



**9<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management**  
*Investing In Our Coasts: Environment, Economy, Culture*

**December 8-13, 2018**  
**Long Beach, CA, USA**

**Call for Proposals: Presentations, Sessions, and Posters**  
**Proposal Submittal Deadline: April 6, 2018**

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## **ABOUT THE SUMMIT**

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) proudly present the 9<sup>th</sup> National Summit, which will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities for an integrated discussion to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned in their work. The Summit will provide timely and much-needed attention to the challenges and opportunities for coastal and estuarine restoration and management. It will bring together a unique blend of people who are involved in policy, science, strategy, business, and on-the-ground restoration and management.

The Summit Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine restoration and management, in all ecosystems, at all scales, and in all regions, including the Great Lakes and international locales. These topics are crucial as coastal communities pursue new, more robust strategies to effectively manage, protect, and restore their resources in a changing climate. Ensuring these resources, and the communities that rely on them, are resilient now and into the future will be a particular focus.

## **SUMMIT AUDIENCE**

The Summit is an international gathering encompassing all disciplines within the coastal and estuarine restoration and management communities. RAE and CSO will work with 200 partnering and supporting organizations to develop and host the Summit and we anticipate more than 1,300 attendees from the restoration and management communities: non-profit and community organizations, Indian Country, Indigenous Peoples, academic and research institutions, businesses with an interest in the coast, and agencies from all levels of government. Restoration and management practitioners, citizens and community leaders, consultants, scientists, educators, planners, engineers, students, volunteers, philanthropists, program managers, field staff, contractors, regulators, and others involved in restoration and management efforts are expected and encouraged to participate.

## **SUMMIT THEME - *Investing In Our Coasts: Environment, Economy, Culture***

America's coasts continue to be a focal point for gauging our nation's well-being on many fronts. They highlight the challenging juxtaposition between bounty and scarcity, urban and rural, impacted and pristine. Combined, they represent a patchwork of successes, opportunities, and lessons learned. The Summit theme explores the wide variety of roles our coasts play, ranging from economic to environmental to cultural. People – and companies – are drawn to the coast for a range of reasons, most of which have merit in their own right. When these goals align, then management and restoration can proceed in relative harmony. It is when they do not align that challenges become more difficult. Interwoven throughout this theme is the understanding that a changing climate and all that goes with it (including sea-level rise and Great Lakes level fluctuation) play a substantial role. In these times, we cannot have a conversation about the future of our coasts without keeping in mind the importance of what the future may hold. How we choose to manage and invest in our coasts, including the communities and ecosystems within them, will have profound impacts to future generations. The Summit will provide a forum for dynamic, thoughtful, and insightful discussions as to what has occurred, what is happening now, and how that knowledge should frame our decisions moving forward.

### **ABOUT RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES**

RAE is a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation. RAE and its alliance members collectively work with hundreds of partners and thousands of volunteers in coastal regions around the nation. RAE has also been a leader in the economics and valuation of estuaries, blue carbon, living shorelines, national advocacy, and a wide variety of coastal restoration issues. The ten RAE alliance organizations are leaders in regional efforts around the country to restore bays, estuaries, and coasts. They are:

- ❖ American Littoral Society
- ❖ Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- ❖ Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- ❖ EarthCorps
- ❖ Galveston Bay Foundation
- ❖ North Carolina Coastal Federation
- ❖ Save The Bay – Narragansett Bay
- ❖ Save The Bay – San Francisco Bay
- ❖ Save the Sound – a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
- ❖ Tampa Bay Watch

### **ABOUT THE COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION**

CSO is a nonprofit that represents the Governors of the nation's 35 coastal states, commonwealths, and territories. CSO's mission is to support the shared vision of the U.S.'s coastal states, commonwealths, and territories for the protection, conservation, responsible use, and sustainable economic development of the nation's coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources. CSO works closely with coastal zone management programs in each of the coastal states, commonwealths, and territories to maintain the health and vitality of our coasts. Additionally, CSO works in collaboration with federal, regional, and nonprofit partners to develop innovative methods to: protect and adapt shorelines to ever-changing conditions; assess and share the science and best management practices for coastal resilience; and unify the efforts of the public and private sectors so that homes, jobs, recreational areas, and businesses are all protected from the threats facing our coasts.

