

SEABROOK-HAMPTONS ESTUARY ALLIANCE

ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROTECTION OF COASTAL
AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, AND THE PRESERVATION
OF THE SEABROOK-HAMPTONS ESTUARINE
SYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION, COMMUNITY
OUTREACH AND RESEARCH.

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2022

Annual Report

Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance

About Us

The Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA), a New Hampshire non-profit corporation, was formed in 2015 to protect the coastal and aquatic resources and preserve the Hampton-Seabrook estuarine system through education, community outreach and research.

Our Mission

Our goal is to preserve, restore and advocate for the estuary's health and ecosystem services that provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, protect against flooding and support responsible recreational and commercial use.

Our Vision for the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary

The Hampton-Seabrook Estuary is a thriving and resilient estuarine environment, home to healthy, diverse populations of fish, shellfish, birds, plants, and other native species, and sustainably used by surrounding communities for its aesthetic, recreational, and economic benefits and ecosystem services. Local governments, residents, and visitors recognize, respect, and enjoy the watershed's connective habitats, litter-free beaches, and clean waters, which form the bedrock of their community. Development occurs in a manner that protects both natural resources and infrastructure and allows the estuary and its watershed to naturally adapt to the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, groundwater and sea level rise, coastal storm surges, and flooding.*

Reach Us

Visit the SHEA website at **shea4nh.org** to learn more about the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary, our projects, events, and partners. Please feel free to reach out to us via email at **info@shea4nh.org**



Board of Directors

Jay Diener
President

Deborah Wrobel
Vice President

Shawn Hanson
Treasurer/Secretary

Rebecca Irelan

Matthew Cranney

SHEA Executive Director

Rayann Dionne

Annual Report Overview

2022 was a year of significant activity with impactful results for the Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA). The Estuary Management Plan neared completion and SHEA was highly engaged with the community while soliciting broad input on this important regional document. Partnerships with local, regional, State, and Federal entities continued to be strengthened, with a focus on collaborative estuary protection and management. New funding and grant opportunities were pursued to support SHEA's work. Estuary-related projects were advanced in Seabrook to include both outreach and education with Seabrook Middle School and the development of the Seabrook Coastal Resilience Team, which will begin its work in early 2023. SHEA's organization has grown with the addition of a new Board member and the creation of an Executive Director position at the end of 2022.

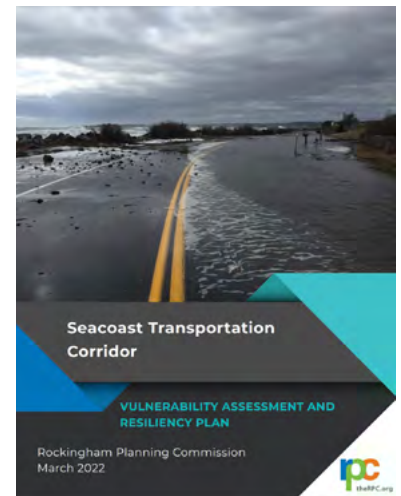


SHEA Outreach, Presentations and Workshops

In 2022, SHEA participated in a community outreach event and hosted four estuary-related presentations and workshops that were all well-attended by the local communities.

Seacoast Transportation Vulnerability Report

On April 18, SHEA hosted David Walker from Rockingham Planning Commission, who discussed the Seacoast Transportation Vulnerability Report. This report addresses the current state of coastal roadways, their vulnerability to coastal flooding and where the greatest need for improvements or upgrades exists. This online presentation was well-attended by municipal officials, coastal residents & business people. To view the recording, click [here](#) or visit shea4nh.org/floodsmart-roundtable. To view the Seacoast Transportation Vulnerability Report, click [here](#) or visit therpc.org/STCVA



NH's Salt Marsh Birds and Their Conversation



On May 3, SHEA hosted a virtual presentation and discussion on the birds of the salt marsh. Dr. Pamela Hunt, Senior Biologist in Avian Conservation with NH Audubon, discussed the different types of migratory and nesting birds that visit the Hampton-Seabrook saltmarsh and the challenges this important habitat is facing. Click [here](#) or visit shea4nh.org/previous-workshops to view the presentation.

