

PERFECT PANORAMA: BoatU.S. member Debby Hollowell captured this amazing sunset with her iPhone XS Max smartphone from the deck of a Grand Banks trawler at Beaufort Yacht Basin in Beaufort, North Carolina. "My daughter had just finished saying, 'I guess we won't get to see a pretty sunset tonight.' By the time we put on our shoes for an evening bike ride, we looked out to see this amazing sight," she explains. The stunning image capped a great day of cruising under sunny skies with her daughter, husband, and their dog, Hairy. The family spends many summer nights sleeping aboard at the marina.

DEBBY HOLLOWELL



Rebirth of New Jersey marshland

A partnership led by the USACE Philadelphia District has dramatically restored a coastal New Jersey marshland that provides both critical habitat for birds, fish, shellfish, and other wildlife, and coastal resilience for barrier island communities.

Seven Mile Island, located in Cape May County, includes more than 5,000 acres of state-owned marshland that is showing signs of degradation and vulnerability to impact from rising seas. The material came from dredging a portion of the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, which has had a chronic challenge to maintain depth in the busy waterway used primarily by recreational boaters. In the past, the material was removed from the system and disposed of in upland areas. This project keeps the material in the marsh system and puts it to beneficial use.

"Sediment is the currency of these ecosystems, and we know these marshes are sediment-starved, so we must work to find innovative ways to utilize the clean sediments that clog navigation channels to enhance marshes and offset sea-level rise," says Dr. Lenore Tedesco, executive director of the Wetlands Institute. The 50-year-old nonprofit group is dedicated to promoting appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

A portion of the dredging projects are part of the Seven Mile Island Living Laboratory, a proving ground for best practices for replenishing marshlands for optimal resilience and ecological outcomes. Tedesco hopes this long-term project can be replicated around the country. — RICH ARMSTRONG

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Above: Sediment is pumped onto the site to restore marshland that serves as habitat for species such as the endangered black skimmer sea birds (left).