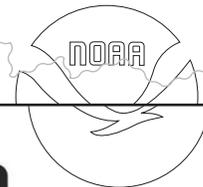


# DISASTER RESILIENCE

## REPORT

# 2021



### It was a challenging year for DISASTERS

- A fish kill of over 3.8 million near Texas' Mission-Aransas Reserve was caused by unusually cold weather.
- Earthquakes continue to cause cracks in the infrastructure of Puerto Rico's Jobos Bay Reserve.
- Wildfires in California caused personal evacuations for several Elkhorn Slough Reserve staff.
- Hurricane Ida caused the designation team to pause the process for a new reserve in Louisiana in order to focus on recovery.
- Flooding impacted several reserve sites. New Jersey's Jacques Cousteau Reserve couldn't access its field station for several days.
- A tsunami warning following a magnitude 8.2 earthquake resulted in evacuations of portions of the Kachemak Bay Reserve in Alaska.
- All of the then-designated 29 reserves faced COVID-19 challenges, and nine experienced additional natural disasters.



### But we were PREPARED

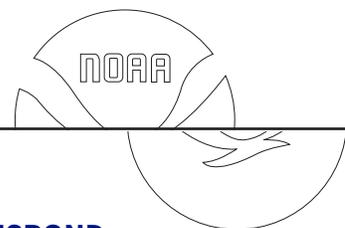
- New Hampshire's Great Bay Reserve and Maine's Wells Reserve completed a disaster-focused exercise in collaboration with NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration.
- NOAA's Office for Coastal Management organized the reserves' first-ever system-wide satellite phone test.
- Two grants, totaling \$96,000, from NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration went toward initiatives designed to improve disaster resilience at all reserve sites.
- Thus far, 12 of the now 30 sites have completed disaster plans, and nine have completed disaster-focused exercises.



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## We helped our communities RESPOND

- Mission Aransas Reserve, Texas – After a cold snap, staff and volunteers recovered and rehabilitated a record number of sea turtles (1,300); 1,000 of them have been released.
- Chesapeake Bay Reserve, Virginia – After a harmful algal bloom event, this reserve supported fishery-related decisions by assisting in efforts to monitor and determine potential impacts.

## We support ongoing DISASTER RECOVERY

- A storm-damaged research field lab and bunkhouse at Florida's Rookery Bay Reserve was replaced by a new field station designed to exceed federal flood standards.
- Staff at Georgia's Sapelo Island Reserve continue to support monitoring, removal, and recovery efforts for the 2019 capsized MV *Golden Ray* car carrier.
- Jobos Bay Reserve in Puerto Rico connected Tesla Powerwall batteries to solar panels on its dormitory roof to provide off-the-grid power backup. Staff were able to provide critical services to the community during power outages.



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