



#### A note from the President

One of the joys of working at Restore America's Estuaries is the opportunity to travel across the country and feel the commitment of so many people to our coasts, bays, and estuaries. This work spans connecting tidal flow to marshes, restoring cranberry bogs to wetlands, helping a low-resource community develop plans to address flooding, and creating opportunities for the next generation of practitioners to join our events and feel a sense of community that we all cherish. It's very easy to focus on the differences across our country, but also inspiring to see the shared commitment to our coastal resources whether you are fisher, bird watcher, beachcomber, farmer, or longshoreman. These are resources for all people, and together we can work to protect and restore them.

2024 was a year of growth and significant milestones for Restore America's Estuaries. We hosted our 12th Coastal & Estuarine Summit, we expanded our grant program to restore and protect more of our coasts than ever before, and we forged new partnerships with federal partners. These achievements and many more could not have been done without the hard work of RAE's incredible staff, our network of members, partners, and funders, and the support of professionals and communities across the country working with us to make our coasts safer, more inclusive, and healthier.

As the hosts of the 2024 Coastal & Estuarine Summit, RAE was proud to bring together a wide range of passionate experts for five days full of sessions, workshops, lunch programming, field sessions, and networking opportunities. This year's Summit asked us to "Capitalize on Our Coasts" in order to solve some of the most pressing issues facing coastal and estuarine communities while reminding us that these ecosystems are also economic engines that can offer much in return if they remain healthy.

In addition to the over 1,100 professional that participated in the Summit, we were also honored to have received support from more than 55 sponsors and exhibitors which allowed us to grow the agenda to include more than 600 presenters and more than 100 sessions. The Summit also hosted more than 120 poster presenters and with the help of our sponsors we were able to provide financial support for more than 25 early career professionals and people from traditionally underrepresented communities to attend.

RAE continues to grow by partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate a new grant program: the Great Lake Environmental Justice Grant Program. This program marks the largest investment in RAE's history for the Great Lakes Region and expands the benefits of healthy estuaries and coasts. In the Long Island region, the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund announced the first-ever round of grants in the program's history, bringing underserved communities in Connecticut and New York closer to their water.

As the challenges we faced this year will continue to grow and change, so too must we adapt our strategies for protecting our coasts and the people who live there. In addition to encouraging a greater focus and investment in coastal restoration to mitigate storm damage, RAE also envisions a more inclusive environment where resources and funding are more equitably distributed to protect and support all members of the coastal community.

2024 has been a year of growth for Restore America's Estuaries. All of us at RAE look forward to carrying that momentum into 2025 and beyond. With our newest federal grant program, connections forged at our biennial Coastal & Estuarine Summit, the passage of vital legislation, and the continued support of the coastal conservation networks, RAE is excited to advance thriving coasts and thriving coastal communities in 2025.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hayden
President & CEO
Restore America's Estuaries

#### Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation.

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national leader in coastal restoration and protection, practitioner education and advocacy. Our local projects restore coastal wetlands, open fish passages, remove invasive species, engage communities, and build organizational capacity. We advance the science and practice of habitat restoration through high-level meetings, technical exchanges and our biennial RAE Coastal & Estuarine Summit. As a leader in coastal issues, we advocate for coastal communities through engagement with Congress and the federal administration.

#### RAE Staff

Thomas Ardito- SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant Program Director

Shahela Begum- Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Program Director

Daniel Hayden - President and CEO

Lisette Perez- Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program Associate

Undria Polley- Grant Administrator

Jesús Sánchez- Great Lakes Environmental Justice Program Director

Suzanne Simon- NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program Director

Karen Estella Smith-Program Associate

Lance Speidell- Senior Director of Development

Hilary Stevens- Coastal Resilience Senior Manager

Brad Williamson- Government Affairs and Communications Manager

#### **Member Organizations**





















## 2024 COASTAL & ESTUARINE SUMMIT

The Coastal & Estuarine Summit is a chance for the coast community to come together celebrate our accomplishments, share lessons and make plans to protect and restore our coasts and coastal communities

This year's Summit took place over five days of featuring 100 sessions led by 600 unique speakers, covering a range of scientific, engineering, policy, advocacy, and education backgrounds. Over 500 unique organizations were in attendance solidifying the Coastal & Estuarine Summit as one of the largest gatherings of leaders in coastal conservation.

