



CAC Spring 2026 Staff updates

Coastal Management Section



Communications & Outreach

Tyler Jones

Communications & Outreach

**Whooooose
favorite time of
year was it
recently?**





COASTFEST!



Communications & Outreach

Ongoing Initiatives

- Georgia Red Snapper Season & Exempted Fishing Permit
- Red Drum Regulation Change
 - Presentation to Board next week; Public comment follows
- Kids Fishing Event June 13
- Beach Week June 30-July 1



Marsh and Shore Regulatory

Josh Noble

Marsh and Shore Management Program

Authorization Type	2024	2025
CMPA Permit	31	31
SPA Permit	7	8
Letters of Permission (temporary activities)	136	98
Revocable Licenses* (private docks, CMPA exempt activities)	191	194
Jurisdictional Determinations	415	414



Compliance and Enforcement

Chelsea Kneeland

Compliance & Enforcement

Unit Overview

- Implements the compliance and enforcement functions of the Georgia Coastal Management Program.
- Works in close coordination with the Marsh and Shore Regulatory unit on project review, field follow-up, and case resolution.
- Supports lawful use of coastal resources through inspections, informal resolution, enforcement, deed review, and lease administration.
- Also handles CMPA exempted projects that impact state tidal waterbottoms through revocable license authority.

How the unit fits the program

Permitting and authorizations



Field verification and compliance



Resolution, lease, and property support

Mission and Core Workload

- Conducts compliance inspections of permits under CMPA & SPA.
- Responds to complaints of unauthorized activities under the coastal program.
- Reviews deeds and related property documents to support jurisdictional, ownership, and authorization decisions.
- Manages marina leases, supports revocable license administration, and works in close coordination with permitting staff.
- Serves as the designated GORA responder for the program.

Typical Annual Volume

~100

compliance inspections

75–90

enforcement actions

~100

deed reviews

67

marina leases



Shellfish and Water Quality

Michael Mock

Shellfish and Water Quality Program Update

- A total of 26 Master Harvester Permits and 140 individual harvester permits were issued in 2025.
- Program staff continuing to provide technical assistance to lease holders with new shellfish mariculture and cultivation permit applications.
- 6 of 9 Subtidal leaseholders have all required State and Federal Permits and are in the process of putting gear in the water.
- We recently offered and awarded 4 new intertidal lease areas (3 traditional shellfish cultivation and 1 clam mariculture) in Chatham and Bryan Counties.
- The program recently updated the Vibrio Control Plan and amended rules for the Closed Season Harvest of subtidal oysters, adopted by the DNR Board on April 28, 2026.
- In partnership with GA DOA and DNR LED, program staff will be coordinating training with several of the growers addressing new time temperature regulations related to closed season harvest.
- The program also recently acquired a UAV to assist with lease inventories and inspections.
- The program will continue to support future shellfish opportunities for both traditional shellfish cultivation and mariculture activities.





Federal Consistency

Jim Long

Federal Consistency Unit

Kelie Moore and Jim Long

- Federal Consistency, as outlined in the CZMA, requires state review of Federal Permits, Federally Funded Projects, Direct Federal Actions, and Outer Continental Shelf Determinations, to ensure these actions are consistent with state laws and enforceable policies
- 319 Federal Consistency Certifications and Determinations were reviewed and certified:
 - 218 new or expanded docks
 - 26 bank stabilization projects
 - 10 fill projects
 - 5 dredging projects
 - 3 bridges or walkways
 - 2 shore structures
 - 55 miscellaneous projects
- 217 concurrences, 0 conditional concurrences, 97 objected to, and 5 withdrawn
- 24 Direct Federal Activities or Federally Funded projects were reviewed
 - 7 construction projects
 - 4 fishery management plans
 - 1 regional general permit
 - 1 resource management plan
 - 1 policy
 - 7 funding
 - 3 no impact
- 20 concurrences, 0 conditional concurrence, 1 objected to, and 2 withdrawn

Reporting period
April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Notable Roles of Federal Consistency Unit

