# Annual Report of The Coastal Society



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## 2024 Annual Report of The Coastal Society

## Past President's Message

Greetings:

I am pleased and honored to present to you The Coastal Society's 2024 Annual Report. This year, 2025, marks our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a national leader in bringing coastal and ocean issues to the forefront by continuing to cultivate dialogue among coastal professionals, and promote education, communication, and the exchange of knowledge. We're all justifiably proud of our fifty-year commitment to these ideals, particularly our focus on aiding students and young professionals to learn and advance through mentoring and networking opportunities, thus ensuring future leadership in the field. Please keep an eye out for more information on upcoming events to celebrate this milestone.

However, TCS will not stand still on its laurels, particularly during these trying and complicated times when many of our long-standing, proven principles and future aspirations are being challenged by forces not aligned with the ideals of science, conservation and the wise stewardship of resources, the long-standing cornerstones of effective coastal management. We believe in our mission and, especially, the talented, dedicated people who lead the organization, our members, and all of those affiliated with our many ambitious efforts.

The year 2024 was marked with successful TCS programs, including two Margaret A. Davidson (M.A.D.) Coastal Career Development workshops, and new interest in our student chapters. Additionally, there was the exciting development of a new organizational Long-Term Strategic Plan to help TCS advance its mission over the next five years. Please visit the TCS website: <u>https://thecoastalsociety.org/</u> for specific information on these and other activities, including those of our various Committees.

As 2024 wound down and we welcomed 2025, the TCS elections yielded truly excellent new leaders. We are all indebted to the outgoing members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, cherishing their hard work and dedication to the organization and the field. Many heartfelt thanks and gratitude to them, while we offer a very warm welcome to our newly elected TCS President and Board members. Leadership transition is often fraught with pitfalls, but we are thrilled to welcome these outstanding individuals who ensure a smooth changeover in TCS governance.

Our new President, Dr. Jennifer Biddle, is very accomplished and has extensive previous experience with TCS. This holds true for our new Board members, too: Kate Fuller, Polly Glover and Kelly Graves. Please get to know them better by reading their bios on the TCS website (<u>thecoastalsociety.org/board-of-directors-bios</u>). I know that you'll be impressed, and agree with me that TCS is in very fine hands.

Finally, many sincere thanks to all of those who were so instrumental in helping me during my Presidency during the past year. It was a great honor. TCS is comprised of extremely talented, enthusiastic and devoted people who care deeply about the organization and its many efforts. This is as true today as it was at our beginning 50 years ago. I hope that you enjoy this TCS Annual Report and become even more involved with our goals of enhancing the field of coastal management.

All the best, Paul

Paul C. Ticco, PhD Past-President The Coastal Society

## **President's Message**

Hello:

I am excited for the opportunity to lead The Coastal Society as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary–a major milestone for any nonprofit. The Society's mission to "actively address emerging and current coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communications and education" is one I take seriously. In this age of disinformation with the intention to confuse and derail efforts to manage coastal resources equitably and responsibly, TCS goals to build partnerships, foster communication, and educate are critical. Coming from a background in public policy and higher education, I understand the importance of not only educating our future leaders, but of bolstering support for our coastal management professionals, across all sectors.

In recent years, I experienced the positive impact TCS events and activities had on my students and community networks. I am committed to our mission and my goals for the

next three years are to increase engagement among TCS members, grow our student chapters, and strengthen our coastal networks. I am honored to work with our knowledgeable, talented, and dedicated Board of Directors and esteemed and experienced Executive Committee. I am confident that together we can achieve the goals set out in the TCS mission and do our part to hold the line for coastal management now and into the future.

Thanks in advance for your headfast support and engagement. Keep an eye out for postings of upcoming events and activities.

