

Charting a Path for the Future of Estuarine Management: Research

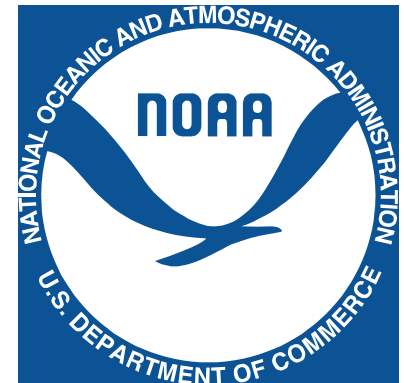
Mary Culver, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

NERRA

National Estuarine
Research Reserve
ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SYSTEM



Research at the Reserves

The reserves serve as:

- Sites for long-term coordinated research and monitoring
- Reference sites in support of habitat restoration science
- Sentinel sites to better understand the effects of climate and other critical stressors.

Over 600 research and monitoring projects are conducted by Reserve staff and visiting scientists

System-Wide Monitoring Program

- Over 110 water quality monitoring stations
- 30 weather stations
- Standardized protocols
- Data available from the Centralized Data Management Office
<http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu>



North Inlet/Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Collaborative Research



Scientists, communities, and policy-makers
working together in the reserves

Reserve Research: Marsh Resilience Assessment



San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Science Interest:

(Raposa *et al.* 2016)

Develop and test first multi-metric indices of marsh resilience

Conduct first national assessment of marsh resilience to SLR

Management Interest:

Overall state of marsh resilience across nation

Use index to choose best management strategies

Collaborative Science Benefits

- Builds partnerships
- Efficient learning
- Range of knowledge
- Vested interests in success
- Increased likelihood of utility

Collaborative Science Challenges

- Time investment
- Competing agendas and interests
- Differences in styles and approach