- USACE Savannah Harbor Expansion Project Interagency Review Team (IRT)
- USACE IRT for Mitigation Banking
 - There are currently 11 tidal mitigation banks in review, 3 open tidal mitigation banks
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Working Groups and Development Teams
 - Fort Pulaski beach renourishment
 - Tybee Island beach renourishment (postponed until winter 2027)
 - Ogeechee Bar at Hell Gate (AIWW)
 - King's Bay Naval Submarine Base long-term sediment management plan
- Early Coordination on GDOT Projects
 - Working with CRD Regulatory



Fort Pulaski Beach
Renourishment
April 6, 2026



Ogeechee Bar
Beneficial Use
Location

Federal Consistency Certifications

Authorization Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Federal Permits	183	276	342	308	319
Direct Federal Actions	25	22	26	25	17
Federal Funding	8	5	5	4	7
Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)	0	1	0	0	0
Total	216	304	373	337	343

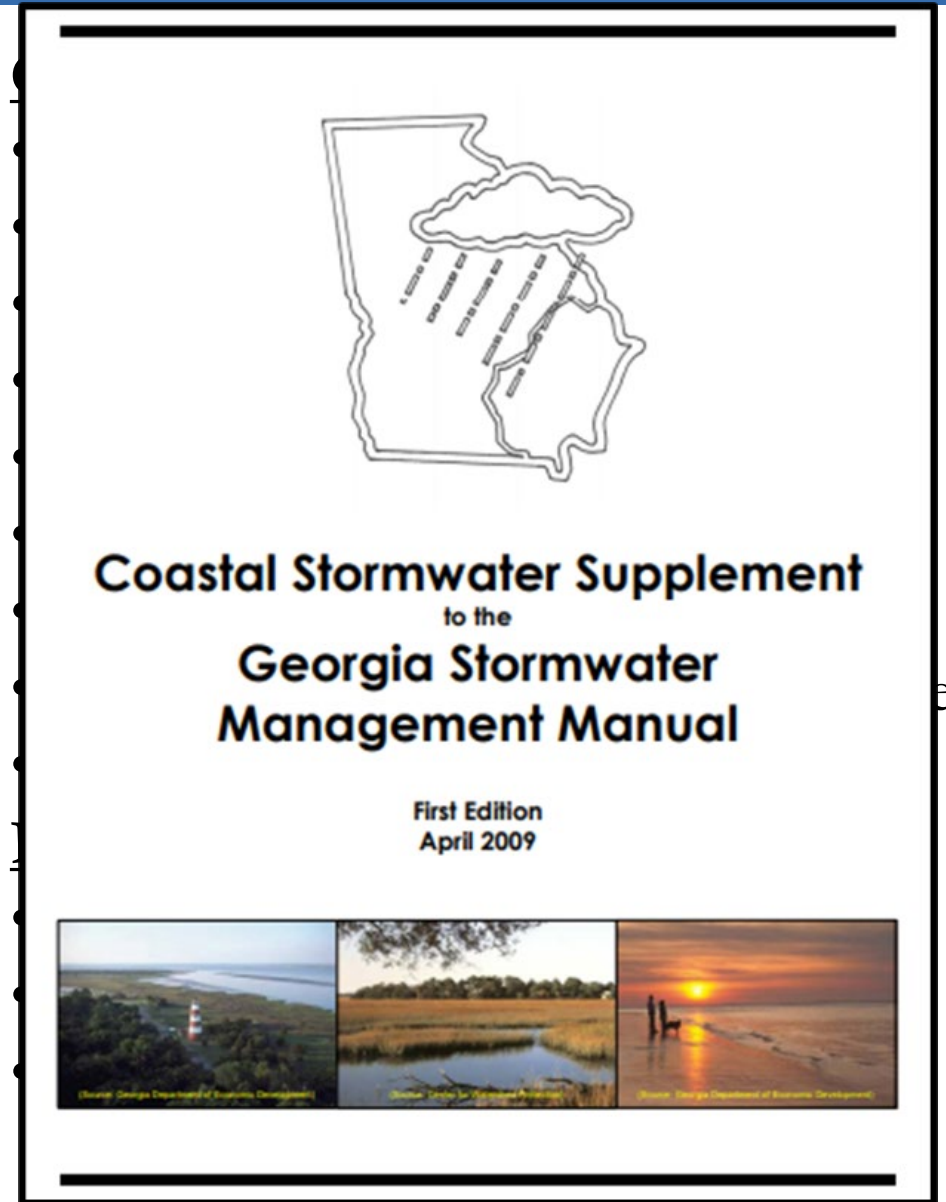
Reporting periods
April 1– March 31



Green Growth

Kelly Hill

Georgia Clean Marina Program & CSS Update



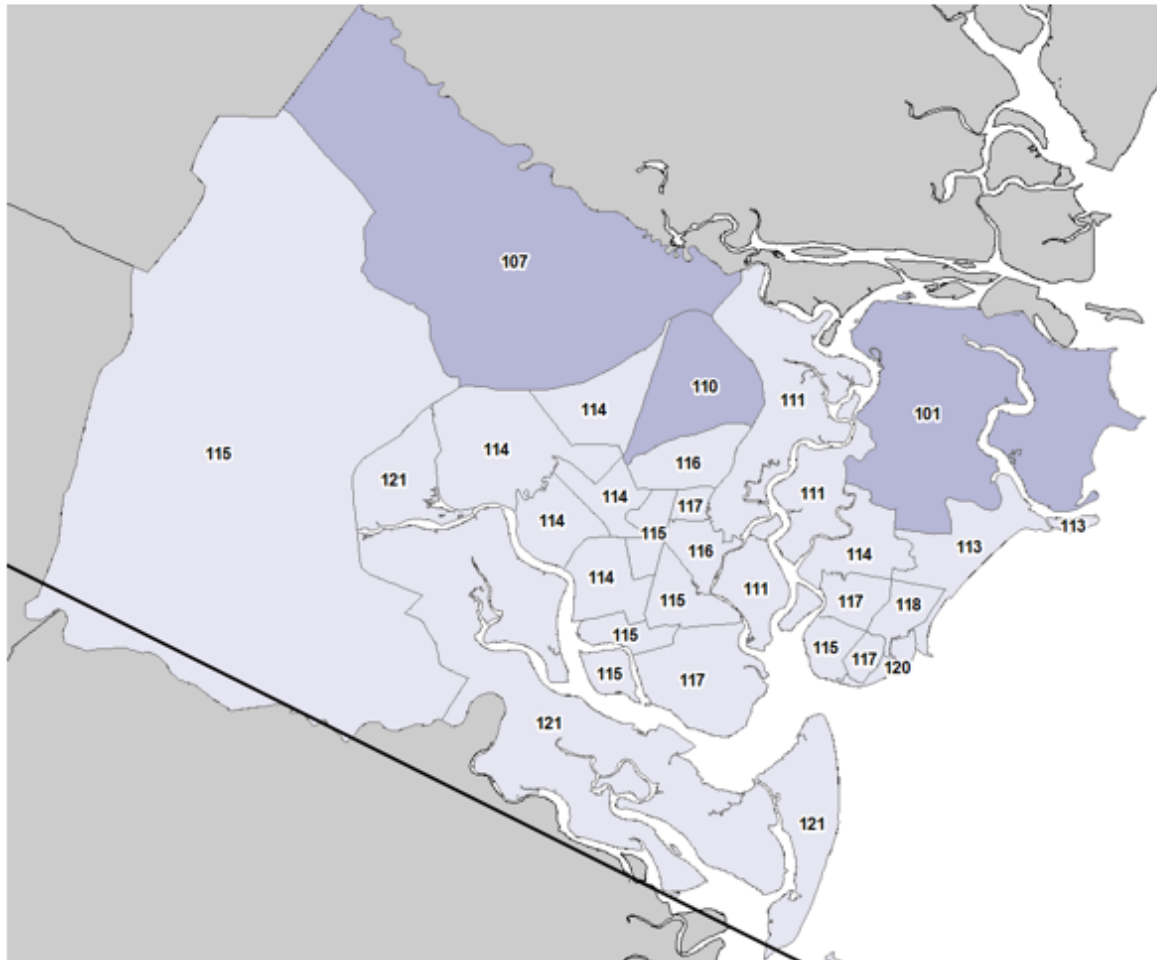
www.GeorgiaCleanMarina.org

NFWF and BRIC Project Completion



Glynn County Category 3 Hurricane with Future Windspeeds

A category 3 hurricane was modeled over Glynn County to simulate the wind impacts. Windspeeds expected under future weather conditions were used.