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

All proposals are due **April 6, 2018**. Information regarding the submittal process and site will be posted to the Summit webpage once it becomes available in mid-December 2017.

The Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 9<sup>th</sup> National Summit. The Summit Program emphasizes lessons learned and best practices in every aspect of coastal and estuarine restoration and management. There are numerous ways to participate in the Program as described below. Submittals of complete sessions are strongly encouraged.

- **Dedicated Session** – Potential session chairs should propose 5 presenters in a 90-minute session. Dedicated sessions must include multiple viewpoints and diverse organizational representation and we strongly encourage proposals to address various aspects of restoration or management within the chosen topic. Submissions must be made by the proposed session chair and must identify all proposed presenters. Session chairs may propose themselves as one of the presenters in the session, although the preference is for five presenters in addition to the chair.
- **Alternative Format Session** – We encourage dynamic, creative, and interactive 90-minute sessions in which the material or presentation(s) lend themselves better to other formats. Potential examples include, but are not limited to: speed or “lightning” rounds with eight to ten presenters; debate or “poetry slam” style interactions; crowdsource solutions, in which presenters describe problems and seek suggestions from audience members; video presentations, for which the presenter must be available in person; tool café sessions; and coffee house sessions.
- **Single Presentation** – Please propose one 15-minute presentation within one of the Summit focus areas. The Program Committee will organize selected presentations into cohesive 90-minute concurrent sessions and assign session moderators. If you would like to propose more than one presentation, you must submit each proposal separately. We strongly encourage student presentation proposals.
- **Poster** – Posters will be displayed throughout the Summit, and dedicated time will allow poster presenters to directly interact with Summit participants. To the greatest degree possible, posters will be arranged and displayed by focus area. If you would like to submit more than one poster, you must submit each proposal separately. Please note that only one poster per presenter will be accepted into the Summit Program. We strongly encourage student poster proposals.

## FOCUS AREAS

RAE, CSO, and the Program Committee seek proposals that relate to the Summit focus areas. While presentations and posters that address the specific topics identified in each focus area are encouraged, you may also submit a proposal that falls outside of the suggested focus areas. Please keep in mind that the term “coastal” also extends to Great Lakes ecosystems and their management, as defined by the Coastal Zone Management Act. We encourage international submissions, as well.

The focus areas outlined in the following sections represent the priorities set by the Program Committee, RAE, and CSO. Some topics may fall under multiple focus areas and submitters are encouraged to think about their proposal in a broad context. For example, a proposal on living shorelines could address almost any one of the focus areas depending on its details. It is expected that issues related to a changing climate will be present in all focus areas. The Program Committee, in concert with RAE and CSO, will develop the program based on the proposals submitted and craft cohesive sessions and tracks.

### **Focus Area 1. America's Pacific Coast**

Given the location of the Summit, it is natural for this region to be of particular interest. This focus area will provide an opportunity to review what has occurred in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and how the management and restoration communities are moving forward. These presentations are not intended to be insular and applicable only to the West Coast, but rather an opportunity for attendees to take away “lessons learned” to their regions and vice versa. Submittals could address, but are not limited to:

- Discussions and updates on programs and projects specific to the Pacific Coast;
- Challenges and opportunities unique to the Pacific Coast;
- Ocean acidification on the Pacific Coast;
- Management of anadromous fish populations, including salmon;
- Incorporating indigenous cultural heritage into coastal management and restoration;
- Earthquake and tsunami hazard planning;
- Plastic pollution, including microplastics in seafood;
- Invasive species;
- Port management;
- Regional sediment management and beneficial use;
- Drought issues;
- Fire regime and coastal planning;
- Air quality issues;
- Los Angeles river revitalization;
- Water resource sustainability and conservation; and
- Pacific Coast-based restoration: strategic restoration planning, implementation, and adaptive management.