Community Outreach

On May 14, SHEA engaged in a community event at the Hampton Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale. SHEA staffed a table and provided information about the organization, as well as rain chain kits and birdhouse kits for residents to take home (at no charge) and install to help manage stormwater runoff from their roofs, and to welcome local wildlife.

NH Coastal Rail Trail

On June 9, SHEA hosted a two-part Webinar focused on FEMA's changes to the National Flood Insurance Program's flood insurance risk rating methodology: Part 1 focused on FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 and highlighted how this update changed the way FEMA determines flood vulnerability on individual properties. The second part of the webinar explored Hampton's work in developing higher regulatory building standards for structures within flood-prone areas as a strategy for adapting to more frequent high-tide flooding and worsening coastal storms. Click [here](#) or visit shea4nh.org/floodsmart-roundtable to view the presentation.

Salt Marsh Guided Walking Tour

SHEA offered an educational salt marsh tour in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary on October 15. About 15 members of the community attended and listened as SHEA Board-member, Deborah Wrobel spoke about the ecology and history of New Hampshire's salt marshes and the valuable role they play.



Grants

NHDES Coastal Program Technical Assistance Grant

SHEA was awarded a \$15,000 Technical Assistance Grant to complete a variety of public outreach, educational, and research activities. This grant is provided by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, in conjunction with the NHDES Coastal Program. The grant period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Key activities in 2022 included:

- Supporting SHEA's attendance and participation in the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW);
- Providing administrative, technical and meeting support to the Hampton Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT);
- Working to establish the Seabrook Coastal Resilience Team; conducting public outreach and education via workshops and webinars;
- Supporting and working with the UNH Cooperative Extension and NH SeaGrant on Seabrook Middle School climate/estuary-related programs, including installing a picture post for salt marsh monitoring;
- Providing support for development of the Estuary Management Plan via updates for involved partners;
- Updating the 2020 Conservation Land Projects based on newly available high-resolution Tidal Wetlands maps developed by the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Each project was either completed or was significantly advanced.

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) Grant

SHEA was awarded \$30,000 from PREP for each of the next 5 years, starting in January 2023, to fund the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Collaborative (HSE) Coordinator position, as well as the SHEA Executive Director for projects related to the implementation of SHEA's Estuary Management Plan.

Wildlife Management Institute and NERACOOS Funding

SHEA was awarded funding from US Fish and Wildlife via the Wildlife Management Institute (\$7,273) and NOAA via NERACOOS (\$12,189) to additionally support the HSE Coordinator Position. This funding allowed SHEA to establish the part-time position beginning late August 2022 and provide funding for it through March 2023.

NH State Conservation Committee (Moose Plate) and PREP Grants

SHEA continued to receive funding, from the NH State Conservation Committee (\$21,900) and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (\$13,000) to complete the Estuary Management Plan for the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. These two grants are for the initial existing document research, the production of the Vision, Management Objectives, and Management Strategies chapters, as well as the collection or creation of maps and supporting documents. The grant period is from May 2021 through April 30, 2023, by which time the Estuary Management Plan will be completed.

Project Highlights

Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT)

The Hampton Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT), formed in January 2019, continued to meet monthly into and throughout 2022. The group of municipal and residential representatives is charged with researching and identifying potential adaptation strategies for the Town to consider as it attempts to cope with and adapt to increasing tidal and storm-surge flooding.

CHAT's key focus areas include:

- Improve coordination of flood hazard management and adaptation efforts in Hampton;
- Investigate, analyze, and prioritize flood management and adaptation strategies and present recommendations to Hampton's municipal boards and commissions for consideration;
- Inform residents about the flood hazard management and adaptation options the Town is considering, and provide opportunities for residents to give input on these options;
- Provide educational and public outreach opportunities concerning flood hazard management and adaptation strategies.