Estimated Shelter Needs

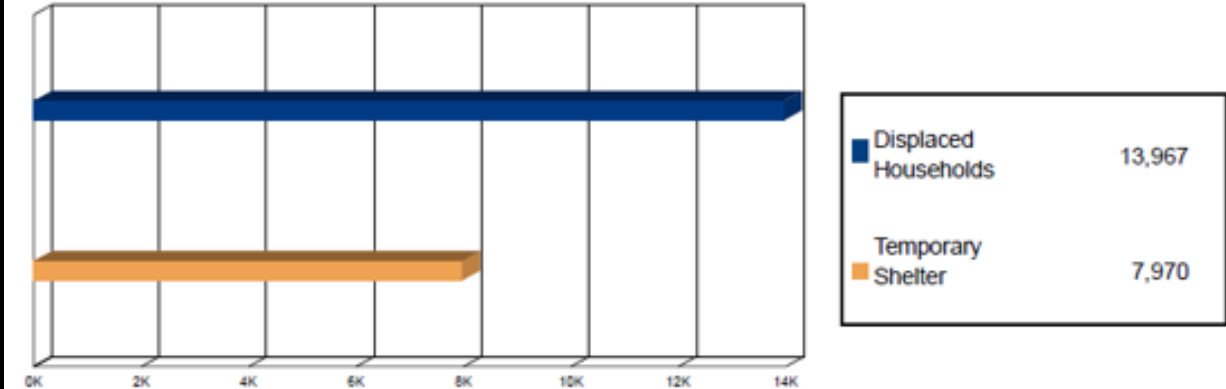


Figure 38: Estimated number of displaced households and households seeking temporary shelter

Estimated Debris (Tons)