Warm Regards, Jennifer Biddle, PhD President The Coastal Society



### 2024 By The Numbers

| Closing 2024 Revenue:   | \$12,309.08           |
|---|-----------------------|
| Coastal Career Workshops:                                     | 2                     |
| Coastal Forums:   | 0                     |
| Student Chapters:   | 3 active<br>2 dormant |
| Subscriptions to Peer-Reviewed<br>Coastal Management Journal: | 45                    |
| Donations and Scholarships:                                   | \$5,605.00            |
| Issue of Coastal Jobs List                                    | 17                    |

| Social Media Cross-Platform Followers:    | 3,164  |
|---|--------|
| Social Media Cross-Platform Interactions: | 12,090 |

### 2024 Leadership Team

#### **Executive Committee**

| President:          | Paul C. Ticco  |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Past President:     | Steven MacLeod |
| Executive Director: | Judy Tucker    |
| Treasurer:          | Jeff Benoit    |
| Secretary:          | Emily Vuxton   |

#### **Board of Directors**

Larry Cahoon, Rick DeVoe, Cirse Gonzalez, Genevieve Guerry, Riley Lewis, Alexis Maxwell, Lisa Schiavinato, Andrew Wilson

#### **Committee and Workgroup Chairs and Co-Chairs**

- 1. Chapters Committee: Andrew Wilson and Kyra Hagge
- 2. **Coastal Connections Committee:** *Trending Topics (open to all)* and *Professional Spotlights (for members)*: Steven MacLeod
- 3. Communications Committee: Alexis Maxwell
- 4. Development (Fundraising) Committee: Jeff Flood and Jeff Benoit
- 5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group: Eva May
- 6. Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Committee: Tom Bigford and Jeff Flood

#### **Leadership Actions**

• In 2024 all elected or appointed officers and directors continued to serve.

- Jeff Flood, Ashley Gordon, and Adrian Laufer ended their terms as Director in December 2023. They were thanked for their many contributions.
- Directors elected for 2024 included Cirse Gonzalez, Kate Fuller, and Polly Glover. Sabrina Pereira resigned due to job requirements. Genevieve Guerry was appointed to complete that term ending 12/31/25.

More background and contact information for current board members and committee chairs can be found on the <u>TCS website</u>.

## **Student Chapters**

The Coastal Society is fostering the next generation of coastal leaders through student chapters. The chapters are committed to furthering the mission of TCS, to actively address emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education. Student chapters are run entirely by students. Furthermore, student chapters seek to fulfill a mission of stewardship of the local coastal ecosystem through education, restoration and fund-raising.

- East Carolina University, Greenville, NC Chapter President: Allyson Ropp
- University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI Chapter President: Noah Hallisey
- University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC Chapter President: Kate Fuller
- Duke University (currently dormant), Durham and Beaufort, NC
- Eckerd College (currently dormant), St. Petersburg, FL

## **Annual Membership Meeting**

The Coastal Society hosted its 2024 Annual Meeting via Zoom on April 17, 2024, bringing together the leadership board, professional and student members to highlight the state of the Society, acknowledge challenges, celebrate successes, and to recognize TCS leaders. The virtual platform allowed members from three different time zones to join from the comfort and safety of their homes.

During the meeting, TCS honored several members with the following awards:

- **Outstanding Service Award:** *Jeff Benoit,* retired, NOAA Office of Coastal Management and President and CEO of Restore America's Estuaries, currently Rachel Carson Estuarine Research Reserve Citizens Advisory Council
- **Distinguished Service Award:** *Jefferson F. Flood,* Senior Coastal Planner, Virginia Coastal Management Program
- Robert W. Knecht Award for Professional Promise: *Riley Lewis,* White Oak Waterkeeper for Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
- **President's Award:** *Emily Vuxton,* The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, and *Alexis Maxwell,* NOAA National Ocean Service Program Coordination Officer

Many congratulations to all of these outstanding individuals! For more information on the awards themselves please see <u>The Coastal Society Awards</u>.

Please keep an eye on the website for the date of the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting.

## **Programmatic Highlights**

#### 2024 TCS Strategic Plan and 2024 Committee Work Plans

In 2024, The Coastal Society's Board of Directors approved a new organizational Strategic Plan, the first update in many years. The plan focuses on four primary TCS goals:

- 1. Foster Dialogue
- 2. Forge and Maintain Partnerships
- 3. Promote Communication and Education
- 4. Maintain a Robust and Sustainable Organization

Each of these goals contains a detailed set of action items and objectives, some quantitative, to better fulfill the TCS mission and achieve stated TCS ambitions going forward.

