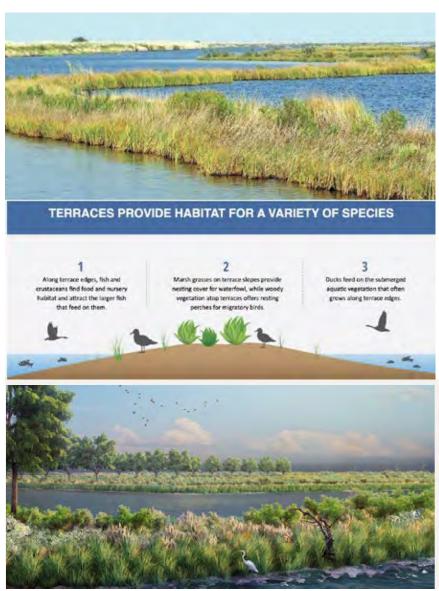
- Exposed Riprap
- Exposed Solid Bulkhead Structures with Low Marsh Zone
- Exposed, Failing, Vegetated Banks
- Exposed Salt & Brackish-Water Marshes
- Exposed Low Bank and Beaches



#### OPEN WATER DESIGN STRATEGIES







Images courteous of the City of Virginia Beach & Ducks Unlimited



#### SITE SELECTION RATIONALE

#### OWNERSHIP & ACCESS

Range of Ownership Types

Recreation & Visitor Access

Partnership Potential

#### **EROSION HISTORY**

Areas of Concern -Repetitive Loss Areas

Areas of Concern -High Erosion Rates Enhance Areas of Deposition?

#### INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Areas of Concern - Proactive Protection of Threatened Infrastructure Future Threats