### **Focus Area 2. Living Shorelines and Other Nature-Based Shoreline Management Approaches**

Whether referred to as soft armoring, living shorelines, nature based natural features, or soft stabilization, this suite of techniques offers an exciting opportunity to address shoreline and ecosystem needs. This field is advancing at a rapid pace with knowledge and techniques being continuously honed. This focus area will highlight the latest advancements and information. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Real-world examples and lessons learned with implementation;
- Use of “softer” techniques in high-energy environments and varying wave energies;
- Advances in implementation and science;
- Outreach to property owners;
- Financing and funding mechanisms;
- Incentives – what’s working and what other areas can learn;
- Project metrics and performance frameworks;
- Green-grey approaches, including SAGE;
- Outreach to professionals, including contractors, landscape architects, realtors, engineers, designers, planners, public works staff, staff with departments of transportation, and all other professions that are interested in or work with these techniques;
- Local comprehensive planning and ordinances; and
- Permitting: federal, state, and local, including new approaches and changes (e.g. impacts of NWP 54).

### **Focus Area 3. Economy, Finance, and Investment**

This focus area will explore how the coastal management and restoration community can – and must – evolve its current approach to valuing resources and infrastructure and how projects and programs are financed. The goal is for attendees to learn about new perspectives and approaches that will leverage funding in innovative ways, particularly as it relates to gaining private sector support and investment. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Creative conservation financing;
- Public-private partnerships;
- Adapting techniques from other realms (e.g. stormwater) to coastal issues;
- How to better engage potential funding partners;
- Creating sustainable economic development strategies;
- Leveraging funds – making the most of what is available;
- Alternative finance;
- Blue carbon as a funding mechanism;
- Green bonds;
- Linking ecosystem services and economic valuation;
- Role of conservations corps in the restoration and management communities; and
- Demonstrating measurable impact to funders and partners.

### **Focus Area 4. Science and Technology**

In order for programs, projects, and policies to be effective practitioners, scientists, planners, and decision makers must have access to the most accurate data and best tools available. This focus area captures the intersection of science and technology and how these can best be put to use at your desk and on the ground. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Latest scientific findings and emerging science;
- Monitoring at different scales, both spatially and level of detail;
- Physical and chemical changes to the oceans, estuaries, and coastal ecosystems, including ocean acidification, ocean warming trends, and related impacts;
- Estuarine and marine ecosystem biodiversity: species distribution and estuarine, wetland, and ocean habitat changes;
- Connecting historic data to modern and future data: preserving the historical record while working today and looking to tomorrow;
- Modeling tools and technology;
- Incorporating changing conditions into long-term models;
- Using science and technology in long-term planning and adaptive management;
- Cutting-edge technologies available to support implementation and monitoring – opportunities and constraints;
- Advances in the science of coastal and estuarine “blue carbon” storage and sequestration and their implications for coastal wetlands restoration and protection;
- Latest understanding of how our coasts and estuaries are changing and are expected to change;
- Use of wide-ranging observation systems (e.g. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS));
- Monitoring and evaluation: bio-physical and socio-economic;
- Ecosystem services, including benefit trade-offs;
- Use of reference sites in evaluating monitoring results;
- Use of restoration trajectories;

- Putting historical data in context: best practices in areas where the “original” ecosystem cannot be returned to historical conditions; and
- Response strategies: information needs, science and risk communication, mitigation and adaptation planning, and local-scale decision support tools.

