

# 2024 Coastal and Estuarine Summit hosted by Restore America's Estuaries

October 6-10, 2024  
Arlington, VA

Call for Proposals: Presentations, Sessions, and Posters  
Proposal Submittal Deadline: March 15, 2024

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## ABOUT THE SUMMIT

[Restore America's Estuaries](#) (RAE) proudly presents the 2024 Coastal and Estuarine Summit in partnership with the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF). This event will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned in their work. In the context of climate change, adaptation, resilience and building inclusive coastal communities transcend our collective work, 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.

## ABOUT RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES

RAE is a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation. RAE is a leader in blue carbon, living shorelines, national advocacy, and a wide variety of coastal restoration issues. The ten RAE member organizations are leaders in regional efforts around the country to restore bays, estuaries, and coasts. They are:

- American Littoral Society
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- EarthCorps
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay
- Save The Bay – San Francisco Bay
- Save the Sound
- Tampa Bay Watch

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are due March 15, 2024. Proposals should fit into one of these types:

- **Dedicated Session** – Session chairs should propose 5 presenters in a 90-minute session. Dedicated sessions must include multiple viewpoints, diverse organizations and inclusive representation of stakeholders. Submissions must be made by the session chair and must identify proposed presenters. Session chairs may propose themselves as one of the presenters, although the preference is for five presenters in addition to the chair.
- **Alternative Format Session** – We encourage dynamic, creative, and interactive 90-minute events in other formats. Examples include but are not limited to: “lightning” rounds with more than 5 presenters; panel discussions, debate or “poetry slam” style interactions; crowdsource solutions; fail fests; workshops; artistic or cultural presentations; or semi-permanent art installations.
- **Single Presentation** – Propose one 15-minute presentation within one of the Summit focus areas. The Program Committee will organize selected presentations into cohesive 90-minute concurrent sessions and assign session moderators. If you would like to propose more than one presentation, you must submit each proposal separately.
- **Poster** – Posters will be displayed throughout the Summit, with dedicated time for poster presenters to interact with participants. To the degree possible, posters will be displayed by focus area. If you would like to submit more than one poster, you must submit each proposal separately. Please note that only one poster per presenter will be accepted.

In all formats, we encourage participation from underrepresented perspectives, early career professional, and student proposals. Dedicated sessions are strongly encouraged.

## **FOCUS AREAS**

RAE and the Program Committee seek proposals that relate to the Summit focus areas. Please keep in mind that the term “coastal” extends to the Great Lakes ecosystems, as defined by the [Coastal Zone Management Act](#). We encourage international submissions.

### **Focus Area 1. The Chesapeake Bay**

The Nation’s Capitol sits on the banks of the Anacostia River and Potomac River, tidal tributaries that make up part of the greater Chesapeake Bay. For millennia these river systems have brought people together from the Piscataway, Pamunkey, the Nentego (Nanticoke), Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Monacan, and the Powhatan cultures and the thriving region we know today. The Chesapeake is the largest estuary in the US, and a major economic driver and environmental resource in the region. This focus area will provide an opportunity to understand the region’s cultural and ecological history and how the management and restoration communities are working to protect and restore this vital resource, and how these lessons may be applicable throughout the country.

### **Focus Area 2. Economy, Finance, and Investment**

This focus area will explore how the coastal management and restoration community can – and must – evolve its approach to valuing ecosystem services like storm resilience, water filtration, blue carbon and climate resilience, as well as insuring assets, and socially responsible investing. The goal is for attendees to learn about new perspectives and approaches that will sustain vibrant coastal communities and generate innovative funding.

### **Focus Area 3. Science and Technology**

Our work must be grounded in sound science and the responsible use of technology. In order for programs and policies to be effective practitioners, scientists, planners, and decision makers must have access to the best science, most accurate data and best technology available. This focus area captures two areas: the latest scientific research and modeling including machine learning and artificial intelligence, and the technology and tools such as advancements in ground-based monitoring technology and satellite imaging that support the science.

### **Focus Area 4. Planning, Policy, and Issue Advocacy**

The topics in this focus area will provide attendees important information on policies, regulations, laws, and approaches that have or may affect restoration and management and allow a forum in which to discuss critical legal and policy decisions that impact restoration and management. Topics could range from the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, WRDA, 30x30, and other policies, programs and funding streams directed toward our coasts and oceans.

### **Focus Area 5. Coastal Restoration and Resilience**

With the increasing threat of climate change and persistent coastal development, this focus area offers presenters the opportunity to share their success stories on the nuts-and-bolts of coastal restoration methods that foster resilience and regenerate habitats, with special emphasis on nature-based methods. Realizing what did not work is often as critical as identifying what did, so “lessons learned” sessions are especially encouraged.

### **Focus Area 6. Coastal Management**

This focus area will highlight the unique topics within the coastal management realm. These sessions will provide a forum for discussing challenges and exploring solutions for the hands-on practice and implementation of coastal management. “Lessons learned” are strongly encouraged.