#### SITE SIZE - PROJECT IMPACT

Larger Continous Site, Pilot Projects

Larger Project Benefits

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Financing &

Timelines

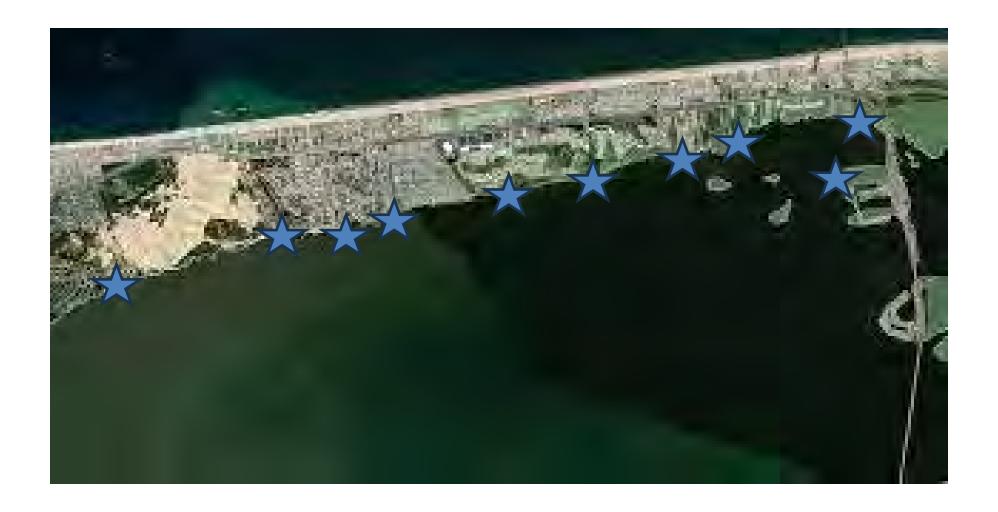
Process

Permitting

Investment Options



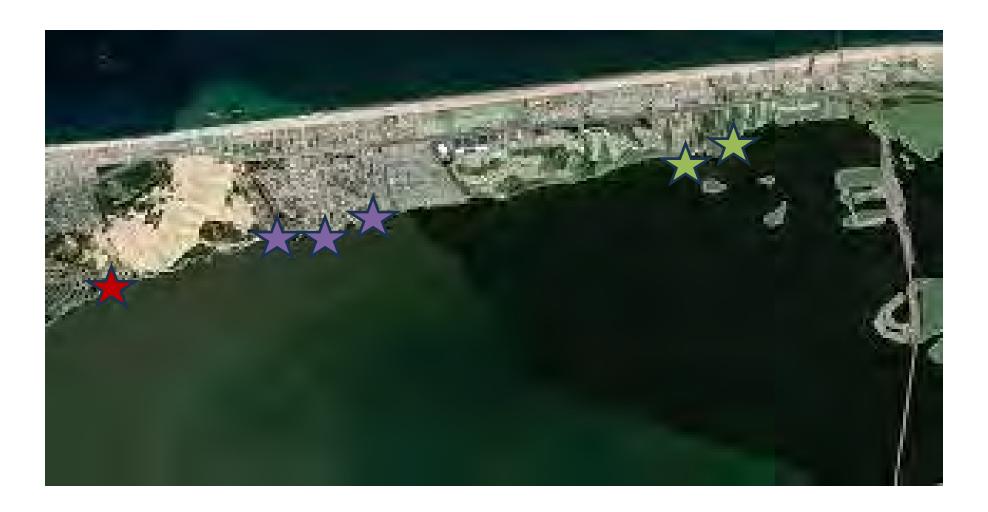
SITE SELECTION - 10 Sites





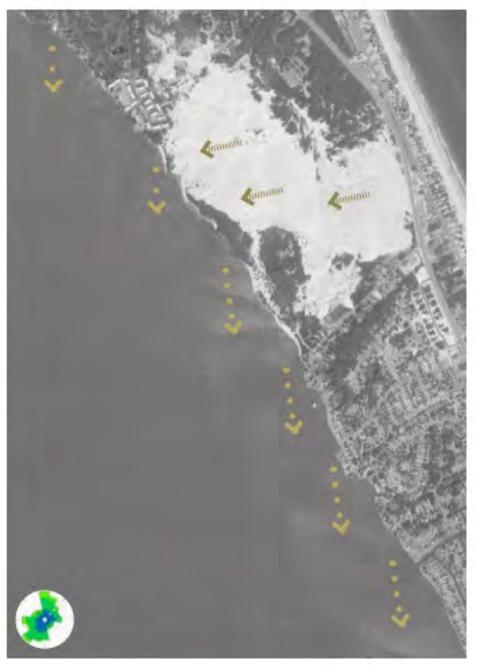


SITE SELECTION — Final Three Sites



SITE SELECTION — Final 3
Sites

Waves of Sand Present an Opportunity





HARDENED FRONT EDGE
TO ATTENUATE INCOMING
WAVE ENERGY

LOW MARSH

AREA FILLED BEHIND
BREAKWATER TO BE PLANTED
WITH MARSH VEGETATION

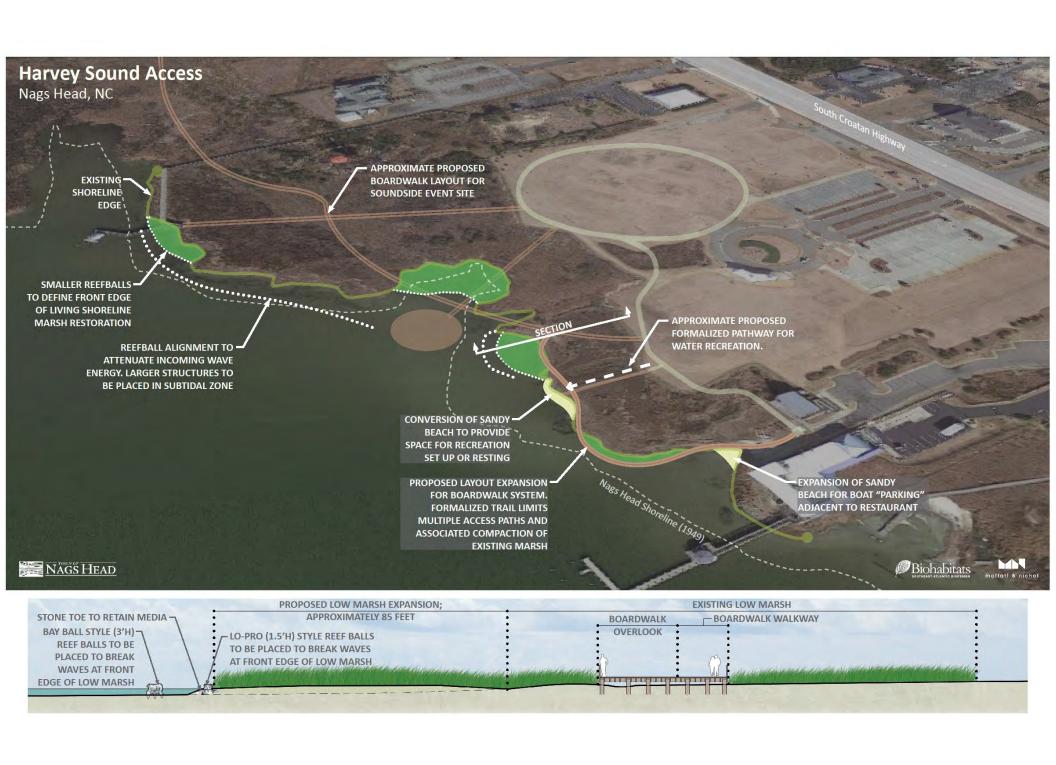
WATERWARD EXTENTS OF
HISTORIC SHORELINE (1949)

