

OYSTER REEF RESTORATION ON SAPELO ISLAND FOR COASTAL HAZARD PROTECTION



Save Our Legacy Ourselves

Institute for Resilient
Infrastructure Systems
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Flooding in Hogg Hummock on Sapelo Island, adjacent to the proposed habitat restoration.

OYSTER REEF RESTORATION ON SAPELO ISLAND

Project Contacts:

01/23/2026

University of Georgia

Brock Woodson, bwoodson@uga.edu

Nik Heynen, nheynen@uga.edu

SOLO

Maurice Bailey, maurice@saveourlegacyourselves.org

Shell to Shore

Hunt Revell, shelltoshoremail@gmail.com

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project will work to restore the oyster reefs and salt marshes around the Saltwater Geechee community of Hogg Hummock on Sapelo Island, Georgia to support a more resilient community in the face of future climate changes by boosting flood protection, improving the historical ditch network, and protecting culturally important places.

University of Georgia researchers are partnering with Save Our Legacy Ourselves (SOLO), a local Saltwater Geechee non-profit, and Shell to Shore (S2S), a non-profit based in Athens, Georgia that provides oyster shells from local restaurants for restoration projects.

UPDATES

Since our last correspondence, the project has:

- Held our first Community Planning Advisory Board Meeting on 23 Feb 2025 and a second meeting May 24 2025. Maps of the restoration area were presented and historically important areas were noted (ongoing).
- Obtained permits for the pilot study in Cabretta and Big Hole Marshes.
- Installed multiple restoration options at 5 sites within the restoration area to monitor and determine those best suited to the local area (See map on following page).
- Began monitoring of pilot sites to assess growth and settlement of new oysters.
- Developed numerical model for storm and flood simulations.
- Permit application for full restoration effort is in public review period until **February 14**.
- Community outreach event scheduled for **February 14**. Please come hungry!

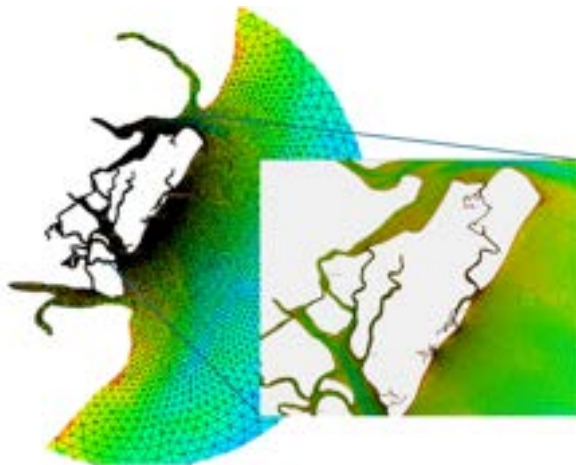


COMMUNITY PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

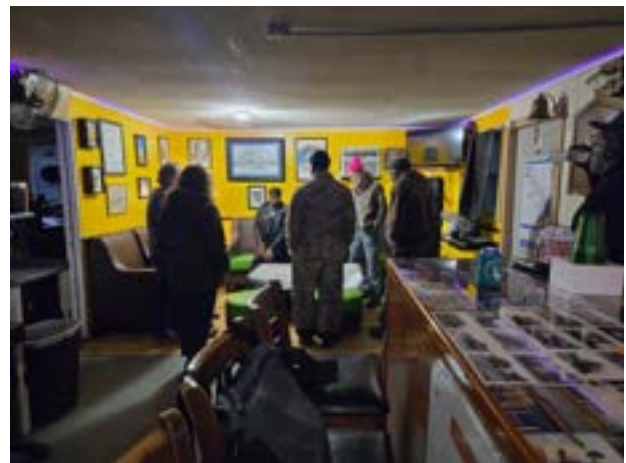
The Community Planning Advisory Board composed of Sapelo Island resident decedents to advise and help disseminate information. The members of the Community Advisory Planning Board include **Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey**, **Mr. Stanley Walker**, **Mr. Marvin “Kent” Grovner Sr.**, **Mr. Mike Grovner** and **Ms. Francine Bailey** as a liaison.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

To help the project have as much community transparency and accountability please reach out to **Ms. Francine Bailey** and **Mr. JC Walker** if you have any questions or concerns.



Model domain for flood reduction impacts of oyster restoration.



First CPAB meeting on 23 Feb 2025