Further, in direct conjunction with the overall Strategic Plan, each TCS committee developed individual work plans to guide their activities through specific action items and objectives, each focusing on enhancing the committee's purpose and goals.

Text of the TCS Strategic Plan and the individual Committee work plans can be found at: <u>https://thecoastalsociety.org/about/strategic-plans/</u>.

#### Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Program

In 2024, TCS continued to honor former President Margaret A. Davidson (M.A.D.), a luminary, mentor, and friend, by hosting another two (2) career workshops in her name:

• <u>Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS)'s Spring 2024 Meeting</u> (March 21, 2024): This in-person workshop was hosted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) at their Gloucester, Virginia campus. A total of 34 people attended, including speakers and members of the planning team.



Former TCS President & MAD Committee Chair Tom Bigford offers closing remarks at the end of the AERS workshop (Photo credit: G. Guerry).

• <u>Coastal Carolina Riverwatch's Water Quality for Fisheries Symposium</u> (October 8, 2024): This in-person workshop was hosted by the Duke University Marine Lab (DUML) at their Beaufort, North Carolina campus. A total of 32 people attended, including speakers and members of the planning team. This workshop marked a shift towards bringing more local speakers and students together while still maintaining core TCS workshop elements such as offering overviews of different coastal career sectors. A theme of matching prospective employees to employers emerged as a workshop focus and was facilitated by the incorporation of a new extended networking session in the agenda.



Attendees, led by current TCS Board Member & Workshop Local Planning Lead Riley Lewis discuss more detailed aspects of coastal career paths & opportunities during the first breakout session of the DUML workshop. (Photo credit: J. Benoit).

These workshops are designed to foster the next generation of coastal practitioners and stewards by helping students and early career professionals learn which skills, tools, and industry knowledge are in demand, and how to apply this knowledge in their career or job search. Each event is designed to meet the needs of expected participants and reflects the creative thinking of the M.A.D. Coastal Career Development Committee and valued partners. TCS continued to refine its processes for planning and conducting workshops to reduce associated costs and lower ticket prices for students and early career professionals. TCS also broadened its approach to include more speakers from varied backgrounds, tailored workshop topics to the interests and regional characteristics of the partnering institutions, and emphasized a "ready to hire" atmosphere where speakers provided more in-depth information on job openings, the hiring process, and their respective organization's workplace environment. The DUML

workshop in October also marked a shift to emphasizing more networking opportunities in contrast to more structured plenary talks.

A hearty thank you to the generous 2024 workshop sponsors and partners, including: AERS, Lynker, Inc., Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia, VIMS, Coastal Carolina Riverwatch, North Carolina Coastal Federation, UNCW, DUML, The Backstreet Pub, and Beaufort Biscuits.



In 2025, TCS plans to host several more virtual or in person career workshops. Please visit the <u>M.A.D. Coastal Career Development Program webpage</u> for more information on recent and upcoming workshops.

#### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives**

The Coastal Society continued its commitment to fostering a culture of advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility by furthering discussions on DEIA, continuing to work on the DEI Strategic Plan, and providing advice for TCS decisions, actions, and events. 2024 was a year of transition and reflection for the DEIA Working

Group. A new task force chair was brought in, and several members took steps back after providing exceptional service due to external commitments. The remaining team members focused on future potential and balancing this work, leadership needs, and other commitments.

#### **DEIA Strategic Plan Activities**

Work was continued on advancing and implementing the TCS DEIA 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. From this, a work plan was created for 2024. In the first quarter of the year, the committee focused on the TCS demographic survey, which was part of the strategic objective of assessing the current state of DEIA in TCS and identifying areas for improvement. The survey was disseminated to TCS members. While response numbers were not as high as initially hoped, results were nonetheless analyzed, and an internal report was created for use in future planning.

Another strategy under the same goal as the demographic survey was to create a bias incident report for members to share feedback with TCS leadership or event hosts. This tool was created just before the start of 2024, and since then, work has focused on how to best present this on TCS's website. Work is ongoing to decide who within TCS should have access to any feedback received through this tool, and to ensure that pathways are in place internally for TCS to take the proper steps to rectify any incidents.