The Summit's theme of 'Capitalizing on Our Coasts' was emphasized throughout the week to remind attendees, that while our coasts need our protection, they offer countless benefits in return. Throughout the discussions, the impending landfall of Hurricane Milton remained an ongoing topic that impacted attendance and gave speakers and discussants a timely proof point of how extreme weather caused by climate change impacts their work.





4 Interactive Workshops



110 Program Sessions

















57 Sponsors



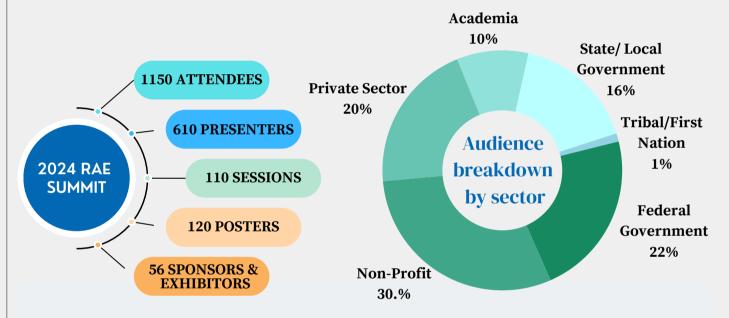


# 2024 COASTAL & ESTUARINE SUMMIT

#### By the numbers



92% attendees reported the program quality as good or excellent



The engagement with partners at this Summit provides literally millions of dollars in potential project collaborations. This one of the best factors of this conference every time.

-Kent Smith, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Plenary panel discussion on the Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

#### THANKS TO OUR SUMMIT SPONSORS

**LEAD SPONSOR** 



EXECUTIVE SPONSOR



#### The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS























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Department of Defense's Readiness Freese and Nichols and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

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#### **BLUE CARBON**

Blue Carbon National Working Group- RAE is proud to facilitate a national working group, connecting a nationwide network of blue carbon experts in science, engineering, and policy. In May 2024, 66 members of this group joined RAE and PEW at a hands-on meeting to discuss the future of blue carbon. The group spent a day touring the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD where they visited the projects underway designed to further our understanding of how blue carbon can be harnessed.



Blue carbon working group members visit ongoing experiments at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

**Talking Blue Carbon with CEQ-** RAE and our partners met with staff from the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology to provide updates on the latest in blue carbon including legislation proposed by Representatives Bonamici, Posey, and Meyer that would strengthen communities' abilities to protect blue carbon ecosystems.



Members of the blue carbon working group at PEW Headquarters in Washington D.C.

# RAE Enters into New Partnership with US Army Corps

Closing out the final day of the Summit, RAE was excited to formally announce a new partnership with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Engineering With Nature (EWN) initiative. To advance RAE and EWN's mutual goal of advancing nature-based solutions, this partnership will disseminate knowledge and foster collaborative opportunities across federal,

state and local governments, the private sector, NGOs and academic institutions.



#### LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

RAE continues to be a vocal advocate in our nation's capital for estuaries by working with champions in Congress and the Administration to secure victories and educate decision-makers on the importance of estuaries.

Coastal Habitat Conservation Act - A long standing priority for RAE, H.R.2950 was signed by President Biden in December 2024. The bill solidifies the importance of the USFWS Coastal Program's mission to protect habitats, communities, and ecosystems along the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and in the Caribbean by reauthorizing the program for the next 4 years.

#### Congressional Estuaries Caucus- Led by

Representatives Mast, Bonamici, Larsen, and Posey, the Congressional Estuaries Caucus represents coastal communities throughout the country. To support their mission, RAE and our partners arranged Congressional staff kayaking through Jug Bay for Congressional staff to visit Jug BayWetland Sancutary, a tribute of Chesapeake Bay to connect with nature and learn more about the work that federal dollars fund in their backyards.

National Estuaries Week- Federal lawmakers have demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving estuaries by officially designating September 21-28 as National Estuaries Week through resolutions passed in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate resolution, led by Senators Cassidy and Whitehouse, garnered support from 29 bipartisan Senators. In the House, the resolution was championed by the co-chairs of the Congressional Estuaries Caucus— Representatives Bonamici, Larsen, Mast, and Posey alongside 17 bipartisan Representatives, recognizing the vital importance of our bays, coasts, sounds, and estuaries.



RAE President Daniel Hayden Speaks at the National Estuaries Week Reception





Attendees learn more about migrating birds nesting in the region.



