

Evaluating Living Shorelines in South Carolina

Keppler, Blaik^{1,2}, Denise Sanger¹, Peter Kingsley–Smith¹, Nancy Hadley¹, Michael Hodges¹, Andrew Tweel¹, Al Segars^{1,2}, Matt Slagel³, and Erik Smith⁴

¹*SC Department of Natural Resources*

²*ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve*

³*SC Dept of Health and Environmental Control*

⁴*North Inlet Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*

Living shorelines are an emerging strategy that can be used to protect marshes from erosion. They have the additional benefit of creating habitat, supporting a healthy environment, and protecting coastal areas from hazards like storms and sea level rise. But determining the appropriate shoreline stabilization approach is highly site–specific and more information is needed about how living shorelines work in different coastal conditions. Several groups are starting a project to evaluate how different living shorelines strategies perform in a variety of conditions. This information will be used to help inform living shorelines policy and to promote them as shorelines protection alternatives. This talk will provide an overview of living shorelines and the on–going work to evaluate them.