#### **Other DEIA Activities**

Outside of the strategic plan, much of the focus in 2024 was on maintaining the sense of togetherness within the committee, particularly after the change in leadership and loss of some members. Additionally, many members began new careers in 2024, leading to reduced availability. As a result, meetings largely occurred on a quarterly basis but still provided valuable time to share ideas, concerns, and hopes for future work. During the final 2024 meeting, it was decided that the Working Group should still keep the 2022-2027 strategic plan in mind, but that members should focus on only one to two core areas in 2025 so as to maintain enough momentum to fully achieve TCS's goals. Primary ideas for these areas are increasing collaboration with committees in TCS that are hosting events (in order to increase accessibility and inclusivity during these events), increasing accessibility of the TCS website, and working with student chapters to create DEIAB statements that live on each chapters' website and in by-laws. In 2024, accessibility was added to the working group's official name (from DEI to DEIA) as part of this ongoing focus.

Some work was done in 2024 in considering TCS's relationship to indigenous groups

and lands. The Working Group researched existing land acknowledgements across the US and Canada, as well as reconciliation efforts. From this research, an extensive list of these efforts was created. This work is ongoing, as it requires sensitivity in its approach: land acknowledgements alone cannot fully encompass reconciliation work, and TCS has no 'home ground' for which to produce, e.g., a land acknowledgement that lives on its website. This topic has strong potential for future meetings that TCS hosts.

Finally, the DEAI Working Group remained committed to being a resource for other TCS leadership. Communication between TCS leaders and TCS committees allowed and continues to allow for TCS to make improvements to each event it hosts, to ensure members are heard, and to continue to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the coastal and ocean space.

#### The Coastal Society Coastal Connections Web Conferencing Series

Coastal Connections is a web conferencing series launched in 2020 to engage TCS members and the broader coastal community through virtual web presentations and discussions. The series consists of two session types: Trending Topics and Professional Spotlight. Trending Topics sessions feature expert panelists who present on new or pressing coastal issues, followed by an opportunity for members and guests to ask questions of the panelists and offer their own insights on the topic. Professional Spotlight sessions are designed as a members-only opportunity to learn about the career paths of seasoned TCS coastal professionals, with a short presentation followed by open dialogue between the guest speaker and all participants.

While there was a hiatus in the series in 2024, additional sessions have been planned for 2025. Learn more about these past and future sessions at the TCS Coastal Connections web page at: <u>Coastal Connections Web Series</u>, including links to recordings of several previous Trending Topics events posted on the TCS YouTube channel. Past recordings of Professional Spotlight sessions are available to TCS members at private YouTube channel links; members may also send a request for these session links to <u>TCSConnections@thecoastalsociety.org</u>.

#### Communications

In 2024, the TCS Communications Committee continued to field requests consistently to support both internal and external engagement, benefiting the TCS Board, chapters and members.

The Committee kept the website engaging with continuous updates, including news,

announcements, and materials for download. There were major updates made on the coding and security side of the website to make it stronger and to keep the site strong and secure.

The Committee was active on multiple social media platforms to amplify TCS news and events with a broad audience. Follower counts increased across all social media platforms and notably on LinkedIn (LinkedIn - 48%; Instagram - 4.2%; Facebook - 3.9%) and interactions also increased cross-platform (Instagram - 100%; Facebook - 14.9%), due to increased posting by TCS and engagement with these posts. Grow your coastal network by following our LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook pages, and please consider adding ideas for future posts to this request form and engaging with the posts to help increase reach and awareness.

The Committee created a TCS engagements calendar that went live on the website, to increase awareness of all upcoming TCS events and meetings in one place. TCS members are encouraged to send announcements of their events for posting the TCS events calendar via this request form.

The Committee continued to add to the <u>TCS blog</u>, which includes event summaries for Coastal Connection sessions, professional spotlight sessions and additional TCS events and workshops, and highlights relevant coastal and ocean news and research. All members are encouraged to submit posts for the blog via this <u>request form</u>.

#### **Student Chapters**

The Coastal Society remains committed to fostering the connection between undergraduate and graduate students and coastal professionals, which is especially visible in their student chapters. In 2024, three chapters were actively helping to advance the Society's mission by organizing events focusing on topics in the coastal space on college campuses and the broader public. Such events have included invited speaker events with potluck dinners, road and beach cleanups as well as social events to allow the students to build community with each other as coastal researchers.