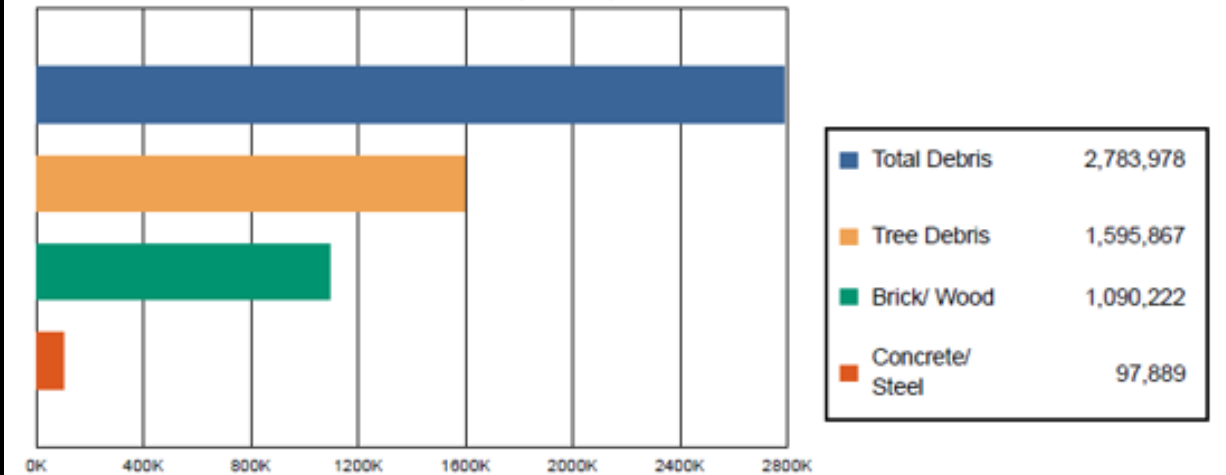


Figure 39: Estimated amount of debris generated



Marsh Health and Restoration

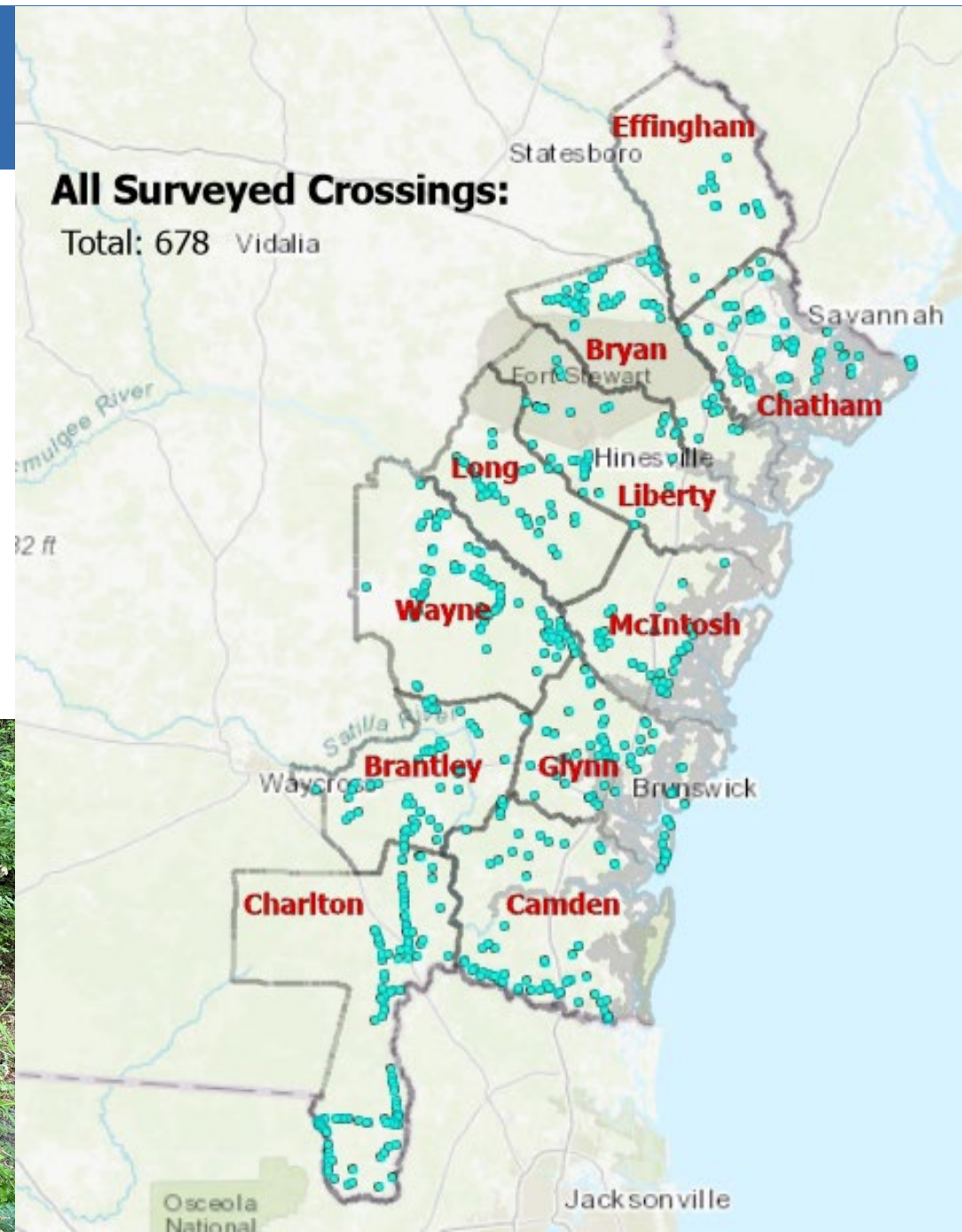
Lexi Moyle

Alana Johnson

Campbell Fretz

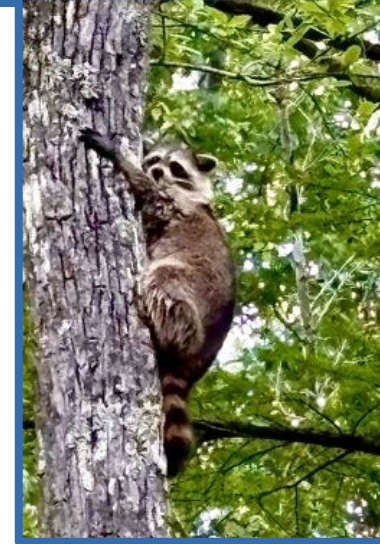
Results as of April 2026

- Assessed: 2,678
- Surveyed: 678
- Private properties: 990
- Inaccessible/ BA: 1,014