RAE President Daniel Hayden and NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Janet Coit

#### **INCLUSIVE COASTS INITIATIVE**

In 2019, Restore America's Estuaries updated its strategic plan to include a new core pillar explicitly focused on the need to change and expand how estuary and coastal conservation is practiced: We aim to engage a broader, more inclusive community to increase the scale of our efforts and achieve big wins that lead to healthy and resilient bays and estuaries. To achieve this vision, RAE launched the Inclusive Coasts Initiative, with the help of the National Science Foundation.

The Inclusive Coasts Initiative's Communities of Practice (CoPs) had a transformative year in 2024, bringing together environmental professionals to instill purpose and engage a broader more inclusive community. From January to October, 22 meetings provided opportunities for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and peer support, focusing on three groups: Community Engagement, Program Management, and Restoration Professionals.

The CoPs held 10 meetings for Community Engagement Professionals, 7 for Program Managers, and 5 for Restoration Professionals. Participants represented various organizations, including non-profits, government agencies such as NOAA and EPA, academic institutions, and corporate sustainability teams. These diverse voices enriched discussions and fostered cross-sector collaboration.

Meetings featured open discussions, case studies, and peer-led learning, offering participants the chance to explore strategies, share challenges, and build partnerships. Topics frequently included inclusive outreach, BIPOC-led projects, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In October, two new CoPs were announced for 2025: the BIPOC Environmental Professionals Network, providing a dedicated space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and the Environmental Action & Engagement Professionals Network

#### **Mentorship & Networking**



Participants valued opportunities to connect with peers, share resources, and mentor emerging leaders.

#### Leadership



Sessions highlighted innovative approaches to integrating principles, from inclusive project design to leadership development.

# Collaboration Across Sectors

CoPs created connections between professionals fostering partnerships to address shared goals.

#### **Looking Ahead**

In 2025, CoPs will continue to provide spaces to address challenges in environmental work, including laws and regulations that may impact outreach efforts. The Inclusive Coasts Initiative remains steadfast in supporting partners and the communities it serves while driving equity and justice in the environmental sector.







#### **GRANT PROGRAMS**

Working with public and private sector partners, RAE funds on-the-ground restoration to better protect communities from flooding, improve water quality by mitigating pollution, protect blue carbon ecosystems, and construct living shorelines. We also support innovative research and community-led programs that engage diverse audiences with the goal of improving our knowledge and understanding of the valuable ecosystem, economic, and cultural services healthy estuaries provide. RAE is leading initiatives to break down barriers to entry for traditionally marginalized communities.

#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Restore America's Estuaries Selected to Administer Great Lakes **Restoration Grant Program by EPA**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office announced the selection of Restore America's Estuaries to receive nearly \$20 million to develop and implement grants and training that, with the support of Great Lakes partners, will serve the entire Great Lakes Basin.



#### Restore America's Estuaries Renews Partnership with The Scotts **Miracle-Gro Foundation**

As part of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation's National Water Stewardship Partnership, RAE, Tampa Bay Watch, the Galveston Bay Foundation, the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay received \$320,000 in grants to administer programs that educate about the importance of coastal regions.



#### Senator Jack Reed Announces \$11.5 Million for Southeast New **England Program**

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP), funded by Congress and managed by the EPA, announced \$11.5 million in grants and technical assistance for high-priority environmental projects in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. This includes \$1.5 million in SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG) managed by Restore America's Estuaries (RAE).



April

**June** 

12

30





#### 2024 GRANT-MAKING AT A GLANCE



Programs Administered



Community Partners



Million Dollars in Grants



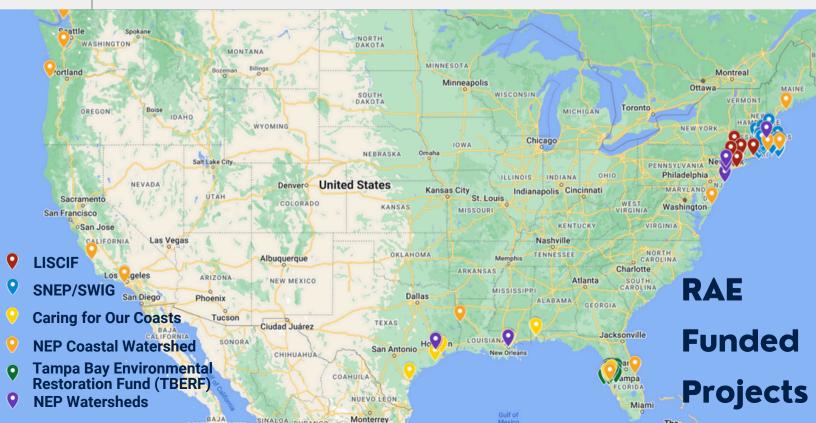


States with Projects





Full Time Staff



#### GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

RAE is delighted to partner with EPA to launch our newest grant program: The Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program. This presents an exciting opportunity to bring our grant-making capabilities to this stunning region and to further our mission of connecting communities to their waterways.

The Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program will distribute over \$10 million in competitive grants over four years while providing technical support, capacity-building building opportunities, and facilitating collaboration among awardees and key stakeholders to advance environmental justice in the region.

With Program Director Jesús Sánchez and Program Associate Lissette Perez in place, Restore America's Estuaries is well-positioned to advance the objectives of the Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program. Furthermore, Junction Coalition, a key partner in this initiative, will play an instrumental role in executing program deliverables. Junction Coalition will collaborate closely with RAE to address community priorities, enhance environmental justice initiatives, and drive meaningful outcomes.

The program will officially announce the opening of the Letter of Intent submission period in **April 2025**.





Eligible Projects to receive funding under this program include:

Fostering diverse, balanced, and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.



Prevent and control invasive species and manage their pathways in Great Lakes ecosystems.



Plan, design, and implement projects to reduce non-point source pollution (e.g., agricultural and stormwater runoff).



Restore habitats and enhance ecosystem resilience.



Provide hands-on environmental education about Great Lakes ecosystems to the next generation



#### NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM WATERSHEDS GRANTS

\$2.4 M 50 \$17.9 M \$11.1 M

Ongoing Projects Budgeted for Grants

LOIs Submitted

Requested Over the Grant In Nonfederal Match Cycle

Proposed

Restore America's Estuaries, in close coordination and with financial support from EPA, administers this nationally competitive grants program to support projects that address urgent, emerging, and challenging issues threatening the well-being of estuaries within the 28 NEP boundary areas. Projects range in size, variety, and geography and include invasive species eradication, urban living shorelines installation, spring restoration, stormwater mitigation, shellfish reef restoration, marsh restoration, coastal forest restoration...and much more!

Project Spotlight: In the heart of Houston, TX, the Houston Parks Board is creating or restoring eight pockets of wetland and grassland habitats along four major tributaries to Galveston Bay. Doing so will help improve critical habitats in the watershed and help mitigate stormwater runoff, making the surrounding communities more resilient in the face of increasingly powerful storms.



Houston Parks Board NEP Watershed Grant Wetland Project

#### NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM COASTAL WATERSHEDS GRANTS

\$3.1 M

\$65.8 M

**Ongoing Projects** 

**Budgeted for Grants** 

Requested over the Grant Cycles

Restore America's Estuaries, in close coordination and with financial support from EPA, administers this grants program to address urgent, emerging, and challenging issues in and around the 28 NEP sites. Projects occur all around the coasts and vary widely in type, including shellfish restoration, nutrient reduction, marsh restoration, planning and design projects, and much more!

Project Spotlight: Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences is in the process of testing the waters and sediments of Casco Bay, ME to determine extent of PFAS (so called "forever chemicals") to determine its extent and sources, with the ultimate goal of informing next steps related to policy and management. Substantial gaps still occur in our collective understanding of these chemicals in estuarine environments, so this effort will provide critical information not only for Casco Bay, but also for other estuaries. As PFAS are found in almost half the tap water in the US according to a 2023 study, this research has the possibility to impact not just Maine, but the entire water cycle.

#### LONG ISLAND SOUND COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

24 \$1.9 M 35 \$2.5 M

Ongoing Projects Budgeted for Grants LOIs Submitted R

Requested over Grant Cycles

LISCIF Subawardee Bronx River Alliance Gives Group Tour of Urban Edible Forrest

The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund aims to build capacity for organizations located in communities affected by disproportionate environmental and human health risks. The Fund seeks to provide technical assistance for organizations in historically underserved areas and support proposals which ultimately improve access to the Long Island Sound, while reducing overall environmental health risks.

Project tackle a variety of challenges including:

- Pollutant prevention or reduction.
- Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LISS.
- Fostering a diverse balance and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.
- Public engagement, knowledge and stewardship.
- Enhancing community resilience and sustainability.
- Planning and design that sets the stage for the implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects, and resilience projects.
- Community-based science projects.
- Data management and integration projects.