### **Focus Area 7. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility**

While this theme crosscuts the entire agenda, there is a need to explicitly build the community’s capabilities on these topics. This focus area highlights efforts to improve diversity, equity, inclusion and environmental justice in the coastal sector to ensure the costs and benefits of coastal management are equitably and accessibly distributed. This includes issues of staffing and retention within the sector, serving the communities we work with and among, and the incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and other perspectives that enrich decision-making.

### **Focus Area 8. Communication, Marketing, and Education**

Communication, marketing, outreach and education are all critical aspects of fostering a citizenry that is excited about, and supportive of, coastal and estuarine restoration and management. Using a wide variety of techniques is essential to reaching audiences and sustaining change. Proposals are sought that explore ways of engaging and forming meaningful partnerships with different constituencies to drive social and behavioral change.

### **Focus Area 9. Water Resources**

Water resources are the backbone of our coastal and estuarine ecosystems yet are some of the hardest to manage. The very nature of water creates unique obstacles, ranging from cross-jurisdictional issues to the conveyance of persistent pollutants, plastics and nutrification. This focus area will highlight the wide range of issues related to water resources and the implications for coastal management and restoration, stormwater management, fishing, aquaculture and recreation.

### **Focus Area 10. Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery**

Disasters and their impacts on coasts and coastal communities are receiving increased attention commensurate with the increased damage they are causing, particularly on underserved communities. This focus area includes ways communities are working to plan for, respond to, insure, and recover from disasters.

### **Focus Area 11. Large-Scale Management and Restoration**

To address climate change, many large-scale projects are being considered. Large-scale restoration and management require different, and sometimes unique, approaches and tools to succeed, and because of their scale have unique risks. This focus area delves into how large-scale approaches are effective, including the role of regional ocean partnerships.

### **Focus Area 12. Other**

We welcome other ideas that relate to the protection, management and restoration of estuaries, bays and coasts.

### ***Selection Process and Criteria***

The Program Committee will review proposals in conjunction with RAE staff. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Significance to the restoration and/or coastal management communities.
- Applicability and transferability to other projects and locales, particularly with respect to “lessons learned;”
- Relevance to Summit focus areas.
- Interconnectivity between restoration and/or management on multiple scales and regions.
- Insight on upcoming restoration and/or coastal management trends and science.
- Multi-stakeholder participation, underrepresented perspectives, early career professional, and presenters that bring to forefront the depth and breadth of the coastal community.
- Thoroughness of proposal.

### **The selection process is competitive and not all submitted proposals will be accepted into the Summit Program.**

Oral presentations not selected for inclusion in the Summit Program will receive strong consideration for inclusion in the Poster Session.

### ***Presenter/Chair Responsibilities***

Once a proposal has been accepted for inclusion in the Program, RAE will communicate additional details. Dedicated session chairs are responsible for providing all required information related to their sessions by the due dates. Reasonable AV equipment, including laptops, projectors, and screens, will be provided as needed. All presentations should be in English, if there is a need for support for American sign language, please let us know.

### ***Poster Setup and Display***

Posters will be displayed on a board from Sunday evening, October 6, through Wednesday Noon, October 9. To the degree possible, posters will be arranged by topic or focus area. If you would like your poster displayed with others, please indicate this in your proposal in the “additional information” area in the submittal form.

### **Some key points to keep in mind:**

- Proposals will be reviewed based on the information received by the due date of March 15, 2024. Proposals deemed incomplete or lacking in information will likely be rejected by the Program Committee.
- A person may submit more than one proposal, and someone may be included in more than one proposal. As a rule, however, the Program Committee tries to limit people to one oral presentation within the program to maximize

speaking opportunities for the greatest number of people. Submitters may propose an oral presentation and poster, and both may be selected for the Program.

- When developing your proposal, please refer to the [GPO Style Guide](#).
- Dedicated sessions must have five speakers. If your session has unique elements (e.g., uses a workshop format) that would necessitate fewer presenters, please submit the proposal as an alternative format session.
- Single presentations will be combined to create sessions. If you have a preference as to the type of session, please indicate it in the “additional information” box in the online form.
- Dedicated sessions should consist of multiple viewpoints and organizational representation; sessions consisting of staff from only one organization will likely be rejected by the Program Committee.
- **All Summit attendees, including speakers and poster presenters, must register and pay the registration fee to participate in the Summit.** If you are submitting on behalf of other speakers, please make sure everyone in your session understands this requirement. Scholarships for registration will be available in limited quantities.

## QUESTIONS

For additional information about the Summit, please contact the following people:

- Sponsorship and Exhibiting Opportunities – Lance Speidell ([lspeidell@estuaries.org](mailto:lspeidell@estuaries.org))
- General Summit Information – Elsa Schwartz ([conference@estuaries.org](mailto:conference@estuaries.org))
- Program Information – Karen Smith ([program@estuaries.org](mailto:program@estuaries.org))
- Demonstrate New Technology, Tools or Services – Lance Speidell ([lspeidell@estuaries.org](mailto:lspeidell@estuaries.org))