



SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY NEWSLETTER



August/September 2020

Volume 1, Number 8

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REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE *by Pam Castens - Senior Project Manager*

Our team has been BUSY working through the second suite of half-day focus area workshops aimed at developing strategy components to address risk. Huge thanks to our Federal and non-federal partners/stakeholders for their time and valuable contributions in making the focus area action strategies relevant and real. Our Command Center Team held two successful briefings to the Senior Advisory Group and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in early September, and continue to appreciate the support of our entire vertical team. More stakeholder engagements are on the horizon so- we look forward to keeping our team energy high and geared toward success!



Sea Turtle

SAND UPDATE *by Clay McCoy, PhD*

The Sand Availability and Needs Determination (SAND) study, the 50-year regional sand assessment, achieved several milestones in August that will result in completing the project on-schedule in September. Contractor Taylor Engineering submitted the draft final SAND report and geodatabase. USACE and partner agencies submitted review comments on 26 Aug. In addition, the team reviewed the Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) Offloading and Sediment Exchange Study, a component of SAND, draft final report and geodatabase that will be finalized in September. The DMMA study provides strategies to support coastal resilience through effective management of upland dredged material storage areas throughout SAD.



<https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/>



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Featuring

*Planning
Technical
Lead*

*Geospatial
Lead*

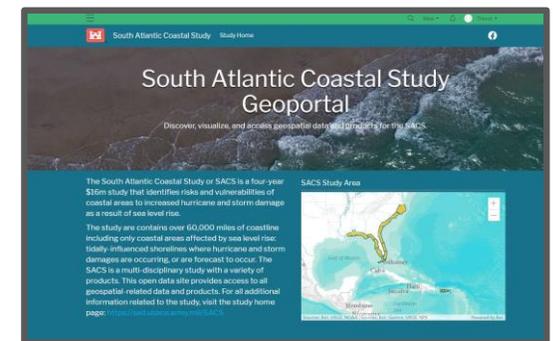
COMMAND CENTER TEAM

Planning Technical Lead *Matt Schrader, P.E.*

Matt serves as the SACS Command Team regional planning lead. While assisting district teams with state and territory-specific work, he also helps the Command Team coordinate SACS progress with the USACE vertical team, and collaborates with USACE and stakeholder subject matter experts on SACS products and overall study development. Recently, he's been assisting district teams in preparation for 21 Focus Area workshops. Adapting to COVID-19 restrictions, he worked with the SACS Command Team and contractor, CDM Smith, to redesign the workshops into a 3-part virtual experience including the ability for stakeholders to provide input through online questionnaires and an interactive GIS application, allowing stakeholders to provide input, evaluate data, and mark-up maps much as they would in an in-person workshop.

GIS UPDATE by *Trevor Lancaster, GISP*

To complement the SACS State and Territory Appendix report products, web mapping applications are currently being built for each State and Territory in the study area that will consume and display all available Tier 2 GIS data from stakeholders and partners. These data include regional, state, and local GIS datasets related to Exposure, Hazards, and Risk. The goal of these products will be to provide both the general public and stakeholders access and dynamic visualization capabilities for higher resolution datasets.

