

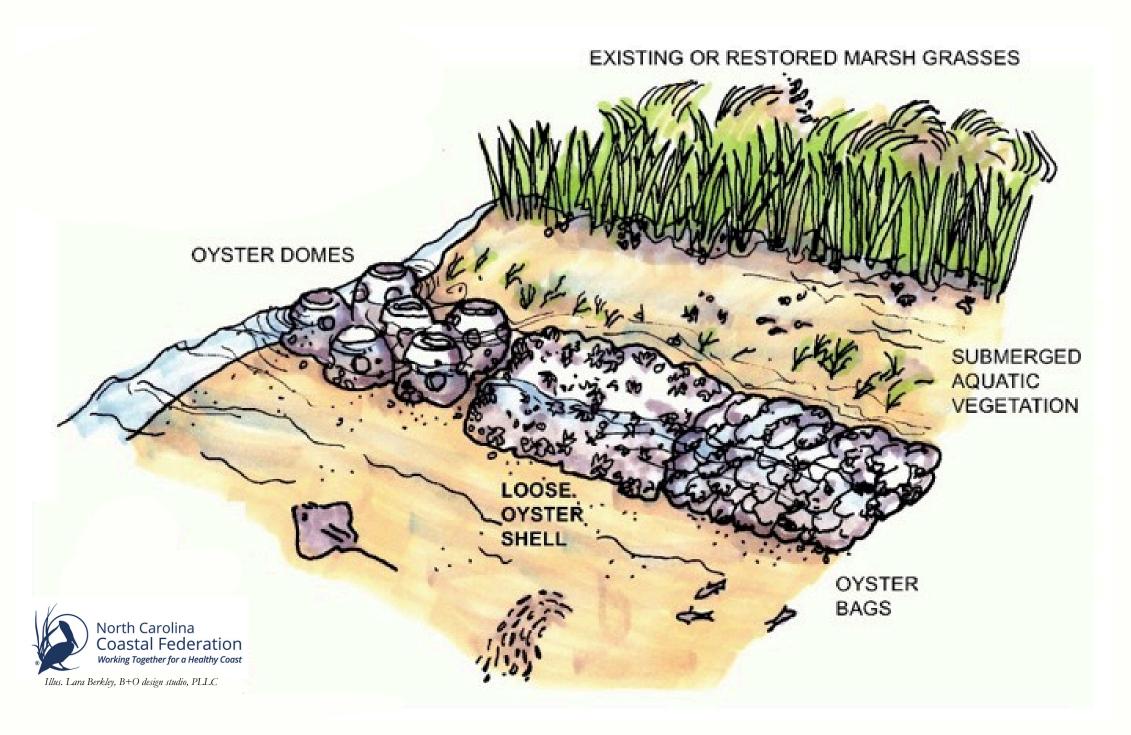
Background

- North Carolina's estuarine systems are among the largest and most productive in the U.S., providing vital ecological and economic benefits such as fisheries, recreation, biodiversity, and water quality. However, coastal development and sea-level rise threaten these habitats.
- Traditional structures like seawalls often worsen erosion and harm ecosystems.
- In contrast, living shorelines use native vegetation and natural materials to stabilize coasts, support wildlife, filter water, and adapt to changing conditions.
- These nature-based solutions offer a sustainable, cost-effective alternative, helping to protect estuarine habitats and strengthen coastal resilience for the future.
- The North Carolina Coastal Federation's Living Shoreline-Cost Program has been in place for over 10 years with support from North Carolina Land and Water Fund, NC General Assembly, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership. The Federation has been installing living shorelines for over 25 years.

Protecting and restoring North Carolina's estuarine habitats through natural shorelines and nature-based techniques is essential for ensuring long-term coastal resilience and the continued health of both the environment and coastal



- Financial Assistance to tidal shoreline property owners looking for nature-based solutions for shoreline erosion control.
- Site Visits to identify erosion issues and propose nature-based solutions
- Engineered Designs tailored to site conditions and needs
- Permitting Assistance to streamline compliance
- Maintenance and Monitoring to support the long-term health of living shorelines
- Outreach and Education to promote living shorelines down the coast
- Professional Training to grow the work force of marine contractors, landscapers, and nurseries



Coastal Benefits



LIVING SHORELINES:

- Serve as critical fish nurseries
- Filter pollutants
- Protect the land from erosion
- Build habitat diversity
- Improve water quality
- Increase storm resiliency



PROGRAM IMPACTS:

- Installed more than 6 miles of living shorelines, providing habitat and reducing erosion
- Restored over 23 acres of wetland habitats critical to our coastal fisheries.



COASTAL JOB CREATION:

- Supports over 21 businesses such as marine contractors, nurseries, landscapers and engineers
- Trained over a dozen contractors and restoration professionals

The Coastal Federation's cost-share program for living shorelines provides substantial social, economic, and environmental benefits to coastal communities while enhancing long-term resilience. By reducing the financial burden on property owners, these programs make nature-based erosion control solutions more accessible and widely adopted. This supports the protection of homes, infrastructure, and public spaces from the impacts of storm surge, flooding, and sea-level rise, ultimately reducing long-term recovery costs, insurance premiums, and public expenditures on disaster response.































