

Estuary Exchange

December 2025



**ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM**
at FSU PANAMA CITY

Together for the Bays



2025 Recap

2025

Recap



6

GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

\$5,042,738

REQUESTED IN GRANT APPLICATIONS

\$1,358,664.95

FUNDS SECURED IN 2025

34

TECHNICAL SUMMARIES CREATED

23

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EVENTS

10

RESTORATION PROJECTS IDENTIFIED

270

RACE FOR THE BAYS REGISTRANTS

PLUS 3 PROJECTS BROUGHT TO FEASIBILITY, 15 DATA SETS

COMPILED, 6 INTERACTIVE TOOLS CREATED, AND MORE!

As quickly as it arrived, 2025 is already coming to a close!

2025 was a year of progress! We've completed grants, launched new projects, completed field research, created technical summaries, and expanded our community outreach. Here's a look back at some of the work we've accomplished together with our partners and community. We're excited to carry this momentum into 2026!

Click the button below to view the full 2025 Impact Report.

2025 Impact Report

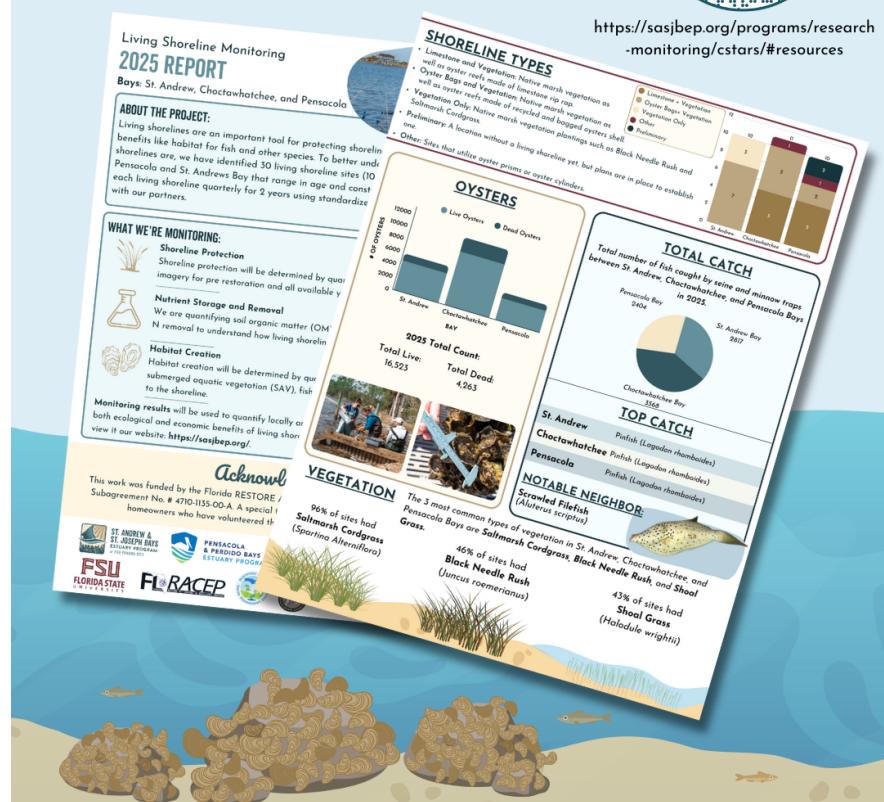
Living Shoreline Monitoring Yearly Wrap Up

LIVING SHORELINES MONITORING

2025 Overview



<https://sasjbep.org/programs/research-monitoring/cstars/#resources>



Our team, together with Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, and St. Andrew Bay Watch, has completed 2 years of Living Shoreline Monitoring. Through the Collaborative Science to Assess Restoration Success (C-STARS) project, this data will show how well Living Shorelines work over time. Check out the report to see what we've found at monitored sites in St. Andrew, Pensacola, and Choctawhatchee bays in 2025. Past information can be found on our website [here](https://sasjbep.org/).

Read the Report

St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Awarded Nearly \$750,000 EPA Grant to Launch "Bay Guardians" Water Quality Initiative



Science Corner



Flock of Dunlins, Blake Matheson

Winter Visitors: Welcoming Migratory Birds to Our Bays

Each winter, our estuary becomes a seasonal home for many migratory birds. Throughout the bays, wetlands, and forests, you might spot seasonal visitors like Red-breasted Mergansers, common loons, American Avocets, and flocks of shorebirds like Dunlins and Western Sandpipers. The wide range of habitats within our watershed gives these visitors what they need to sustain the long winter: insects, vegetation, and fish to eat, and protective roosting areas safe from the elements.

