

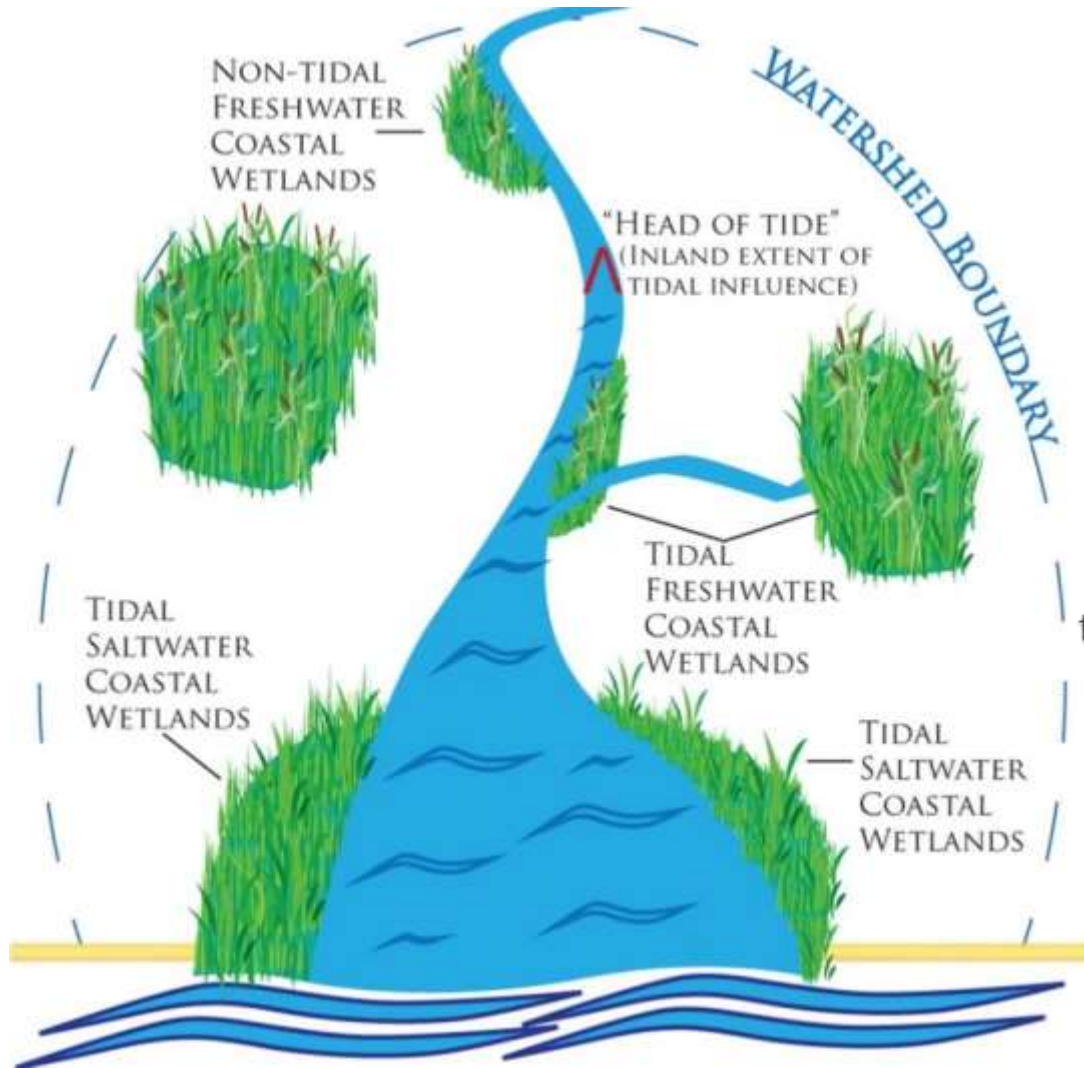


Summary of *Recommendations for Reducing Wetland Loss in Coastal Watersheds of the United States*