Project Spotlight: Rocking the Boat Environmental Science and Justice Youth Development Program will engage 48 Bronx high school students annually in hands-on environmental education. Through year-round study of the Bronx River in student-built rowboats, participants gain skills to conduct conservation projects, share environmental knowledge, and explore pathways in environmental fields. As a result of approximately \$54,000 in RAE funding, the program can expand its partnership with local schools and organizations and recruit new students.



LISCIF Subawardee Rocking the Boat Students on the Bronx River



On June 27, 2024, RAE hosted an Annual Learning Exchange in which subawardees, regional community members, organizations, coastal management professionals, and students came together for a knowledge exchange. Eight trainings were provided with topics on: Oyster Recycling & Restoration, Environmental Justice & Stewardship, Green Infrastructure, Water Quality, Volunteer Management, Recordkeeping, Communications, Building a Fundraising Plan. Over 80 attendees were present for this in-person gathering.

#### **SNEP WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANTS**

12 \$2.8 M 32 \$8.7 M

\$750K

**Projects Ongoing** 

**Budgeted for Grants** 

LOIs Submitted Requested over Grants Cycle

In Nonfederal Match Proposed

In 2012, at the direction of Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Southeast New England Program (SNEP), a comprehensive effort to restore and protect the region's coastal waters and watersheds. SNEP works in partnership with stakeholders in these states to promote a resilient ecosystem of clean water, healthy diverse habitats, and sustainable communities in Southeast New England. To help restore clean water and healthy ecosystems to Southeast New England, Restore America's Estuaries launched the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants. With financial support from the EPA, the grants target water

pollution, habitat degradation, and other high-priority environmental issues, to foster watershed communities.

Program Spotlight: Invasive species are plaguing waterways throughout the country and can only be combated through dedicated on-the-ground efforts. In July, volunteers removed more than 700 pounds of invasive water chestnut from the Turner Reservoir along the Rhode Island/Massachusetts border. The

work was funded in part by a \$262,000 SWIG grant in 2022 to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission



Sen. Jack Reed hosts the Rhode Island SWIG grant announcements. Photo courtesy of Sen. Reed.

Michael Soares discusses design considerations at the Windswept Bog restoration site on March 5. Photo by RAE.



Turner Reservoir. Photo courtesy of NEIWPCC.

(NEIWPCC). With SWIG funding, NEIWPCC initiated an interstate effort to coordinate communities, state agencies and local non-profits to address the scourge of water chestnut. Volunteers hand-pull the aquatic weed to control small patches, while larger areas require chemical treatment to kill the plants. In 2024, NEIWPCC received a new grant from SWIG in the amount of \$100,000 to continue this important work.

#### **Program Spotlight:** Windswept Bog Restoration

In 2024, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF) completed the first phase of restoration at Windswept Bog on Nantucket Island. The project is restoring 40 acres of former organic cranberry bog, located within more than 200 acres of protected open space, back to natural, self-sustaining wetlands, as they were before agricultural development. In 2023, RAE awarded a grant of \$255,000 toward the first phase of the project, and in 2024 granted an additional \$200,000 toward the second phase, which will undergo construction in 2025.

#### **CARING FOR OUR COASTS**

14

\$44K

**27** 

\$85K

Ongoing Projects Budgeted for Grants

LOIs Submitted

Requested over Grant Cycles

Restore America's Estuaries is excited to partner with CITGO to facilitate the Caring for our Coast grants to organizations and groups hosting locally-based volunteer events in the Gulf of Mexico region. Now entering its eleventh year, these grants are intended to provide coastal groups with funding for estuary restoration, educational/outreach events, or host beach clean-ups.

**Project Spotlight:** Supported by the Caring for Our Coasts grant, SEED 2.0 enhances coastal restoration and education in Southeast Louisiana while prioritizing communities often left out of the conversation. Key efforts include:

Cypress Restoration: Germinating 1,000+ cypress seeds using innovative methods and potting 1,500 saplings for planting in 2024-2025. Volunteers and students in the Lower 9th Ward gain hands-on experience while advancing restoration knowledge.

Wetland Planting: Partnering with local high schoolers to plant cutgrass and strengthen a restored shoreline, enhancing biodiversity and erosion protection.



L9 Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development

#### TAMPA BAY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FUND

The Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF) was created to fund restoration, applied research, and education initiatives in Tampa Bay and its contributing watershed. TBERF is a competitive grant program that is open to public entities and NGOs with awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000. These projects support habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and environmental education.