### **Focus Area 5. Planning, Policy, and Administration**

Policy, planning, and administration decisions profoundly affect the success of any project or program. The topics in this focus area will provide attendees important information on policies, regulations, laws, and approaches that have or may affect restoration and management and allow a forum in which to discuss critical legal and policy decisions that impact restoration and management. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- The National Ocean Policy;
- Role of land acquisition in restoration, management, and conservation;
- Integrating comprehensive planning into restoration and coastal management;
- Creating and sustaining governance strategies across sectors;
- Coastal Zone Management Act as a tool for promoting effective coastal management and resiliency;
- Coastal Zone Management Programs as a tool to coordinate multi-level partnerships;
- Community Rating System (CRS) and how communities can implement green practices;
- Role of departments of transportation in restoration and coastal management;
- Federal legislative assessments, including the Farm Bill, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Water Resources Development Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and others – their potential impact on coastal management and restoration;
- Energy development and production;
- Role of state fish and wildlife agencies and state fisheries management commissions in restoration and management;
- Incorporating design aspects to enhance restoration site management;
- The roles of restoration and management in support of fishing, hunting, and recreational opportunities;
- Spatial planning;
- Implications of alternative energy development on coastal management and restoration;
- Planning aspects of ecosystem and migration corridors;
- Regional Ocean Partnerships: on-the-ground lessons learned and moving forward; and
- Incorporating landscape architecture and landscape conservation design into planning and decision making.

### **Focus Area 6. Coastal Restoration**

This focus area offers presenters the opportunity to share their success stories on the nuts-and-bolts of coastal restoration issues. Realizing what did not work is often as critical as identifying what did, so “lessons learned” sessions are especially encouraged. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Ecosystems and techniques addressing:
  - Marshes and tidally influenced wetlands,
  - Shellfish,
  - Submerged aquatic vegetation,
  - Corals,
  - Mangroves,
  - Beaches and shorelines,
  - Ecotones and adjacent ecosystems,
  - Fish passage, and
  - Hybrid systems;

- Restoration in a changing climate: approaches for adaption in the face of sea-level rise and increasing storm frequency and intensity;
- Challenges and opportunities on public and private lands;
- Beneficial reuse of dredged material; and
- Use of thin-layer deposition.

### **Focus Area 7. Coastal Management**

This focus area will highlight the unique topics within the coastal management realm. These sessions will provide a forum for discussing challenges and exploring solutions for the hands-on practice and implementation of coastal management. “Lessons learned” are strongly encouraged. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Coastal zone management in action;
- Role of ports, harbors, and coastal industries;
- Great Lakes-specific issues;
- Unique challenges of islands and territories;
- Regional Sediment Management and beneficial use;
- Managing visitor use impacts and increasing public access opportunities;
- Increased shipping traffic: spills and responses, disturbances to wildlife, and implications of post-Panamax expansion;
- Strategies: what works in today’s multi-faceted environment;
- Managing urban coast lines;
- Incorporating coastal hazard planning and resilience into local comprehensive plans;
- Learning from mistakes: lessons learned and adaptive management;
- New and emerging ocean and coastal uses, including finfish and shellfish aquaculture;
- Balancing multiple pressures on built and natural resources;
- Offshore renewable energy;
- How to build and increase resiliency in ports and marine transportation centers;
- Connecting “green” and “blue” water: studying and managing the continuum between estuaries and open ocean;
- Aging infrastructures and implications for their management in an increasing-threats climate;
- Working waterways and waterfronts;
- Resolving conflicts;
- Managing subsistence use of fisheries;
- Managed retreat; and
- Management approaches when managed retreat is not a realistic option.

### **Focus Area 8. Education, Engagement, and Culture**

Education, outreach, and cultural engagement are all critical aspects of fostering a citizenry that is excited about, and supportive of, coastal and estuarine restoration and management. Using a wide variety of approaches and techniques is essential to reaching the widest possible audience. Proposals are sought that explore ways of reaching out and engaging a broad constituency. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Working with “non-traditional” partners and stakeholders;
- Meaningfully engaging diverse, typically-underserved, and at-risk coastal communities;
- Fostering a cultural connection to the coast;
- Using Traditional Ecological Knowledge in outreach and education;
- Creating opportunity for racial equality;

