



# Sentinel Site Quarterly

North Carolina  
Sentinel Site Cooperative

## Fall 2016

Contact [Jennifer Dorton](#) if you have articles or events that you would like to include in the next edition. Previous Quarterly Newsletters are on the [NC DEQ](#) website.

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## Marine Debris Clean-up at Rachel Carson Reserve



A large piling that washed into the NERR Rachel Carson Reserve required many hands to remove. Photo credit: *NC Coastal Reserve.*

Community members and volunteers, organized by Paula Gillikin, NERR Rachel Carson Site Manager, worked throughout September and October to remove over 10,500 pounds of medium and large debris items from the Reserve. The [NOAA Marine Debris Program](#) provided funding for mapping medium and large pieces of debris, removal, and monitoring habitat recovery. A [drone](#) operated by the Duke University Marine Lab collected imagery to map debris locations. A team of Reserve and Duke staff overlaid the imagery on an existing habitat map that was then used to prioritize areas within the Reserve where volunteers focused their clean-up efforts. Removing debris protects wildlife and habitat, improves navigation safety, and enhances the beauty of our local environment. A special thank you goes out to all of the community volunteers and for the assistance from the Town of Beaufort, Tow Boat US, and the NC Maritime Museum.

## Seagrass Productivity

Stacy Zhang is a PhD student in the [Silliman lab](#) for Marine Ecology and Conservation, Duke University Marine Lab. Stacy studies how beneficial symbioses between bivalves, specifically pen clams, and seagrasses affect seagrass growth and ecosystem function. In North Carolina, seagrasses are home to a wealth of fish, crustaceans, and bivalves. During summer 2016 Stacy conducted fieldwork in Back Sound near Harker's Island, looking at ray bioturbation versus nutrient availability on the growth of small seagrass patches. Stacy was recently awarded the [NC Sea Grant-APNEP Fellowship](#) to test new methods to restore seagrasses in Back Sound. During her fellowship, she will be working in concert with the oyster-reef restoration efforts led by Dr. Joel Fodrie, UNC-Institute of Marine Sciences.



Stacy Zhang and an undergraduate assistant are snorkeling to surveying seagrass in Back Sound.

## Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication

Understanding risk is key for communities as they prepare for and respond to weather and climate hazards. The NOAA office for Coastal Management will

be hosting an interactive webinar to introduce participants to the seven best practices for risk communication. Additionally, numerous techniques and examples for communicating with community members about coastal hazards will also be included.

Whether beginning a new effort or trying to keep people motivated to better prepare for future hazards, applying risk communication principles will lead to more effective results.

This FREE webinar will be held on **December 6, 1:00 - 2:30 PM.**

For more information, visit: <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/risk-communication.html>

To register, use the following link:

[http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/riskcommdec/event/event\\_info.html](http://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/riskcommdec/event/event_info.html)

## NCSSC Research and Monitoring Workshop

The NCSSC will host a Partners meeting February 21, 2017 at the NOAA Beaufort Lab. This workshop will provide the opportunity to learn more about the NCSSC accomplishments, help us update our future work plan goals and objectives, share information on current research efforts, and identify areas for broader collaboration with Cooperative Partners.

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail: [dortonj@uncw.edu](mailto:dortonj@uncw.edu).



The [NOAA Sentinel Site Program](#) leverages existing research and monitoring resources to ensure resilient coastal communities and ecosystems in the face of changing conditions. The program's place-based approach focuses on issues of local, regional, and national significance that impact habitats and species managed by NOAA as well as surrounding coastal communities.