Student chapters are also important in supporting the organization of regional TCS events, with the East Carolina University and UNC Wilmington chapters being integral to the Regional Forum on Priority Issues in North Carolina.

Since student chapters are also a potential way of getting involved with TCS and provide valuable experience for students during their education, TCS continues to explore options for establishing new chapters at other colleges and universities,

potentially building up "regional hubs" for chapters with similar geography, to strengthen the networking among the individual chapters.

#### **Coastal Management Journal**

The Coastal Society published an essay recanting the contributions of the Regional Forum at University of North Carolina, titled *Priority Issues in Coastal North Carolina: A Forum by the Coastal Society.* Click <u>here</u> to read the essay and TCS contributions to forward ecosystem-based management theory in practice.

Regular and New Professional members of The Coastal Society receive free online access to *Coastal Management* as part of their membership benefits (a \$900+/year value!). *Coastal Management* is a premier peer-reviewed journal dedicated to exploring the technical, applied ecological, legal, political, social, and policy issues relating to the use of coastal and ocean resources. Student members are encouraged to access the journal through their college/university libraries, and to consider publishing their work in the journal. More information on the Journal can be found at <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ucmg20">https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ucmg20</a>.

#### **Development**

The 2024 Annual Giving Campaign kicked off on December 1, 2024. The board is very grateful to all who contributed during the campaign, recognizing that several members were especially generous in donating \$500 or more. A total of \$5,605.00 in donations were received throughout 2024.

Donations provide essential financial support for TCS to continue its programming for students and professionals. Donations can be made at any time of year and are tax deductible. Please consider donating in 2025 at any level, and ask if your employer offers matching gifts for donations to non-profit (501(c)(3)) groups. Donate <u>here</u>.

The TCS Development Committee (TCS-DC) met frequently throughout 2024 to implement a Work Plan developed by TCS-DC Chair Jeff Flood in February with assistance from TCS-DC and TCS Board Members. The Work Plan included overarching goals for creating sustainable funding sources for TCS overall, summarized TCS programming such as MAD workshops, regional forums, the Coastal Connections webinar series, and DEI workplace guidance, and created specific and actionable steps for TCS leadership to take to broaden organizational visibility and secure financial and professional development partnerships. TCS Treasurer Jeff Benoit also joined Jeff Flood as TCS-DC Co-Chair in March.

In May and June, TCS-DC Chair Jeff Flood reviewed an approximately 6-inch-thick stack of hardcopy files dating back to the 1990's that TCS Executive Director Judy Tucker provided related to strategic planning, past TCS-DC meetings, and funding strategies. Flood mined language from these materials as well summaries of TCS programs on the website to create a 2-page fact sheet overview of TCS programs for use in marketing the organization to external partners and potential new members. A photograph of the fact sheet, approved by the TCS Executive Committee (TCS-EC) in late June, is shown below. All TCS Members are encouraged to use the fact sheet as both a reference and a marketing tool for promoting TCS's professional development and networking programs to potential partner organizations and individuals.

In June, TCS Board Member Lisa Schiavinato joined the TCS-DC as a third Co-Chair, adding her experience as the Managing Director of the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation (CSSF) to provide additional support for formulating TCS fundraising strategies.

In July, Jeff Flood stepped down from his position as TCS-DC Co-Chair (while remaining a TCS-DC Member) to focus his time and efforts as MAD Committee Chair on leading the planning team for the October 8 MAD workshop hosted by the DUML in Beaufort, North Carolina (see MAD Committee section above). Jeff Flood, Jeff Benoit, Lisa Schiavinato, and fellow TCS Board Member Rick DeVoe also reached out to NOAA's Office of Education and Office for Coastal Management to explore long-term programmatic and possibly financial partnerships. Following several calls to discuss a path forward, further coordination was paused until more information is available about Federal funding.

A TCS Programmatic Fact Sheet was developed to give to potential funders and partners. For a copy, contact the <u>TCS Office</u>.

