

Soundings

Newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)

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Director's Note

Greetings!

I would like to thank Environmental Protection Agency representatives Marilyn Katz and Steve Blackburn and Dr. Curtis Bohlen, director of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, for their efforts in conducting our program site visit last month. Our staff and policy board members enjoyed sharing some of our accomplishments over the past three years and a few of the diverse natural areas that our program area has to offer.

This month's newsletter articles focus on the outstanding efforts of many program partners in the region. I hope you enjoy reading their stories. We thank our partners for their excellent work protecting our natural resources. Without their help, none of our successes would be possible.

-Bill Crowell, APNEP Director

APNEP's Citizens' Monitoring Network is now on Facebook



If you are already a fan of APNEP on Facebook, just click on the CMN icon under page favorites to view and become a fan of the CMN. For information about how to volunteer with the CMN, visit <http://www.apnep.org> and click on the volunteer icon.

Upcoming Events

June

6 – Watershed & Rivers Day, Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable, Blackwater Boat Landing, Franklin, VA.

18 – Fish Printing (bring your own t-shirt), Roanoke/Cashie River Center, Windsor, N.C.

25 – Photography Class for Children (\$2), Estuarium, Washington, N.C.

26 - Kids Paddle on the Cashie (12 & Older), Roanoke/Cashie River Center

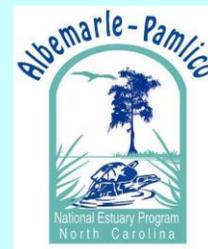
30 – APNEP Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting, Greenville, N.C.

July

3 – N.C. State Holiday, APNEP Offices Closed

13-17 – Teacher Institute, Beaufort, N.C. (See May 2009 Newsletter for Details)

22 – APNEP Science & Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, Greenville, N.C.



Visit the calendar at www.apnep.org for more detailed event information.

APNEP Science & Technology: Partnership Initiatives

The Department of Defense's Coastal/Estuarine Research Program

is located at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. The primary purpose of this program is to enhance and sustain the military's mission by developing an understanding of coastal/estuarine ecosystem composition, structure and function within the context of a military training environment. APNEP's program scientist Dean Carpenter serves on the program's regional coordinating committee. Implementing this program successfully will foster an improved understanding of Camp Lejeune's biologically diverse ecosystems and their interactions with military training activities, which will assist with long-term management decisions. Although the New River Basin study area is just outside our program's southern border the investigation should provide science & technology insights that can be applied in our region.

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune



For more information, visit:
<https://dcerp.rti.org/>

N.C. Division of Emergency Management: Sea Level Rise Risk Management Study

Because North Carolina has been defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as one of three states with significant vulnerability to sea level rise, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriation Act (P.L. 110-329), provided the state with funding for a risk assessment and mitigation strategy demonstrating the potential impacts of sea level rise associated with long-term climate change. This risk management study will be a collaboration of state and federal agencies, universities, research institutes, stakeholder associations, and the private businesses with a vested interest in the potential impacts of sea level rise and associated increased flooding in the state. A two-day study scoping workshop was held on April 2-3 in Cary to kick off the study. The purpose of the workshop was to present the initial draft study plan, solicit input from participants into the study scope and objectives and initiate study work groups. APNEP staff supported this effort by participating in the scoping workshop.

For more information and to read the report generated from the scoping workshop, visit:
<http://www.ncsealevelrise.com/>

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

This March, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) formally took effect with the signature of the final party to its Memorandum of Understanding. ACFHP aims to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fish species through the coast wide collaborative efforts of its partners. ACFHP's partners include the 16 state natural resource agencies managing Atlantic coastal river drainage systems, federal natural resource agencies, the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and several non-governmental organizations.



For more information, contact Emily Greene at
egreene@asmfc.org



What is a Fish Hatchery?

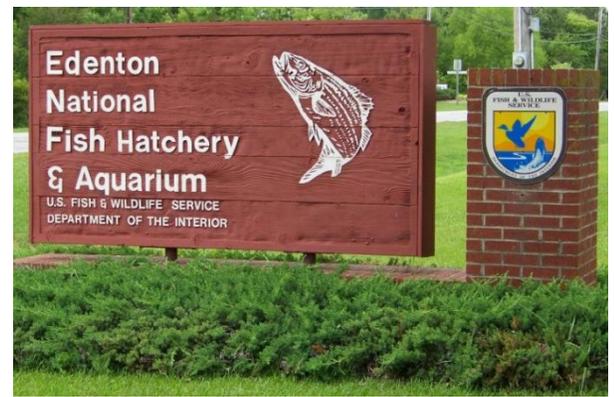
National Fish Hatcheries (NFH) play an important role in managing our fishery resources: raising fish that are stocked in public waters for public use and restoration. Edenton is home to a 63 acre NFH started in 1898 and managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or USFWS.