Throughout 2022, CHAT continued to advance the draft recommendations developed in 2020, by refining, presenting, and promoting these adaptation strategies for dealing with the impacts of sea level rise. Some areas of focus were Hampton's Master Plan Update; seeking solutions to the flooding in the King's Highway/Meadow Pond area; saltmarsh ditch remediation; advancing amendments to the floodplain regulations. CHAT meeting notes, member updates and announcements are posted on SHEA's website. View the CHAT page [here](#) or visit shea4nh.org/coastal-hazards-adaptation-team-chat.





Project Highlights

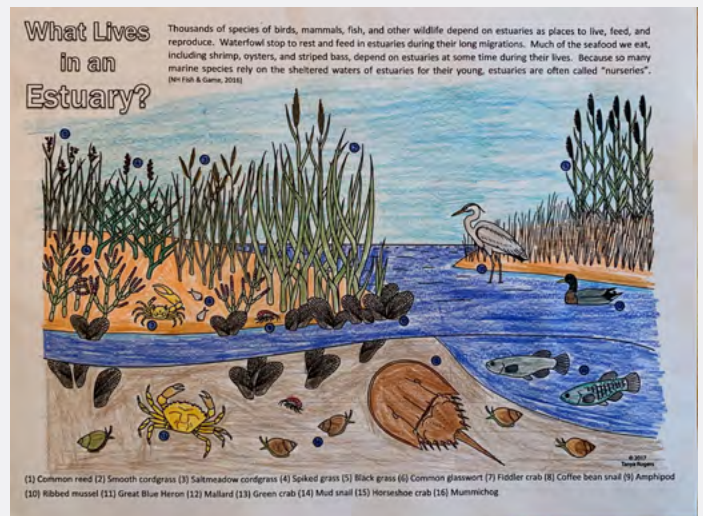
Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Management Plan

FB Environmental, hired in 2021 to research and write the Estuary Management Plan (EMP), continued that work in 2022, to be completed in early 2023. Similar to a Master Plan, the EMP provides guidance for all three of the towns (Hampton, Seabrook, Hampton Falls) bordering the estuary on ways to protect and preserve the estuary while still providing for various commercial and recreational uses. This working document will provide a roadmap for collaborative management of the estuary. During 2022, members of SHEA met with the Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions in each of the three towns, as well as the Hampton Beach Area Commission and the Hampton Beach Village District, to seek input on the Estuary Management Plan, including a review of some of the draft chapters. The EMP includes a summary of current environmental conditions and uses of the estuary, existing protection policies and regulations, future threats, a vision for the estuary, and management strategies and action steps to meet the goals and objectives developed for the estuary. Once the EMP is completed, SHEA will continue to be actively involved in its implementation.

National Estuaries Photo Contest



The SHEA National Estuaries Week Photo Contest is held over National Estuaries Week every September. SHEA accepts and selects winning photos of the estuary in 4 different categories: Wildlife, Landscapes, Sunrises/Sunsets, and Weather Events. First and second place winners in each category receive cash awards. Funding for the National Estuaries Photo Contest winners comes from the Hampton, Hampton Falls, and Seabrook Conservation Commissions. The winning photos are featured on the SHEA website and in promotional materials. Many excellent photographs were submitted in 2022; shared below are some of the winning photos. In 2022, SHEA expanded National Estuaries Week outreach by hosting a Children's Estuary Coloring Contest, hosted by local libraries in Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls. SHEA was impressed by their exceptional use of color! See some entries below.





What Lives in an Estuary?