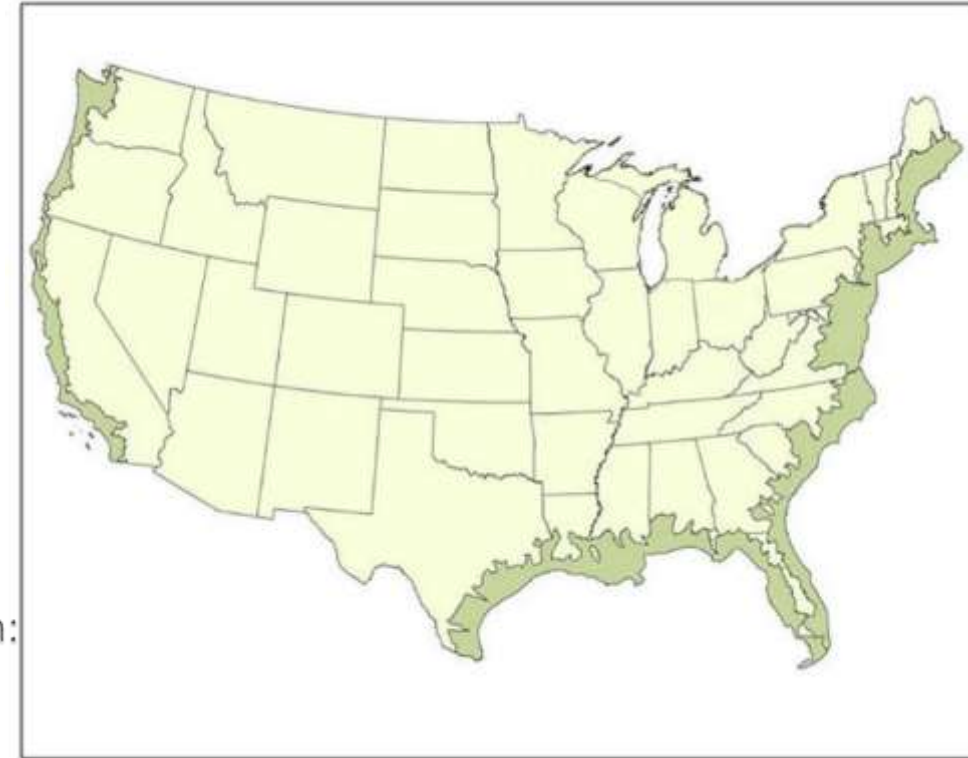
ELI Webinar: January 2023

Amanda Santoni, U.S. EPA

What is a coastal wetland?



→
salty and fresh
tidal and non-tidal in:

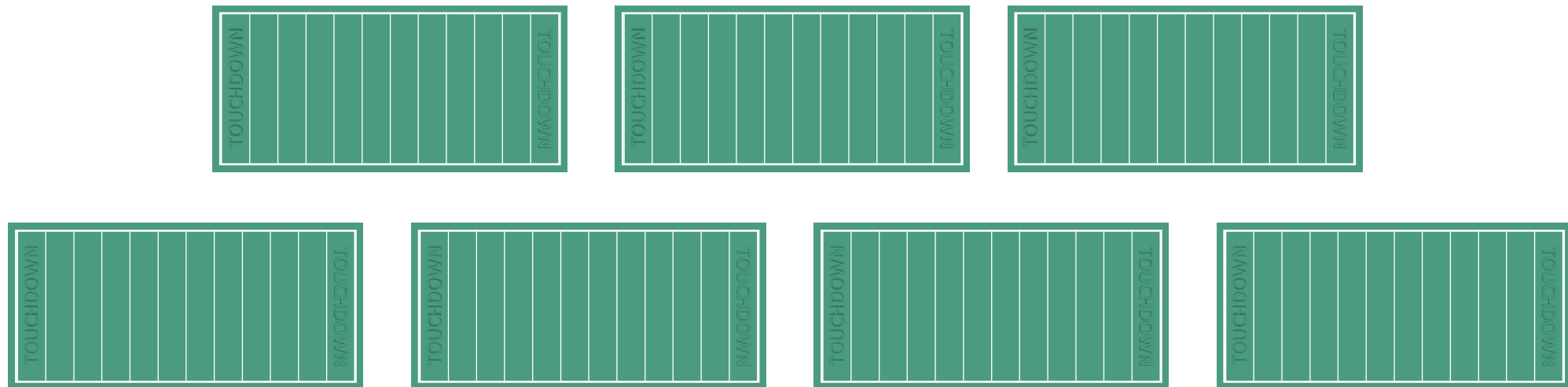


COASTAL WATERSHEDS
of the Atlantic, Pacific, & Gulf

Coastal Wetland Loss

80,000 acres

of wetlands in U.S. coastal watersheds are lost per year.¹
That's approximately **seven football fields** every hour.



¹Dahl, Thomas E. and Stedman, Susan-Marie. *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Conterminous United States 2004 to 2009*. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, 2013.

The Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup (ICWWG)

- The ICWWG was formed to reduce and reverse the trend of coastal wetland loss.
- The workgroup helps to address coastal wetland loss by investigating the underlying causes of wetland loss, recommending policies and programs, disseminating tools and strategies, and creating a better public understanding via education and outreach.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

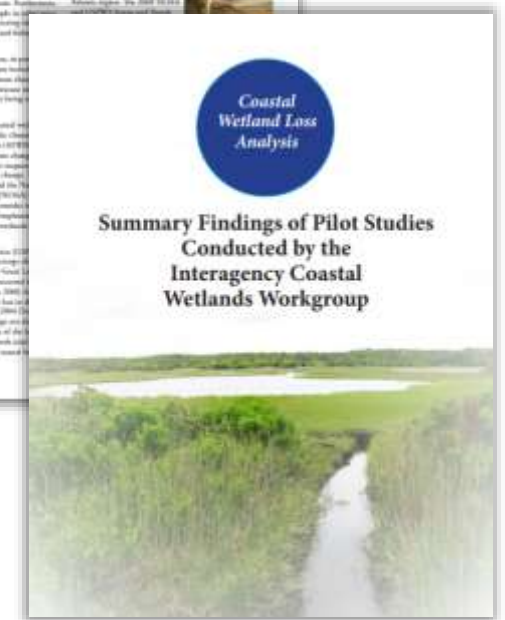


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Recommendations for Reducing Wetland Loss in Coastal Watersheds of the United States (*Recommendations*)

- Released June 2022
- Informed by a series of workshops and pilot studies on coastal wetland loss
- Audience: Program managers, non-governmental organizations, and government staff (federal, state, tribal, local, and regional) involved in coastal wetland and watershed management
- Purpose: Forge cooperation across stakeholder groups and build capacity to reduce coastal wetland losses nationwide



Recommendations: Five Key Themes



Increase the Acreage of Wetlands Restored in Coastal Watersheds



Reduce Loss of Coastal Wetlands to Development



Reduce Coastal Wetland Loss Associated with Silviculture in the Southeast



Support the Collection, Enhancement, and Dissemination of Landscape-Scale Monitoring Data



Conduct Targeted Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

Theme 1: Increase the Acreage of Wetlands Restored in Coastal Watersheds

- 1.1 Increase the amount of restoration in coastal watersheds.
- 1.2 Enhance the ability to track restored wetland acres and function.
- 1.3 Enhance reclamation and restoration of former sand and gravel mines.

Theme 2: Reduce Loss of Coastal Wetlands to Development

- 2.1 Improve and increase the use of voluntary programs to protect wetlands from development.
- 2.2 Improve interagency coordination to protect wetlands from development and its indirect effects.
- 2.3 Increase use of a broader array of federal authorities to protect wetlands from impacts of development.
- 2.4 Support local planning to increase the acreage of protected coastal wetlands.
- 2.5 Enhance state and tribal protections for wetlands, including those wetlands that are not otherwise regulated.

Theme 3: Reduce Coastal Wetland Loss Associated with Silviculture in the Southeast

- 3.1 Increase the understanding of forested wetland loss mechanisms in areas managed for timber production.
- 3.2 Improve interagency coordination and stakeholder engagement in forested wetland conservation.
- 3.3 Develop or improve tools to enhance protection of forested wetlands in timber production.

Theme 4: Support the Collection, Enhancement, and Dissemination of Landscape-scale Monitoring Data

- 4.1 Continue to support and improve the USFWS NWI Coastal Watersheds Wetlands Status and Trends reports.
- 4.2 Produce new USFWS NWI Comprehensive Change Analyses in areas identified as experiencing high levels of wetland loss.
- 4.3 Update the NWI geospatial dataset within coastal watersheds.
- 4.4 Continue support for and improve the resolution of C-CAP products.
- 4.5 Strengthen coordination between NOAA C-CAP and USFWS NWI.
- 4.6 Support the development of techniques to improve the mapping of forested wetlands.

Theme 5: Conduct Targeted Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 Identify and address gaps in public understanding regarding coastal wetland loss.
- 5.2 Identify recommendations that require outreach and stakeholder engagement in order to be effective and implement appropriate outreach plans.



Tune in for more information

NAWM Webinar January 31st 3-4:30

- Efforts by agencies and partners to implement specific recommendations
- Highlight recommendations that may be best addressed by state, tribal, or local governments

<https://www.nawm.org/nawm/nawm-webinarscalls/8386-aswm-hot-topics-webinar-series>

Thank You



<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/inter-agency-coastal-wetlands-workgroup-recommendations-reducing-wetland-loss-coastal>



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