# NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System

Coastal communities are home to over 128 million people, support 58.3 million jobs, and account for 46 percent of the nation's economic output. Congress created the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to protect and enhance estuaries and coastal communities through research, stewardship, education, and training. The program is implemented through a voluntary partnership between NOAA and coastal states and territories. The 29 research reserves cover over 1.3 million acres.

In fiscal year 2020, NOAA invested more than \$27.5 million, allocated through the Coastal Zone Management Act, in this program. Federal funding was matched by more than \$9 million from state and university partners. Another bright spot: the Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship program, which is building the next generation of coastal leaders.



# FUNDING SUMMARY **2020**

## Research and Monitoring (\$12.9 million federal and state)

Research: addresses national and local coastal management issues. Monitoring: focused on short-term variability and long-term changes in water quality, biological systems, and land use.

#### Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship (\$2.1 million federal and state)

2020 saw the inaugural cohort of this fellowship program, which supports projects designed to help scientists and communities understand the coastal challenges that will likely influence future policy and management strategies.



#### Education and Training (\$7.7 million federal and state)

Provides a living classroom for educators and students, community education for people interested in protecting estuaries, and training that provides up-to-date science and skill building for local decision-makers.



## Management (\$7.9 million federal and state)

Reserves take proactive leadership roles in local and national coastal issues and provide the information, services, and support needed to improve community resilience.