- Remaining Barriers: 3,800

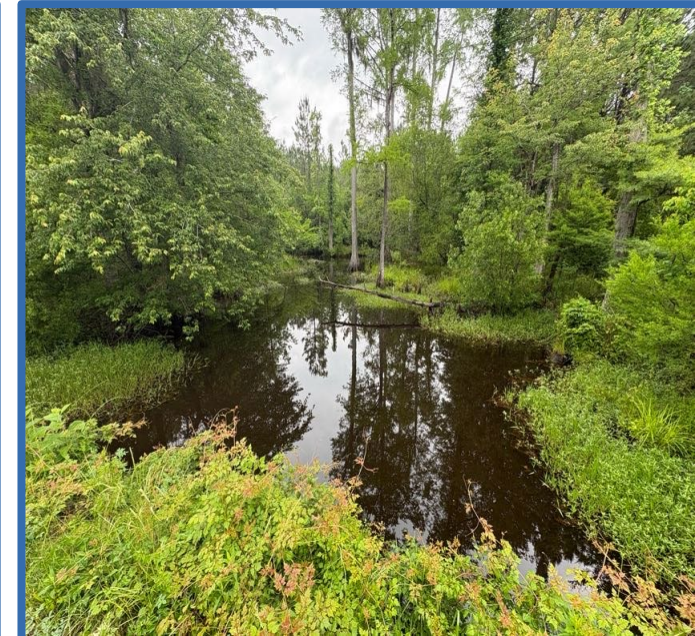


Recent Wildlife and Culverts

- Recent Wildlife:
 - Brown Water Snakes
 - Raccoon
 - Barred Owls
 - Red Corn Snake



- Wetland and Constricted Sites



Field Photos

1609 outlet



4628 outlet



574 Inlet



2674 outlet

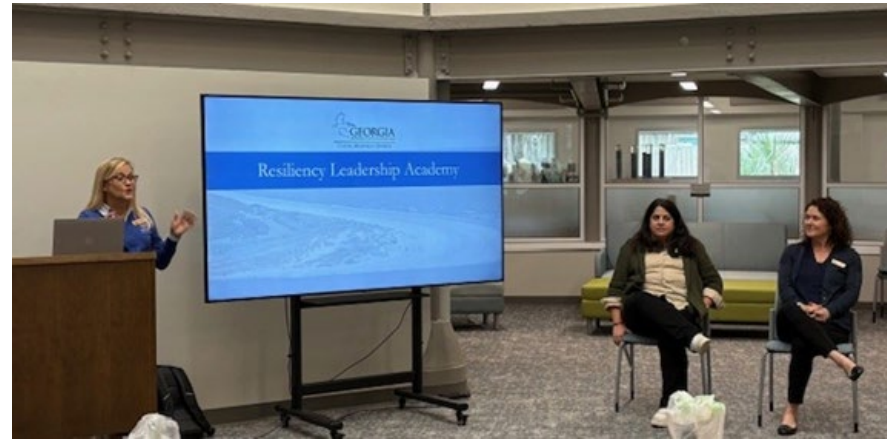
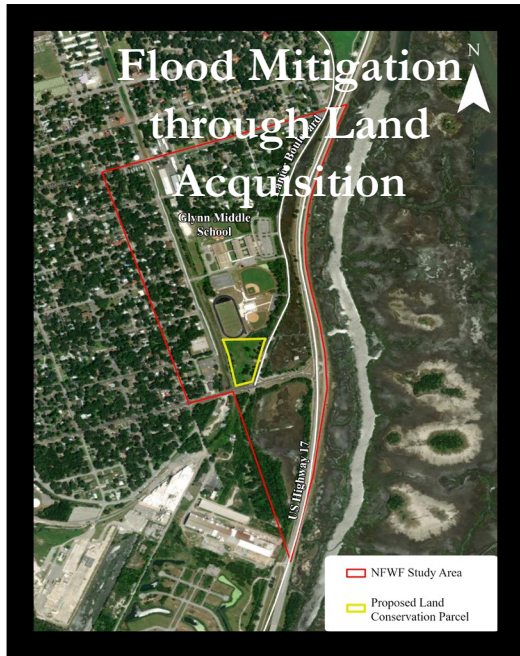