We can support visiting birds by giving them plenty of space, keeping dogs leashed in wildlife areas, and picking up trash. Take your support a step further by joining the Audubon Christmas Bird Count from December 14-January 5 and help scientists track winter bird populations. This season, grab your binoculars, get outside, and keep an eye out for some of our unique seasonal visitors.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology. (n.d.). *All About Birds*.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>

National Audubon Society. *Join the Christmas Bird Count*.

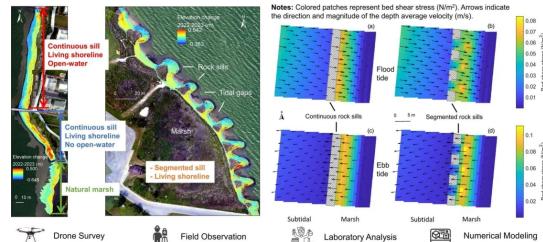
<https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count/join-christmas-bird-count>

Recent Relevant Research

Click the images to view articles.



Birds in the 'Burbs': Do Migratory Birds Prefer Urban Forest Fragments or Residential Yards?



Impacts of rock sill design on sediment dynamics and marsh stability in living shorelines.



Rain is on its way!

Help us identify areas in need of stormwater improvements by filling out the community flood survey below.

[Community Flood Survey](#)

Find the Estuary Program

DECEMBER 13, 2025 • 5:30PM



December 13, 2025

Boat Parade of Lights

From 5:00-7:30 pm, enjoy the Boat Parade of Lights and Holiday Village! The boat parade will feature a dazzling display of Christmas lights and decorations, transforming St. Andrews Bay into a magical winter wonderland.

When: Saturday, December 13th 5:00 - 7:30pm
CT

Where: Panama City Marina

Community Events

Click the images to explore upcoming events throughout the St. Andrew Bay Watershed!



Events in Panama City



Events in Panama City Beach



Events in South Walton County



Events in Gulf County



Events in Mexico Beach



Gulf County Chamber of
Commerce - Events

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting

+

December 17th, 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm CDT; Room A301 Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93469785995>

Join Zoom

Management Council Meeting

+

December 5th, 2025

10am-12pm CDT; Room A301, Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building Join Via Zoom: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91728868009> Meeting ID: 917 2886 8009

Join Zoom

Science and Technical Committee Meeting

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December 18th, 2025

1:00 - 2:00 PM CDT; Admin Services Conference Room 108

Join Zoom

Stormwater Working Group

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Date TBD

10am-11am CDT; Virtual only.

Community Action Committee Meeting

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Date TBD

Next meeting date to be determined.

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting

+

January meeting date TBD

10 am - 11:00 am CT

Join the TOC

To access all past meeting materials, notes, and presentations, visit our Library of Resources page on our website. Link directly by clicking below!

Library of Resources

Florida State University Panama City Campus Map

Volunteer Opportunities



SASJ BAYS VOLUNTEER NETWORK

JOIN THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK!

Interested in getting involved in protection and restoration efforts within the St. Andrew Bay Watershed?

Join Our Email List!

SASJ Bays Volunteer Network connects organizations across the watershed with citizens looking for an opportunity to get involved.

- **Organizations:** Connect with volunteers for your events
- **Volunteers:** Learn about volunteer opportunities from our partners all across the watershed

[JOIN NOW](#)  [HTTPS://LISTS.FSU.EDU/MAILMAN/LISTINFO/VOLUNTEER-SASJBEP](https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/volunteer-sasjbep)

St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program

The SASJ Bays Volunteer Network connects organizations with passionate members of the community that are interested getting involved. Join the email list to receive updates on upcoming volunteer opportunities from across the partners across the watershed and share organized events with others!

[Join the Email List](#)

Job Opportunities

University of Northwest Florida

- [Assistant Professor of Biology, Coastal Ecologist](#)

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

- [Ecology Technician](#)
- [Education and Outreach Specialist](#)

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

- [Operations Manager](#)

Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary
Program

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