One of the current programs at Edenton NFH focuses on restoring interjurisdictional fish including Atlantic striped bass and American shad. Because these fish move across local, state and sometimes national boundaries, concern for their well being is a major USFWS priority. Edenton NFH produces more than 200,000 large striped bass for this effort each year, and bass raised in Edenton have been found from Cape Hatteras to New England. Each year, nearly 3 million American Shad are stocked in the Roanoke River by Edenton NFH in an effort to re-establish severely diminished wild populations.

Another function of Edenton NFH is to quickly restore fish populations impacted by natural and manmade disasters. In addition, the Hatchery provides management assistance to National Wildlife Refuges in State Waters and assists with restoration of declining river herring populations.

Edenton NFH is also a stop on the Charles Kuralt Nature Trail and the N.C. Birding Trail. Many species of birds including osprey, wading birds, shorebirds and the occasional bald eagle can be viewed from the hatchery's raised boardwalk.

For more information, call (252) 482-4118 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/edenton/>



Climate Change Adaptation Project: Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Duke Energy Gives \$1 Million in Support

Climate change threatens decades of conservation work in northeastern North Carolina. The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other partners have protected 540,000 acres of land in the region. Thanks to \$1 million gift from Duke Energy, the Nature Conservancy will begin a pilot project on climate change adaptation at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge this spring. Adaptation strategies will include planting species highly tolerant to salt water, restoring the hydrology to maintain freshwater wetland buffers and limit salt water intrusion, and constructing oyster reefs to absorb wave activity. The project will also explore the role of the land in carbon sequestration. The peat deposits on the Albemarle Peninsula are some of the nation's largest and serve as an important reservoir of carbon trapped in the soil. This project will examine the impacts of conservation efforts on protecting existing carbon in the soil and of planting trees and herbaceous species to sequester new carbon. Brian Bouton has been hired as project director, and the Conservancy is assembling a scientific advisory committee.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nature.org/northcarolina>





APNEP News in Brief:

Request for Proposals: N.C. Coastal Recreational Fishing License

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are issuing a request for proposals for consideration of funding from the Marine Resources Fund, which is made up of proceeds from the sale of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License. Proposals must be submitted by 5 p.m. July 31.

For more information, visit

<http://www.ncfisheries.net/CRFL/>

Sea Level Rise Simulations Now Available Online

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released a new user-friendly internet tool that allows the public to view simulations of sea level rise. The Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model, or SLAMM, is a web browser-based application that displays map pairs of the same area, each at different sea levels. The strength of this tool is its ability to visually show the modeling of sea level rise predictions, allowing people to see the impacts in a more intuitive way.

To access the SLAMM view tool, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/slamm/>

East Carolina University Publications: Sea Level Rise in N.C.

Stan Riggs and colleagues at East Carolina University have put together a series of brochures explaining and illustrating coastal problems facing N.C. These brochures can be downloaded from the N.C. Coastal Hazards Decision Portal at:

www.coastal.geology.ecu.edu/NCCOHAZ

North Carolina's Coasts in Crisis: A Vision for the Future by S. R. Riggs, et al.

Past, Present and Future Inlets of the Outer Banks Barrier Islands, North Carolina
by David J. Mallinson, et al.

Shoreline change within the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System, North Carolina
by D. Reide Corbett, et al.

Environmental Education Contests Surfsweets Art Contest



Surf Sweets is hosting an art contest for kids age 5-13 in celebration of World Ocean Day on June 8th. Show "Why I Love the Ocean" through your artwork, and you could win tickets to your local aquarium, museum, or zoo; a year's supply of SurfSweets; and other great prizes. The deadline is June 20.

Intelligent Use of Water Film Competition



The 2009 Intelligent Use of Water™ Film Competition is now accepting entries. To enter, create a short film about using water wisely. You'll be eligible for a cash prize of up to \$6,000 and could be among a handful of finalists invited to a special screening of the finalist videos this fall in Los Angeles. The deadline is Aug. 15.

Families Gone Wild

Barbara's Bakery offers Families Gone Wild. Submit a photo or video taken at a national wildlife refuge along with a brief write-up of your experience. The winner will be determined in a random drawing and will receive a 6 day/5 night trip for four to Alaska. The deadline is Aug. 24.

More Info on all contests at: <http://bit.ly/xlN6M>

APNEP Profile on WiserEarth

APNEP is now connected to 46 other organizations on WiserEarth.org. Wiser Earth is "an online community space connecting the people, nonprofits and businesses working toward a just and sustainable world."

www.wiserearth.org



Connecting You to Communities of Action

