



# Briefing Notice

## Coastal Resilience in the Southeast

Science, Policies, and Programs Furthering Local Resilience Goals

Friday, March 13, 2020  
2 PM – 3:30 PM

**This briefing is being livecast only.**

Please RSVP: [www.eesi.org/031320southeast#rsvp](http://www.eesi.org/031320southeast#rsvp)  
Live webcast will be streamed at: [www.eesi.org/livecast](http://www.eesi.org/livecast)

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invites you to a briefing on initiatives that are helping protect Southeast ecosystems and communities from erosion, storms, and other coastal hazards. The briefing will showcase nature-based solutions that can protect human lives and property from extreme weather and flooding while creating habitat for wildlife and supporting various coastal industries. These techniques can also be paired with traditional “gray” infrastructure to meet a greater variety of planning needs.

The panelists will describe the collaborative process between federal, state, and local stakeholders in collecting, sharing, and acting on scientific data to inform policy decisions around adaptation, thereby helping communities define and achieve their resilience goals. These projects can serve as a model for other regions experiencing similar issues. Speakers for the briefing are:

- **Heidi Stiller**, South Regional Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Ms. Stiller will discuss how NOAA supports resilience projects in the area and NOAA’s Digital Coast, which provides a variety of coastal data, as well as the tools, training, and information needed to make that data truly useful to communities on the ground.
- **Joanna Walczak**, Southeast Regional Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Ms. Walczak will discuss the unique ability of coral reefs to protect Florida communities in wide areas of the Atlantic Coast from storm damage, and the federal, state, and local efforts to protect and revive those corals.
- **Dr. Lexia Weaver**, Coastal Scientist and Central Regional Manager, North Carolina Coastal Federation  
Dr. Weaver will highlight NCCF’s extensive work installing living shorelines throughout North Carolina’s coast. She will further discuss efforts to create community buy-in from various stakeholders and private landowners to complete these projects.
- **Ross Weaver**, Program Assistant Director, Wetlands Watch  
Mr. Weaver will discuss work with local governments to adapt to sea level rise and the regulatory and policy regimes that help (or hinder) implementation of community adaptation and nature-based solutions along Virginia’s coast.

Southeast communities have been devastated by large storms in recent years. As state and local governments rebuild and prepare for the next hurricane season, this briefing aims to provide a sample of tools, policies, and programs along the coast that are helping communities and their environments become more resilient.

**For more information, contact Amber Todoroff at [atodoroff@eesi.org](mailto:atodoroff@eesi.org) or (202) 662-1892.**

