



NORTH
CAROLINA



Quick Links:

[NOAA Sentinel Site Program](#)

[North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative](#)

Greetings from the NC Sentinel Site Cooperative!

Greetings, partners and stakeholders! It has been awhile since we last communicated, and we are excited to share these updates in our final quarterly newsletter.

NC Sea Grant Integrates NCSSC into Resilience Extension Programming

As you know, the North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) was established in 2012 as part of a [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) initiative](#) to provide coastal communities and resource managers with information on the potential impacts of sea level rise on coastal habitats and communities.

With funding from the National Sea Grant Office, the Cooperative is officially transitioning to become part of the N.C. Sea Grant extension program. These extension efforts will continue to address the impacts of sea level rise in coastal North Carolina, as well as other coastal and climate resilience-related challenges.

To support this transition and assist with extension programming efforts, [Cayla Cothron has joined N.C. Sea Grant as the new climate resilience extension associate](#) (read more below).

We are extremely grateful for our partners' support since the beginning of the NCSSC, and we remain committed to building resilience and addressing the impacts of sea level rise and climate change in North Carolina.

Archived NCSSC quarterly newsletters are available on the [N.C. Sentinel Site Cooperative website](#).

Contact N.C. Sea Grant coastal resilience specialist [Sarah Spiegler](#) or climate resilience associate [Cayla Cothron](#) if you have questions or comments.

Research and Updates

In this issue:

**Cayla Cothron Joins
NC Sea Grant**

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Competition for
Students**



Drone shot of Middle Marsh in the N.C. Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort, NC. Photo by NOAA Beaufort Lab.

Cayla Cothron Takes on New Role as Climate Resilience Extension Associate for NC Sea Grant

This past July, N.C. Sea Grant welcomed [Cayla Cothron](#) as its new climate resilience extension associate.

Cayla has a background in long-range community and environmental planning in both the private and public sectors. She has worked with communities, government agencies, decision-makers, and other stakeholders to collaboratively address local needs and changing conditions across a wide variety of land-use and environmental topics.

With a passion for equity and a holistic approach to resilience, Cayla will build on the NCSSC's accomplishments to help North Carolina coastal communities plan for and adapt to climate change.



Cayla Cothron conducts a site visit in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina in her new role with N.C. Sea Grant.

[Read more in the N.C. Sea Grant news release.](#)

Resilience Team Competition for Students Now Accepting Applications

The new N.C. Sea Grant [Coastal Resilience Team Competition](#) will provide up to \$20,000 for student teams to conduct two-year projects that will lead to more resilient coastal N.C. habitats and communities. Each team will include two to four members, with at least one graduate

student who will serve as the project lead, and at least one undergraduate student.



Each team will conduct research that addresses one or more of these focus areas:

- the impacts of higher groundwater levels on forest, agriculture, and community infrastructure;
- how changing precipitation patterns affect salinity levels in estuarine systems;
- the impact of higher temperatures on submerged aquatic vegetation communities in North Carolina;
- how coastal communities can engage underserved populations to better prepare them for future disasters;
- how aquaculture practices can buffer the industry against disasters;
- the economic impact of climate change on N.C. coastal communities, including the effects on different sectors and populations; and
- additional research topics that address how coastal North Carolina can become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Oct. 29, 2021. [Read the full request for proposals.](#)

Please contact [Sarah Spiegler](#) or [John Fear](#) with any questions.

New Gulf Program Focuses on Sea Level Rise

A new program called "[Program for Local Adaptation to Climate Effects: Sea Level Rise](#)" in the northern Gulf of Mexico will focus on improving resilience to inundation caused by rising sea levels and a changing climate.



PLACE:SLR
PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE EFFECTS
S E A L E V E L R I S E

Called "[PLACE: SLR](#)" for short, the program fosters a network of people and organizations to better understand the science and risks associated with sea level rise, to communicate those findings, and to facilitate action.

This program builds off the success and resources of the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative.

For more information, please contact [Renee Collini](#).

NOAA Sea Level Rise Program Funds Five New Projects

The [NOAA ESLR program](#) awarded \$4.6 million this year to fund [five new and eight continuing research projects](#). These projects will inform communities on how to best address sea level rise affecting coastal ecosystems, communities, infrastructure, and surface transportation.

Read more about the new projects [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Trevor Meckley](#).



Publications and News Features

N.C. Sea Grant's *Coastwatch* magazine: "[Plan, Respond, Recover, Adapt: Building Resilience in Coastal NC](#)," Winter 2020

The New York Times: "[Tiny Town, Big Decision: What Are We Willing to Pay to Fight the Rising Sea](#)"
March 14, 2021

S.C. Sea Grant's *Coastal Heritage* magazine: "[All Hands on Deck: Addressing Coastal Challenges of the Next 30 Years](#)," Summer 2021

NOAA Sea Grant: "[NOAA Sea Grant Liaisons Address Critical Research Areas Across Federal Agencies](#)"
Sept. 8, 2021

SECASC Special Science Seminar: "[Will the Coastal Wetlands Stay or Will they Go? Coastal Wetland Transformations in the South Atlantic Basin](#)," Sept. 16, 2021

Environmental Science & Policy: "[Understanding End-User Adoption of an Online Climate Resilience Tool](#)," October 2021

Products

NASA/IPCC: [New Sea Level Projection Tool](#)

North Carolina Coastal Reserve: [Rachel Carson Reserve Resilience Hub](#)

North Carolina State Climate Office: [new products available for accessing station-based weather and climate data](#)

- [Scout](#) lets users explore recent conditions measured from weather stations across North Carolina and quickly obtain metadata from those stations
- [Cardinal](#) directs users through a step-by-step request builder to download data for longer periods of time

Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center: [SECASC Newsletters](#), subscribe [here](#)

Funding and Job Opportunities

N.C. Sea Grant, *deadline Oct. 29*

- [Coastal Resilience Student Team Competition](#)

N.C. Sea Grant/APNEP, *deadline Oct. 29*

- [Joint APNEP/N.C. Sea Grant graduate fellowship](#)

N.C. Sea Grant/WRRI, *deadline Nov. 12*

- [Joint WRRI/N.C. Sea Grant graduate research projects](#)

National Estuarine Research Reserve System, *deadline Dec. 10*

- [Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship](#)

National Sea Grant Office and N.C. Sea Grant, *deadline Feb. 18, 2022*

- [2023 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship](#)

NC State Climate Office, *open until filled*

- [Carolinas Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment \(RISA\) Program Manager](#)

PLACE: SLR, *position runs from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022*

- [One-year fellowship \(focus: justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion\)](#)

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 and surrounding coastal communities.