Coastal Hazards

Jennifer Kline

Coastal Hazards



October 20-21, 2025
Jekyll Island, GA

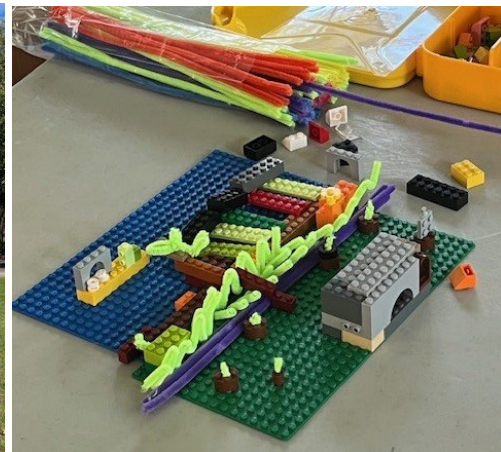




Wetland Policy and Living Shorelines

Meghan Angelina

Wetlands Policy and Living Shorelines



Living Shoreline
Site Visits



Shoreline Policy and Resilience Review Team (SPRRT)

Coming Soon: 2026 National Wetlands Condition Assessment



Ossabaw Island LS
Status: Permit Review



Wetlands Research Advisory Committee (WRAC)
15 WRAC authorizations

LS Workshop for Engineers and Contractors
42 participants 3 workshops; EMAG Summit 12 participants

Crooked River LS
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program





Grant Administration

Shy Duncan

Grant Administration

- In December CRD received 23 Pre-applications for Cycle 29
- 6 from Local Governments and 17 from Research Institutions
- CRD staff met in January and selected 15 projects to invite for full application. A total of 14 full applications were submitted by the February 13th deadline.
- The CIG 5 Review Team met on March 19th and recommended 4 applications for funding.
- NOAA approval is anticipated by mid-September, with the official start of Cycle 29 scheduled for October 1, 2026.

The following projects began October 1, 2026:

Applicant	PI	Title
City of Brunswick	Garrow Alberson	Yr 2- Coastal Flooding Mitigation at Lanier Boulevard and Glynn Middle School
Georgia Tech Research Foundation, Inc.	Miroslav Malesvic	Yr 2- Creating a Future Development 3D Interactive Visualization Toolkit for Coastal Georgia
University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. CVIQG	Katie Hill	Yr 2- Enhancing Disaster Legal Education and Resources for Georgia's Coastal Communities
University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	Matthew Bilskie	Yr 2- Continuous Beach Observation and Real-Time Coastal Hazards Forecasting System
Brantley County Board of Commissioners	Joey Cason	Yr 2- Satilla River Access Enhancement
Georgia Tech Research Foundation, Inc.	Jill Gambill	Water & Air Green Infrastructure Plan for Westside Savannah
University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	Adam Fox	Characterizing the life history of Spotted Seatrout in Georgia
Georgia Southern University of Research & Service Foundation, Inc.	John Carroll	Oyster SCULPT: Substrate Comparison & Understanding Living-shoreline Processes in Tidal Georgia
City of Screven	Jason Weaver	306A-Restoration and Upgrading of Martha Frazier Fisher Boardwalk/Walking Trail