LOW MARSH

APPROXIMATELY 62 FEET;
DISTANCE VARIES ALONG SHORELINE

APPROXIMATELY 62 FEET;
DISTANCE VARIES ALONG SHORELINE







#### SHORELINE STABILIZATION PERMITTING CATEGORIES

#### GENERAL PERMITS (GP)

- Issued by DCM field staff and are streamlined major permits for routine projects (permit issuance averages 5-14 days)
  - Limited to 30' past normal high water or 5' past existing wetlands, whichever is greater
  - Cannot exceed 1' above normal high water
  - Slope cannot exceed 1.5' horizontal distance over a 1' vertical rise
  - Max length 500' with a 5' openings every 100', max base width of 12'
  - Must be marked for navigational purposes
  - Cannot construct over existing SAV or oyster beds
  - No associated backfill

#### MAJOR PERMITS

• Reviewed by 10 state & 4 federal agencies and are issued at the Division headquarters (permit issuance averages 75-90 days)

#### MINOR PERMITS/EXEMPTIONS

• Special circumstances such as maintenance/post- storm repairs, etc.

Shoreline Management Technique	Additional Information	Permitting*
Living Shorelines	Allows natural connections between aquatic environment and adjacent upland; preserves tidal exchange, sediment conservation, allows for marsh migration.     Need for public demonstration project so public can access.     Best for medium/low energy shorelines.	General Permit  O Streamlined permits for routine projects. O Issued by DCM field staff O Permit issuance averages 5-14 days.  Examples: riprap revetment for wetland protection, riprap sill for wetland enhancement.
Bulkheads/Sea Wall	Hard armoring of the shoreline. A wall is created at the upland/marsh or upland/water interface and backfilled to raise upland. Holds the shoreline, keeping it static and may be good fit for high wave energy. Can cause erosion on subject and neighboring properties. Disrupt sediment movement and transport patterns.	General Permit  O Streamlined permits for routine projects. O Issued by DCM field staff. O Permit issuance averages 5-14 days.
More complex projects that trigger additional permits	Serves as the application for other state and federal permits. The dredging and filling of water and/or wetlands fall into this category. DCM will issue a major permit if the project complies with the CRC's standards for development in AECs, the local CAMA land use plan, and local development regulation.	Major Permit  O NC DCM CAMA Major Permit.  O Permit application reviewed by 10 state and 4 federal agencies, involves DCM and USACE permit coordination. DCM provides coordination with other agencies on behalf of the applicant.  O USACE can use their <u>USACE</u> <u>Programmatic General Permit</u> 291 for CAMA Major Permits. Permit issuance averages 75-90 days.

General Permit Application Requirements	Major Permit Application Requirements	
Neighbor notifications     Permit fee (\$200)	O Adjacent property owner notifications Deed (or other legal instrument) Surveyed and Engineered drawings NOT required; can be hand drawn but must be able to clearly photocopy, preferable to scale or with dimensions shown  O Top view drawing (site plan) Cross section drawing Application forms (MP-1 and MP-2) Permit fee (\$400) (disturbance is less than 1.0 acre)	
General Permit Conditions (LS)	Major Permit Conditions	
O Limited to 30' past Normal High Water (NHW) or 5' past existing wetlands O Cannot exceed 1' above NHW O Max length 500' with 5' openings every 100', max base width of 12' O Marked for navigational purposes O Cannot construct over existing SAV or Oyster beds O No associated backfill	o Project approval depends on a range of site specific factors including but not limited to; o Submerged Aquatic Vegetation impacts o Bottom type (mud or sand bottom) o Shellfish status o Navigational impacts o Wetland impacts	

# Thank You Questions?

# Town of Nags Head Estuarine Management Plan Website for Updates