- Socioeconomic aspects to waterfront and shoreline access;
- Use of the arts in outreach and education;
- Effective communications – how to best engage audiences and craft successful messages;
- Best practices of remote learning technologies;
- Use of social media to assess and inform public knowledge;
- Stakeholder engagement and retention – best practices and lessons learned;
- Incorporating social sciences into planning and decision-making;
- Best practices and lessons learned in education for all ages;
- Assessing and improving public awareness of restoration and coastal management issues;
- Recruiting and working with volunteers;
- Community development;
- Engaging religious and faith-based constituencies;
- New approaches for tourism and recreation;
- Exploring the link between society and the environment – diverse perceptions, values, and attitudes;
- Incorporating social and environmental justice into coastal management and restoration; and
- Work force and volunteer development – how to meet the demand for jobs, projects, and programs that require special skill sets.

### **Focus Area 9. Water Resources**

Water resources are the backbone of our coastal and estuarine ecosystems, yet are some of the hardest to manage. The very nature of water creates unique obstacles, ranging from cross-jurisdictional issues to the conveyance of persistent pollutants. This focus area will highlight the wide range of issues related to water resources and the implications for coastal management and restoration. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Water quality restoration and management;
- Watershed management approaches;
- Incorporating lower impact development (LID) into restoration and management;
- Water rights, diversions, and acquisitions;
- Achieving large-scale watershed water quality goals through land-based practices such as LID;
- Green infrastructure and sustainability;
- Managing water quantity and inputs;
- Incentivizing upstream measures for downstream improvements;
- Total daily maximum load (TMDL): approaches, challenges, and implementation;
- Eutrophication;
- Run-off and point and non-point source pollution;
- Toxic chemicals and heavy metals;
- Removal of derelict structures; and
- Marine debris.



## Focus Area 10. Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery

Disasters and their impacts on coasts are receiving increased attention commensurate with the damage they are causing. This focus area includes ways communities are working to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters, both natural and anthropogenic. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Disaster planning, response, and recovery – implications of, and activities in, both restoration and coastal management: Sandy, Irene, Katrina, Matthew, Irma, Maria, etc.;
- Coastal hazards: storm prediction capability and changes in storm frequency and intensity;
- Roles of state and county emergency management agencies in partnerships to address resilience;
- Risk communication;
- Sea level rise: trends, property and infrastructure impacts, habitat loss, barrier island and inlet changes, and implications for restoration and management;
- National Flood Insurance Program reform;
- Spill response and preparedness;
- RESTORE Act updates;
- Role of NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment);
- Programs at all levels focused on building and promoting resiliency;
- Post-disaster planning with an eye toward the future: e.g. updating building codes, planning for more-resilient infrastructure;
- Pre-disaster response and post-disaster mitigation; and
- Removal of derelict structures from the landscape following disasters.

## Focus Area 11. Large-Scale Management and Restoration

Coastal and estuarine restoration and management at all scales is important for various reasons. Large-scale restoration and management require different, and sometimes unique, approaches and tools in order to succeed. This focus area delves into how large-scale approaches can be effective and what the community has learned through the years, including the role of regional ocean partnerships. Proposals could address, but are not limited to:

- Place-based watershed and ecosystem approaches – e.g. Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay, San Francisco Bay, Mississippi Delta, Great Lakes, Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound/Georgia Basin, Long Island Sound, Florida Keys, etc.;
- Coordination in North America: partnerships and coordination between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico;
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and similar efforts;
- National Ocean Policy;
- Estuary conservation: lessons learned, successes, and failures;
- Lessons learned with multi-jurisdictional efforts;
- Successfully scaling-up complex projects and programs: approaches, pitfalls, and unique challenges;
- Establishing and applying standardized success criteria for large-scale efforts; and
- Regional Ocean Partnerships: on-the-ground lessons learned and moving forward.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Details regarding the submittal process will be posted to the Summit website when they become available. You will be required to provide full contact and biographical information for all presenters and the session chair (if submitting a dedicated or alternative format session). **All proposals must be submitted by 11:59pm PT on April 6, 2018.**

## **Selection Process and Criteria**

The Program Committee will review proposals in conjunction with RAE and CSO. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria, including:

- Significance to the restoration and/or coastal management communities;
- Applicability and transferability of information to other projects and locales, particularly with respect to “lessons learned,” which are defined as those elements that did not occur as expected and what was learned from challenges that may have arisen;
- Relevance to Summit theme and focus areas;
- Interconnectivity between restoration and/or management on multiple scales and regions;
- Insight on upcoming restoration and/or coastal management trends and science; and
- Thoroughness of proposal.

