



## Dauphin Island Sea Lab

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab receives NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant

DAUPHIN ISLAND, Alabama (August 4, 2017) -- The NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants program is supporting a project led by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The program announced \$13.8 million in funding for 19 projects recently.

Renee Collini, Coordinator for the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative, will lead the project, *Overcoming Barriers to Flood Resilience in Northern Gulf of Mexico Coastal Communities*. The project will create a series of short films based on local case studies to enhance the region's ability to address future coastal flooding impacts in Mississippi, Alabama, and northwest Florida. These videos will help raise awareness and access to actionable science for communities facing increasing flooding and inundation. Additionally, there will be a small grants competition to allow other coastal communities the opportunities to take actions such as those highlighted in the case study videos.

The team for the project includes the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative, NOAA Office for Coastal Management and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice, Louisiana Sea Grant, Escambia County, Florida.

An Advisory Committee made up of coastal decision-makers including local elected officials, municipal and county employees, outreach and extension professionals, local NGOs, and regional planning staff will provide valuable guidance and direction to the development of the case study videos throughout the project ensuring their applicability and effectiveness in communication. Those representatives include Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, City of Ocean Springs, Jackson County Utility Authority, The Nature Conservancy of Mississippi, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Mobile County Commission, City of Daphne, and the West Florida Regional Planning Commission.

All projects awarded funding by the NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants program are focused at protecting life and property, strengthen the economy, and conserve as well as restore coastal and marine resources

“From restoring estuaries that provide natural shoreline protection to reducing coastal flooding impacts, the projects supported by these grants assist in ensuring the safety and vibrancy of our nation’s coastal communities and economies,” said Russell Callender, Ph.D., assistant NOAA administrator for the National Ocean Service. “We are pleased to partner with local agencies and groups on the ground to have the greatest impact.”

For a full list of the 2017 projects and to learn more about the Coastal Resilience Grants Program, visit [www.coast.noaa.gov/resilience-grant](http://www.coast.noaa.gov/resilience-grant).