## THE COASTAL SOCIETY

#### **TCS Program Highlights**

**Organization Overview:** The Coastal Society (TCS), chartered in 1975, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as an interdisciplinary forum of information exchange and active discussion of current and emerging issues for coastal resource professionals and individuals to promote the better understanding and sustainable use of our coastal resources. Individuals share lessons learned, best practices, and their own networks of colleagues to achieve these goals. TCS includes members with broad, multidisciplinary interests in coastal lands, waters, and resources - a distinction that makes TCS the only member-based professional organization focused on coastal management issues. Members represent resource management agencies, port authorities, coastal and ocean industries, colleges and universities, marine advisory groups, and coastal enthusiasts. The multidisciplinary nature of TCS provides both a unique platform for discussion as well as a unified voice for coastal issues. Through past biennial conferences, current regional forums, online webinars and podcasts, and career workshops, TCS also has a strong track record and bright future in supporting a variety of professional networking opportunities. This information exchange and discussion of pressing coastal issues as well as the opportunity to access professional contacts for career development are articulated in TCS's official goals:

- Foster cooperation and communication among government agencies, professionals, citizens, and related groups.
- Promote conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources.
- Advance public education and appreciation of coastal resources.
- Help government, industry, and individuals balance development and protection along the world's coastlines.
- Cultivate a more diverse membership, including specific outreach to students and professionals who self-identify as minority, economically disadvantaged, or underserved communities.

"TCS is one of the few professional organizations that consider the coastal system as a whole, including the critical role of human development, commerce, and lifestyles." - Steve MacLeod, TCS Past President

TCS has also adapted to changing circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a shift to social media and online platforms for communicating key information and issues, and a strategic investment in the development of the next generation of coastal professionals through more focused career workshops. Post-COVID, we've also resumed in-person workshops and regional forums. Our <u>Strategic Mission</u>, updated in 2024, continues to emphasize these organizational goals, while encouraging expanded partnerships and programming. TCS Members are actively engaged in leading several programs that continue the rich tradition of providing ample networking, educational, and career development opportunities in both the virtual and in-person space. Integral to the mission and purpose of TCS is fostering students through University Student Chapters. TCS's chapters have always been productive incubators for leaders in TCS and in the public and private sectors. For example, many recent TCS leaders first joined the Society at their university support to present at TCS conferences or to conduct campus events such as beach clean-ups to increase coastal awareness. The maximum benefit of the chapter experience is to be a part of a national organization's programs and access to coastal professionals.

## THE COASTAL SOCIETY

#### TCS Networking, Educational, & Career Development Efforts

Margaret A. Davidson (MAD) Coastal Career Development Program: Named in honor of former TCS President Margaret A. Davidson, the Program was established in 2018 to respond to a need for increased career development/mentoring among the coastal and marine resource community. TCS has held 25 highly successful regional career development workshops engaging approximately 750 marine and coastal students and professionals. These half-day events (virtual, hybrid, or in-person) feature a blend of inspiring keynote speakers from all coastal sectors (government, academia, NGOs, and industry) with interactive small group mentoring sessions to help participants hone specific career skills/tools which are immediately applicable in their studies/careers. Topics include skill building sessions related to networking, resume preparation, job searches, mentoring, professional communication, and publications. A 2022 New Orleans workshop also featured a "Coastal Futures" track for local high school students. TCS has also successfully secured workshop partnerships, including those with the National Sea Grant Office and numerous state Sea Grant programs (Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, and Washington), to host these events, adding to those organizations' visibility, networking acumen, and recruitment of job candidates.

"Given the expansive network of professional contacts that TCS Members have as a result of other TCS programs or their own work experience, TCS is uniquely positioned to deliver premier coastal career development through its ability to recruit workshop speakers." – Jeff Flood, TCS MAD Committee Chair

**Regional Forums:** As a post-pandemic entree into in-person issues-focused meetings, TCS convened a regional issues-oriented forum in November 2023, partnering with NC Sea Grant and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (UNCW), to hold the full-day in-person <u>Priority Issues in Coastal North Carolina: A Forum by The Coastal Society</u> at UNCW's Center for Marine Science. Panelists representing universities, government agencies, and NGOs shared insights into their roles in addressing critical topics shaping the future of North Carolina's coastal region, including Natural & Community Resilience, PFAS, and Marine Spatial Planning. During breakout sessions after each panel, attendees discussed these topics in greater depth. The approximately 80 participants had the opportunity to learn more by interacting with student poster presenters and continued networking at a local brewery. TCS looks forward to continuing to serve as a neutral convenor for topic-based discussion of trending issues among coastal professionals while offering opportunities for students to engage and network early in their careers.

