

Expanding the use of Living Shorelines in the Southeast

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GSAA and Living Shorelines

- At the intersection of
 - Healthy Ecosystems
 - Disaster-Resilient Communities
 - Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters
- Value in coordinated regional approach
 - Build awareness of existing/ongoing projects
 - Share research and lessons learned
 - Identify gaps in knowledge and capacity
- National dialogue on resilience
- Mid-Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit

Living Shorelines Project

Objectives

1. Develop a network of living shorelines practitioners in the Southeast
2. Build awareness of the scope of living shorelines activities in the region
3. Identify gaps in knowledge and capacity that, if filled, would expand the appropriate use of living shorelines



Approach

- Host a **South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit** to share current activities, foster relationship-building, and highlight impediments
- Identify and prioritize the **specific needs of managers and practitioners** in expanding the use of living shorelines in the Southeast

South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit & Living Shorelines Academy Workshop



South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit



Florida Coastal Office

Summit Purpose: To **share information** on the management, research, regulation, and implementation of living shorelines in the South Atlantic region, **building knowledge and relationships** that expand the use of appropriate stabilization alternatives to traditional shoreline hardening.

Summit Agenda

- Keynote by Dr. Charles Peterson - UNC Chapel Hill
- Status of Management and Implementation of Living Shorelines in the South Atlantic Region
- Triaging Estuarine Shorelines: How to Identify and Use the Best Practical Alternatives That Protect the Coastal Environment and Economy?
- Living Shoreline Research – Recent Research and Development
- Best Practices for Designing and Constructing Living Shorelines and Lessons Learned in the GSAA Region
- Comparing the Costs Among Living Shorelines and to More Traditional Stabilization Methods
- Promoting Living Shoreline Projects: A Recent Report on Overcoming Institutional Barriers
- Living Shorelines: Federal Agency Initiatives
- Educational Tools and Practices

Summit Results

- Living Shorelines are a suite of diverse solutions for shoreline stabilization and habitat loss
- Increase long-term research and monitoring of projects
 - Efficacy and longevity of alternative approaches
 - Economic assessments of benefits
- Build public awareness with more education and outreach
 - Creative approaches and audiences (realtors)
 - Incentives for private homeowners
- More collaboration and sharing across region
 - Tracking performance of substrates
 - Challenges of "scaling up"

Summit Results

- Challenges
 - Better understanding the relationship between site conditions and engineering / design
 - Clear understanding of “success” and “failure” for living shorelines projects
- Opportunities
 - Early coordination with Federal Agencies
 - Understanding the needs and behaviors of homeowners

Newly Released!

Living Shorelines in the Southeast: Research and Data Gaps



Prepared for the Governors South Atlantic Alliance

Margaret Myszwski and Merryl Alber
Georgia Coastal Research Council
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Synthesizes scientific information relevant to living shorelines in the Southeast

1. LS Approaches in the SE
2. Physical Effects of LS in Salt Marshes
3. Biological Effects of LS in Salt Marshes
4. Chemical Effects of LS in Salt Marshes
5. LS in Mangroves
6. Conclusions and Data Gaps

Next Steps

- Regional Living Shorelines Workshop
 - Identify and prioritize the needs of the Living Shorelines community in the Southeast
 - Refine the outcomes of the South Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit
- Develop a Strategic Needs Assessment
 - Consensus statement from the living shorelines community in the Southeast on the prioritized research, policies, and outreach needed to expand and enhance the appropriate use of living shorelines

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Thank you!

