



A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and The Nature Conservancy are pleased to invite you to the *Enhancing Coastal Resilience on Virginia's Eastern Shore Community Leader Workshop*, which will be held on November 12 and 13 at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Wallops Research Park. We need your help at this workshop to develop practical tools that will assist local communities reduce the risks from coastal hazards and enhance the socio-economic and environmental resilience of the Eastern Shore. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on both days, plus a field trip to visit oyster reef restoration sites and sites impacted by recurrent coastal flooding at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and other locations at the end of the first day. A reception at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station will follow the field trip.

At the *Enhancing Coastal Resilience* workshop community leaders and scientific experts will work together to discuss how models of sea-level rise inundation, storm surge, marsh migration, and Atlantic barrier island-inlet evolution can address issues of greatest concern regarding coastal hazard risks on the Eastern Shore and help to identify viable solutions for mitigation. Community leaders will be asked to provide input on scenarios regarding future conditions and likely management interventions to be incorporated into models to ensure outputs are useful and relevant for local governments.

The *Enhancing Coastal Resilience* workshop will kick off a two-year, \$1.46 million project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Department of Interior's Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Fund. Building on the previous work of the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Working Group, the project will develop a practical Eastern Shore web-mapping tool called *Coastal Resilience*. The Eastern Shore tool will assess risks and identify solutions for managing coastal hazards caused by recurrent flooding, inundation, and shoreline erosion, and allow community leaders to plan for hazard mitigation, stormwater management, transportation infrastructure, restoration, and emergency services.

Your partnership, participation, and input at the start of this project are critical to ensure that the *Coastal Resilience* tool benefits Eastern Shore communities and local governments. Please plan to attend and share your efforts, challenges, and needs related to reducing risks of coastal hazards and enhancing resilience on the Eastern Shore of Virginia!

Sincerely,

Curt Smith
Director of Planning
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Jill Bieri
Director, Virginia Coast Reserve
The Nature Conservancy

