



American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Advocating for healthy coastlines



Thank you for your interest in the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) 5-year “[Southeast Coastal Communities Water Level Observation System](#)” project. The project is providing real-time water level data, tide predictions, and flooding alerts to coastal communities. The data are being used to plan for and respond to flood emergencies as well as inform resilience strategies for sea-level rise and the projected increase in flooding. ASBPA is collaborating with [Hohonu, Inc.](#), a technology startup that provides environmental water level monitoring to help communities adapt to climate change.

This 5-year project has been funded by [SECOORA](#) (Southeast Coastal and Ocean Observing Regional Association), which is a member of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System, and part of NOAA. ASBPA is leading one of four teams selected to create a new regional water level network. The project will engage 40 of ASBPA’s member communities to install low-cost sensors to fill gaps between federal tide stations. ASBPA is seeking funding to expand this project on a national scale.

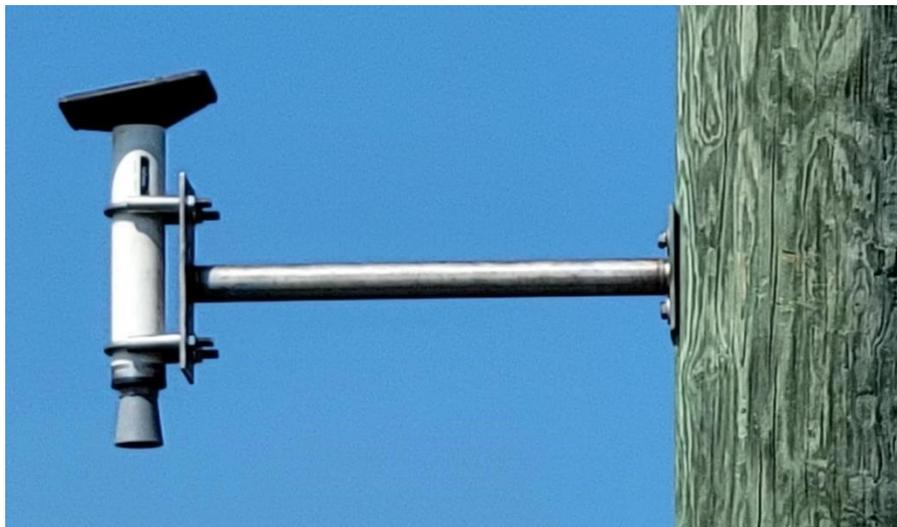
To get involved as one of the 40 communities, please email [nicole.elko@asbpa.org](mailto:nicole.elko@asbpa.org) to discuss the following:

1. Location Requirements:
  - a. High above the water: Water level sensors for this project are not submerged. They need to be attached to a piling or bridge so they hover over the water to be measured. It should be installed high up on its piling, or other attachment point, so that even the highest tides do not come within 2 feet of the sensor.
  - b. Over calm water: Most communities are opting for marsh/sound side sensors because that’s where the flooding is happening. A public or accessible private dock structure, marina, or bridge with low wave energy works well.
  - c. Sunshine & cell signal: The sensor requires plenty of sunlight to charge the solar panel and internal batteries, and a cell signal to telemeter the data.
2. Community responsibilities for this project:
  - a. Provide the \$500 payment from the community (steeply discounted, thanks SECOORA!),
  - b. Permissions and permitting. Obtain the required local and/or state permissions (e.g., permission from a community association to install on private dock) or permits (e.g., DOT encroachment permit to install on state bridge)
  - c. Installation. Operations staff builds a mounting bracket and installs sensor using instructions provided by Hohonu. Two photo examples of mounting brackets are shown below.
  - d. Troubleshooting: Operations staff may rarely need to visit the sensor site after installation to conduct maintenance and/or troubleshoot. For example, report on any potential physical disturbances, take photos, or reboot the system.

Learn more at: <https://asbpa.org/publications/water-level-data/>

- e. Participate in quarterly project meetings (typically zoom meetings, one per year optional in-person sessions at state and/or ASBPA conferences) to
  - i. share installation lessons learned, data requirements, product development, and visualization needs,
  - ii. review the prediction and visualization products developed during the project, share user needs and desired data delivery/visualizations,
  - iii. determine flooding thresholds,
  - iv. communicate resilience and adaptation planning needs related to coastal flooding that the project can help to address
3. Click here to see the dashboard, where you will eventually access your community's water level: <https://dashboard.hohonu.io/map-page>.
4. Once you have decided to join the project, please join our [Google Group](#), which is the teams' communication platform. You can unsubscribe anytime but please ensure someone from your community is tuned in.

Photos of sensor mountings:



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