## **The selection process is competitive and not all submitted proposals will be accepted into the Summit**

**Program.** Oral presentations not selected for inclusion in the Summit Program will receive strong consideration for inclusion in the Poster Session.

## **Presenter/Chair Responsibilities**

Once a proposal has been accepted for inclusion in the Program, RAE and CSO will communicate due dates for additional required information for the printed Summit Program booklet along with audio-visual (AV) logistics. Session chairs are responsible for providing all required information related to their sessions by the due dates. Reasonable AV equipment, including laptops, projectors, and screens, will be provided as needed. All presentations should be in English.

## **Poster Setup and Display**

Posters will be displayed on a board from Sunday evening, December 9, through Wednesday afternoon, December 12. Poster set-up will occur on Sunday afternoon. Additional information on poster logistics will be provided upon approval into the program. To the degree possible, posters will be arranged by topic or focus area. If you would like your poster displayed with others, please indicate this in your proposal in the “additional information” area in the submittal form. The Summit schedule will include time during which posters will be presented in the Expo Hall.

## **Some key points to keep in mind:**

- Proposals will be reviewed based on the information received by the due date of April 6, 2018. Proposals deemed incomplete or lacking in information will likely be rejected by the Program Committee.
- A person may submit more than one proposal and someone may be included in more than one proposal. As a general rule, however, the Program Committee tries to limit people to one oral presentation within the program to maximize speaking opportunities for the most number of people, i.e. someone may submit more than one oral presentation proposal, but the likelihood is that only one will be chosen for inclusion. Submitters may propose an oral presentation and poster and both may be selected for the Program.
- When developing your proposal, please refer to the GPO Style Guide (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2008/pdf/GPO-STYLEMANUAL-2008.pdf>) for guidance about capitalization, punctuation, acronyms, and similar grammatical items.
- Dedicated sessions must have five speakers. If your session has unique elements (e.g. uses a workshop format) that would necessitate fewer presenters, please submit the proposal as an alternative format session.
- Single presentations will be combined to create sessions. If you have a preference as to the type of session, please indicate it in the “additional information” box in the online form.
- Dedicated sessions should consist of multiple viewpoints and organizational representation; sessions consisting of staff from only one organization will likely be rejected by the Program Committee.

- **All Summit attendees, including speakers and poster presenters, must register and pay the registration fee to participate in the Summit in person.** If you are submitting a session or submitting on behalf of other speakers, please make sure everyone in your session understands this requirement and is prepared to pay the registration fee and associated travel costs to attend the Summit. Registration fees will be as follows:
  - Early bird - \$495
  - Full - \$595
  - On-site - \$625
  - Currently Enrolled Student (with current student ID) - \$275
  - One-Day - \$290
- Scholarships for registration and similar funding mechanisms will be available in limited quantities. Information will be posted to [www.estuaries.org/summit](http://www.estuaries.org/summit) when it is available.

## QUESTIONS

For additional information about the Summit, please visit [www.estuaries.org/summit](http://www.estuaries.org/summit) or contact the following people:

- Sponsorship and Exhibiting Opportunities – Courtney Lewis ([clewis@estuaries.org](mailto:clewis@estuaries.org))
- General Summit Information – Elsa Carlisle Schwartz ([conference@estuaries.org](mailto:conference@estuaries.org))
- Program Information – Suzanne Giles Simon ([program@estuaries.org](mailto:program@estuaries.org)) or Julia Wyman ([jwyman@rwu.edu](mailto:jwyman@rwu.edu))