Thousands of species of birds, mammals, fish, and other wildlife depend on estuaries as places to live, feed, and reproduce. Waterfowl stop to rest and feed in estuaries during their long migrations. Much of the seafood we eat, including shrimp, oysters, and striped bass, depend on estuaries at some time during their lives. Because so many marine species rely on the sheltered waters of estuaries for their young, estuaries are often called "nurseries". (NRI Fish & Game, 2016)



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Key Estuary Partnerships

Members of the SHEA Board and SHEA's Executive Director regularly attend meetings with a wide range of local, State, and Federal partners to advance estuary-related projects and proposals, including the Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards in Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls, the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Collaborative, the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, and the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP)

SHEA participated in PREP's Paths To Resilience project, which resulted in a video update ([Paths to Resilience: Resilient Hampton](#)) of the work various entities in Hampton had been doing to address local tidal flooding issues. The video shows a narrated timeline of key projects and initiatives from 2010-2021 that help make Hampton more resilient to flooding and sea level rise.



Hampton-Estuary Science Collaborative

The Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Collaborative, a group of federal, state, and local entities that have a shared focus of improving the long-term health and vitality of the Estuary and its communities, continued to meet throughout 2022. SHEA participates as a member of the Steering Committee of the Collaborative. The Steering Committee helps plan Collaborative meetings and provides direction for the Collaborative.

In 2022, funding for a Short-Term Coordinator for the Collaborative was provided by NOAA through NERACOOS (Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems) and by US Fish and Wildlife through the Wildlife management Institute. Funding for the HSE Coordinator will be provided beyond 2022 by PREP.

The Collaborative convened regularly to discuss ongoing and planned projects; consider project partnerships; and to discuss ways the Collaborative could take advantage of upcoming project funding opportunities.

- Articulate the value of a landscape-scale approach to coastal ecosystem and community resilience.
- Coordinate and align resources and activities to more effectively provide the science and data to help communities understand, manage, and protect the Estuary.
- Explore near-term opportunities for collaboration that aims to ensure these efforts are mutually supportive, contribute to commonly shared goals for the Estuary, and set the stage for longer-term more robust monitoring, adaptive management, and restoration.

The partnership includes NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Fish & Wildlife, NHDES, PREP, the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), Army Corp of Engineers, and SHEA. With funding provided by the EPA, PREP, and NextEra, a consultant was brought in to help focus and coordinate the efforts of the collaborative. The Collaborative's work will be the basis for determining the health of the key indicators in the estuary, as well as remedial and/or monitoring activities needed to restore and maintain the health of the estuary overall.

Financial Information 2022

SHEA received \$48,852 in grants and donations in 2022. Operating expenses, including contractual obligations, contest prizes, speaker fees, supplies and administrative charges totaled \$46,148.

SHEA Account Summary - 2022

Cash flow summary

Initial Checking Account Balance	\$	580.55
Final Checking Account Balance	\$	1,284.66

Operating cash flow

Operating income

Grant Funding	\$	44,051.00
Donations	\$	4,801.47
Total operating income	\$	48,852.47

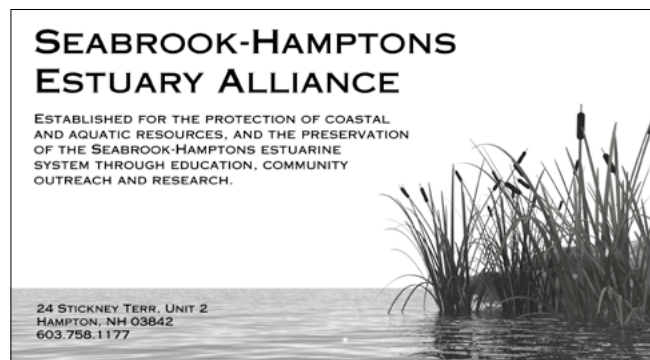
Operating expenses

Contractor Invoices	\$	45,045.00	\$
Contest Prizes & Workshop Speaker	759.26		
Office and Project Supplies	\$	752.03	\$
Administration - Accounting, Insurance, Licenses, Memberships	1,592.07		
Total operating expenses	\$	48,148.36	

2022

SHEA is pleased with the progress made, and is looking forward to continuing to build upon existing projects and initiating new efforts to protect and preserve the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. We encourage you to keep up to date on projects and upcoming webinars by visiting our website and subscribing to the SHEA newsletter.

www.shea4nh.org



New Hampshire
Coastal Program
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