"Regional forums, like past biennial conferences, provide an opportunity to address many of the issues we have in common in a more holistic way and offer a more cost-effective way to convene discussion." - Lisa Schiavinato, former TCS President

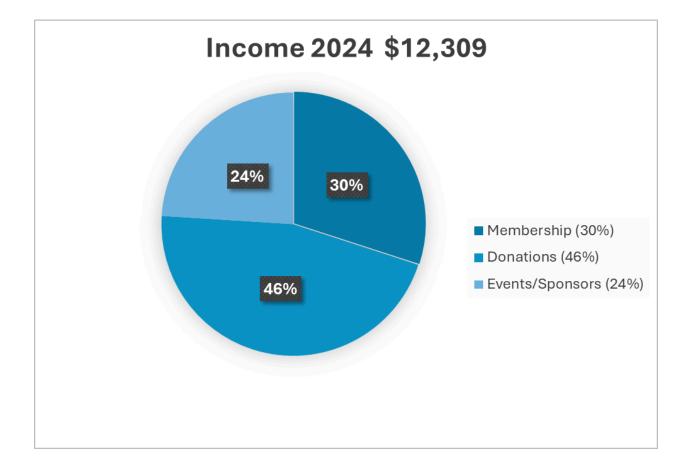
Web Conferencing Series: This series provides opportunities to learn about interdisciplinary coastal issues, diverse professions, and career pathways, while connecting with others in the coastal sector. The series currently includes two (2) formats: *Trending Topics* and *Professional Spotlights*. *Trending Topics* sessions feature presentations on pressing coastal issues and the latest science and management developments and all participants can engage through group discussion on these coastal issues. *Trending Topics* sessions are open to all TCS members and guests. *Professional Spotlight* sessions are open only to TCS members and provide an opportunity for students and professionals at all stages of their career to learn about potential career paths from other TCS members and to ask speakers for advice.

To learn more, please contact current TCS President Paul Ticco (paulticco1@gmail.com) or TCS Executive Director Judy Tucker (admin@thecoastalsociety.org)

TCS Programmatic Fact Sheet

## **Financial Reports**

| Cash In-Hand on January 1, 2024:   | \$5,231.65 |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Cash In-Hand on December 31, 2024: | \$4,904.64 |
| Net Annual Income for 2024:        | (\$327.01) |





## **Opportunities in 2025**

TCS facilitated our outstanding programs and events in 2024 thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Additional member support is essential to continue our initiatives and fulfill the TCS mission. Below are some ways you can get involved and make a difference.

TCS Volunteers:

- Are you a natural connector? Encourage one or more colleagues to join TCS, or coordinate a regional member gathering (virtual or in-person)!
- Looking for a creative writing outlet? Write a story for the TCS blog, or join the Communications Committee to help manage our social media pages, MailChimp announcements, and website!
- Is social media your thing? Share posts from our social media accounts for coastal-related conferences, webinars, and other news.
- Enthusiastic about mentoring students? Join the Chapters Committee to connect student members and TCS professional members.
- Interested in career development? Volunteer with the M.A.D. Coastal Career

Development Committee and help plan a workshop. Or join the Coastal Connections team and plan a webinar session on a trending topic.

- Passionate about advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion? Join the DEI Working Group to help enact our strategic plan and connect with a minority serving institutions and other organizations.
- Intrigued about fundraising? Sign-up for the Development Committee, or identify a potential sponsor for a TCS event and help draft a request letter.

Our volunteers benefit directly from their service by expanding their professional networks, improving their leadership and communication skills, and feeling a renewed sense of purpose and connection to the coastal field. To sign up or inquire about a committee, use this <u>online form</u>.

# Acknowledgements

2024 Report Authors: Paul C. Ticco and 2024 TCS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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