



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

Agenda 2025 Coastal Summit

Ripple Effect: Enhancing Oysters, Salt Marsh and Water Quality Together

April 8-9, 2025

Hosted by North Carolina Coastal Federation

Emceed by North Carolina Coastal Federation Board Member: Allison Besch, Director,

Career and Professional Development Center,

Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment

Wifi: Marbles Events

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Goals of the Summit Include:

- Showcase the value of, importance of, and threats to coastal habitats: salt marsh, oysters, and water quality.
- Highlight on going efforts and progress made to protect and restore water quality, salt marsh, and oysters along the coast. Featuring:
 - Accelerated actions and results achieved from leveraged and partner projects;
 - Real life benefits of habitat protection and coastal resilience projects;
 - How forward-thinking strategic plans and policies can be put into action.
- Identify synergistic priorities for salt marsh, oyster, and water quality work in the coming years.
- Reinvigorate and encourage meaningful actions from coastal partners to support and expand efforts.

Day 1, April 8th

8:30 am Registration

9:30 am Welcome- Braxton Davis, Executive Director, North Carolina Coastal Federation

9:50 am Onward and Forward- Secretary Reid Wilson, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

10:05 am Keynote: “Our Coastal Heritage: Past, Present, and Future”- David Cecelski, Celebrated Historian and Writer

Reflections on the significance of our coastal resources. Highlighting the value of, importance of and threats to our salt marshes, oysters, and water quality.

10:30 am Investing in the Coast is an Investment in the State – Moderated by Bree Charron, North Carolina Coastal Federation

Demonstrating how key planning efforts have resulted in coastal investments by the state and federal government as well as regional partners. This panel will highlight the state’s legislative support for coastal resilience projects, showcase the federal and regional funds that have been leveraged as a result and feature several projects successfully implementing the resources secured.

Panelist/ Speakers Include:

Alyson Flynn, North Carolina Coastal Federation

State Legislators Invited

Tancred Miller, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management Jason

Peters, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Larry Warner, North

Carolina Aquariums Chris Ballie, Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Real Progress for Real People: Perspectives from the Coast- Moderated by Victoria Blakey, North Carolina Coastal Federation

A diverse community voice panel discusses their connections to the coast and the link between human well-being and coastal resilience. Panelists will explore project successes, lessons learned, and what's needed to advance coastal resilience initiatives impactfully.

Panelist/ Speakers Include:

Sarah Gardner, North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
Miriam Sutton, Science by the Sea Brian Rubino,
WithersRavenel Katherine McGlade, Slash Creek Oyster Co.
Tyler Hofe, Kinnakeet Oyster Co.

2:15 pm Emerging Science and the Next Generation of Coastal Resilience Leadership

During this hour-long networking poster session be sure to visit with and learn from the emerging scientists who are helping to advance our understanding of and focus on coastal habitats/coastal resilience.

3:15 pm Aligning Policy with Program Goals: Putting Plans into Action- Moderated by Jacob Boyd, North Carolina Coastal Federation

A number of state and regional resiliency plans have been developed over the past decade. The actions called for in these plans require engagement and endorsement at all levels- from the grassroots communities implementing them to the state and federal policies that support and encourage their implementation. This panel will dive into several of the guiding policies and how they can be worked with and leveraged to support coastal resiliency and restoration initiatives.

Panelist/ Speakers Include:

Kerri Allen, North Carolina Coastal Federation Adam Gold,
Environmental Defense Fund Lora Clarke, The Pew Charitable
Trusts, SASMI Charlie Deaton, North Carolina Division of Marine
Fisheries Jonathan Howell, North Carolina Division of Coastal
Management

4:30 pm Key Messages and Take Away's, Rob Lammé, Rob Lammé & Associates

4:45 pm Day 1 Recap/Day 2 Overview, Jacob Boyd, North Carolina Coastal Federation



Scan this QR Code to Answer Survey Questions during the Summit and Vote on the Best Student Posters.

You can also visit: Menti.com and enter code: 2375 1665 to participate.

5:00 pm Adjourn

5:30-7:30 pm Oyster Reception w/ Legislative Shucking Competition at 6:00 p.m. – Marbles Courtyard and Zanzibar Room

Evening Reception Catered by: Catering by Design
Additional Oysters Provided by:



Day 2, April 9th

- 8:00 am Registration**
- 9:00 am Day 2: Welcome**
Overview of what to expect for Day 2 and Recap of Day 1 highlights
- 9:05 am Building on the Past for a Sustainable Future, Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt- Video Presentation**
- 9:10 am Coastal Legislative Leaders: Defining the Next Steps**
Panelist/ Speakers Include:
Senator Norman Sanderson
Senator Bobby Hanig
Representative Edward Goodwin
- 9:40 am Setting the Ground Work for Action- Overview by North Carolina Coastal Federation**
A number of habitat and water quality plans exist for North Carolina. Many have overlapping and synergistic goals and actions. During this session, the Coastal Federation will provide an overview of efforts to date and identify outstanding and potentially overlapping actions from these planning efforts. This will lay the groundwork for the collaborative solutions workshop that follows where participants will help to identify ways these plans and actions can be accelerated, building on the themes from day one: leveraging resources and realizing benefits for both coastal people and coastal habitats.
- 10:00 am Coffee break**
- 10:15 am Collaborative Solutions Workshop Facilitated by Whitney Jenkins, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management**
During this collaborative solutions workshop, summit participants will reflect on insights and information shared during the summit. Additionally, participants will be prompted to share more details about their current work and brainstorm ways to take ideas from an idea to implementation. Workshop participants should leave feeling reinvigorated and recommitted to taking meaningful actions for coastal habitat protection and resiliency efforts.
- 12:15 pm Wrap-Up**
- 12:30 pm Adjourn 2025 Coastal Summit**
- 1:00- 4:30 pm The Coastal Society Hosts: The Margaret A. Davidson Career Development Workshop**

**Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support of the
2025 Coastal Summit!**

