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

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What is a coastal wetland?
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.

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.
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

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Thank You


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