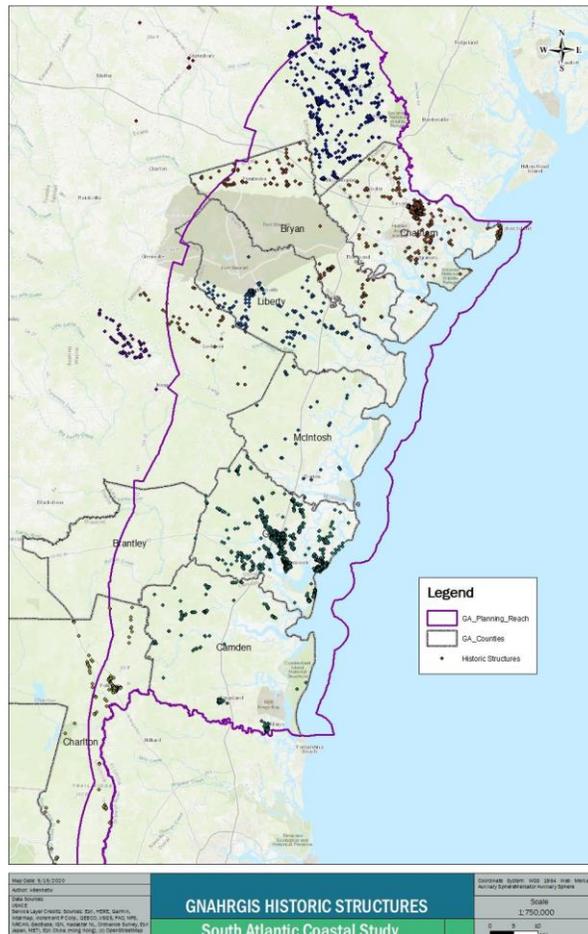




Featuring

Cultural Lead

CULTURAL UPDATE by Kristina May



The SACS cultural team hosted a webinar on August 4, 2020. The webinar was attended by 77 participants from federal and state agencies, historical societies, academia and tribal nations. The SACS cultural team presented the cultural resources at risk to increased coastal storm damages as a result of sea level rise in each state and territory in the SACS study area. Justin Bashaw from the Wilmington District presented the at-risk resources in North Carolina, Ryan Clark from the Jacksonville District presented the at-risk resources in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, and Kristina May from the Baltimore District presented the at-risk resources in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The team received valuable feedback from our stakeholders and tribal nations on the team's identification of the at-risk cultural resources. Slides from the webinar and the meeting summary are located on the SACS website.





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*Jacksonville
District (SAJ)*

*Mobile
District (SAM)*

Jacksonville District



Ashleigh Fountain

The Jacksonville District is rounding the corner on wrapping up their second round of workshops for their nine focus areas, the last one being 29 September. The level of participation and input at the Strategy Development Workshops has been tremendous. Prior to the summary workshop this fall, the Project Delivery Team will be working to follow up with stakeholders in the meantime to clarify and/or refine action strategy submissions, as needed. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for your support in the SACS!

Mobile District



Meredith Ladart

The Mobile District has five focus areas covering a span of three states; Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. The team just completed the strategy development workshops for the focus areas. Due to storm activity in the region, the team creatively combined the Biloxi-Gulfport and Greater Pascagoula focus areas. The team is now working to incorporate the feedback received from the workshops into the draft focus area action strategies. The wrap-up sessions are scheduled for October. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for your support in the SACS!





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**Charleston
District (SAC)**

**Wilmington
District (SAW)**



Charleston District

Diane Perkins

August 26th & 27th, we held workshops for stakeholders in the Grand Strand and the Charleston Metro focus areas. We gathered input through an interactive GIS application where stakeholders marked up maps, which then served as a baseline to hold a group dialogue. The dialogues were robust and diverse ranging from policy ideas through a variety of project types. The team is currently working with this information as well as the feedback gathered at recent workshops for environmental and cultural resources to complete the State Appendix and Focus Area Action Strategies. We are looking forward to gathering more input from environmental agencies at the webinar scheduled for September 30th!

Wilmington District

Brennan Dooley

Following three successful strategy development workshops, our team is in the process of developing action strategies that build on everything we have done to date. We continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure these strategies work with and build on their efforts and planned actions. The team is excited to pull everything together and finalize strategies that can really help our stakeholders.



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Savannah District (SAS)

Savannah District - April Patterson

COL Daniel H. Hibner welcomed thirteen federal, state, and local stakeholders from ten agencies to the FAAS Strategy Development workshop for the Chatham County/Savannah/Tybee Island focus area on August 19, 2020, and Glynn Co./Brunswick/Jekyll Island/St. Simon Island focus area on August 21, 2020. He talked about working on Hurricane Katrina restoration for the New Orleans District and the importance of proactive strategy development and collaboration in working through coastal storm risk management.

The participants reviewed vulnerable and high risk areas, economic damage forecasts, and worked through identifying measures to form implementable strategies using the SACS products: HAZUS which is an economic risk model and the Measures and Cost Library which helps to provide options and screening level cost estimates. The Savannah District team continues to have follow on meetings to form implementable strategies based on risk areas, appropriate measures, and screening level cost estimates. The Savannah District team will continue to refine the strategies for final discussion this October 2020.

