

2020 DISASTER RESILIENCE REPORT

*It was a
RECORD YEAR.*

- Hurricanes – 30 named storms
- Wildfires – Burned more than 10.2 million acres in California, Oregon, and Washington
- Earthquakes – Puerto Rico experienced the strongest, biggest swarm of earthquakes in decades
- Harmful Algal Blooms – In Alaska, a fatality connected to paralytic shellfish poisoning
- 2 system-wide monitoring program stations lost to extreme weather events
- All 29 reserves faced COVID-19 challenges, and 12 experienced natural disasters as well

**But we were
PREPARED.**

- Disaster preparedness plans
 - ◊ Number of sites with completed plans – 12 of 29
 - ◊ Number of sites that completed disaster-focused exercises – 6 of 29
- NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration funding awarded to move research reserve initiatives forward – \$48,000
- New disaster response communication protocols developed in coordination with the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
- Eleven new satellite phones dispersed to meet disaster response needs, and the first region-wide test of this system was held

**We helped our
communities
RESPOND.**

- **South Slough Reserve, Oregon** – Staff provided water transportation for wildland firefighters needing access to remote forest fires.
- **Kachemak Bay Reserve, Alaska** – When Alaska experienced a fatality connected to paralytic shellfish poisoning, staff provided assistance by sharing resources, supporting outreach, and assisting with the development of a public service announcement released by state officials.



National Estuarine Research Reserve System



We support ongoing **DISASTER RECOVERY.**

UNFORTUNATELY, recovery can take a very long time.



Mission-Aransas Reserve, Texas – Efforts continue to restore the grounds and rebuild key facilities that were destroyed or damaged after Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a category four hurricane (2017).

Apalachicola Reserve, Florida, and North Carolina Reserve – These sites received a combined \$56,000 in NOAA supplemental funding (2020) to support continued recovery from infrastructure damages caused by Hurricanes Michael and Florence (2018).

Lake Superior Reserve, Wisconsin – The reserve jumped into action to collect monitoring data during and after an explosion and series of fires at a refinery in Superior, Wisconsin (2018). The reserve continues to help the community document and understand the fire's impacts. Data from this reserve and other partners is informing the development of a new state standard for chemicals used in firefighting.

Rookery Bay Reserve, Florida – This region continues to feel impacts from Hurricane Irma (2017). The reserve contributed \$80,000 and staff time to Collier County in 2020 for debris cleanups in hard-to-reach mangroves and waterways. The reserve is also working to make its facilities safer through dry flood proofing efforts and installing storm shutters on the Environmental Learning Center.



To Learn More, Contact
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National Estuarine Research Reserve System