TBERF continues to leverage the contributions from partners. Donations for this program come from The Mosaic Company and other private funders, which are matched with support from

Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties in Forida.

This past year, ditch blocks, wet crossings, overflow sills, and management practices for a 380 acer wetland habitat is an example of the hydrologic restoration projects in Hillsborough County, FL that has been supported through this project.



#### **2024 SUPPORTERS**

#### **\$100,000**+

- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

#### **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

- CITGO
- Mosaic
- National Science Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$49,999

- Cheniere Energy
- NOAA Sea Grant
- Stantec
- · The Clayton Fund
- The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
- The Dudley Foundation
- The Ocean Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture -Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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- Cargill Salt
- Coastal Wetlands Planning,
   Protection, and Restoration Act
- Davey Resources Group
- EA Engineering, Science and Technology
- Federal Highway Administration
- Freese & Nichols
- Island Foundation
- LUMCON
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- Reef Ball Foundation/ Reef Innovations
- Safe Harbor Marinas
- Storm Water Systems
- The Pew Charitable Trusts

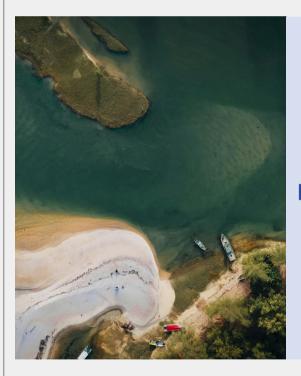
#### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

- American Littoral Society
- AquaTech Eco Consultants
- Association of National Estuary Programs
- Biohabitats
- Coastal Monitoring Alliance
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation
- Compass Ecospatial
- · Daniel Hayden
- Department of Defense's (DOD)
   Readiness and Environmental Protection
   Integration (REPI) Program
- EarthBalance
- EarthCorps
- Envirolok
- Environmental Quality Resources LLC
- Environmental Science Associates
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- GZA GeoEnvironmental
- HDR
- Industrial Fabrics & Premier Concrete
- In-Situ
- J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
- Li-COR Environmental
- Living Shoreline Solutions
- Lynker
- Natrx
- Natural Resource Results
- NOAA Davidson Fellowship
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Ørsted
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- · Restore the Mississippi River Delta
- Save the Bay Narragansett Bay
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- · Save the Sound
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- Tampa Bay Watch
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#### **\$1 - \$999**

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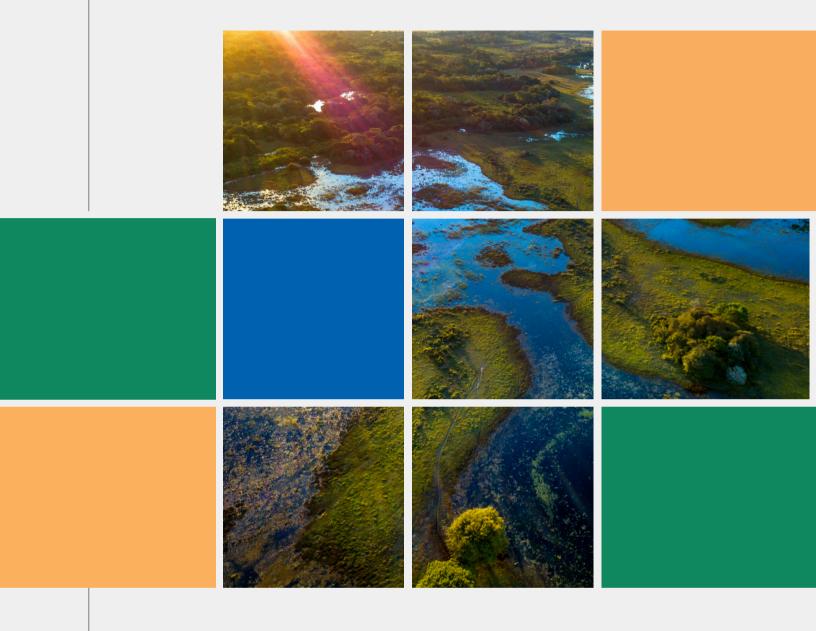
"Estuary regions cover only 13
percent of the land area in the
continental United States but
contain nearly 40 percent of the
population, 39 percent of the jobs,
and 47 percent of the economic
output of the United States"
U.S. Senate National Estuaries
Week Resolution





#### 2025 LIVING SHORELINES TECH TRANSFER WORKSHOP





### **Thank You**

**Restore America's Estuaries** 

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www.estuaries.org