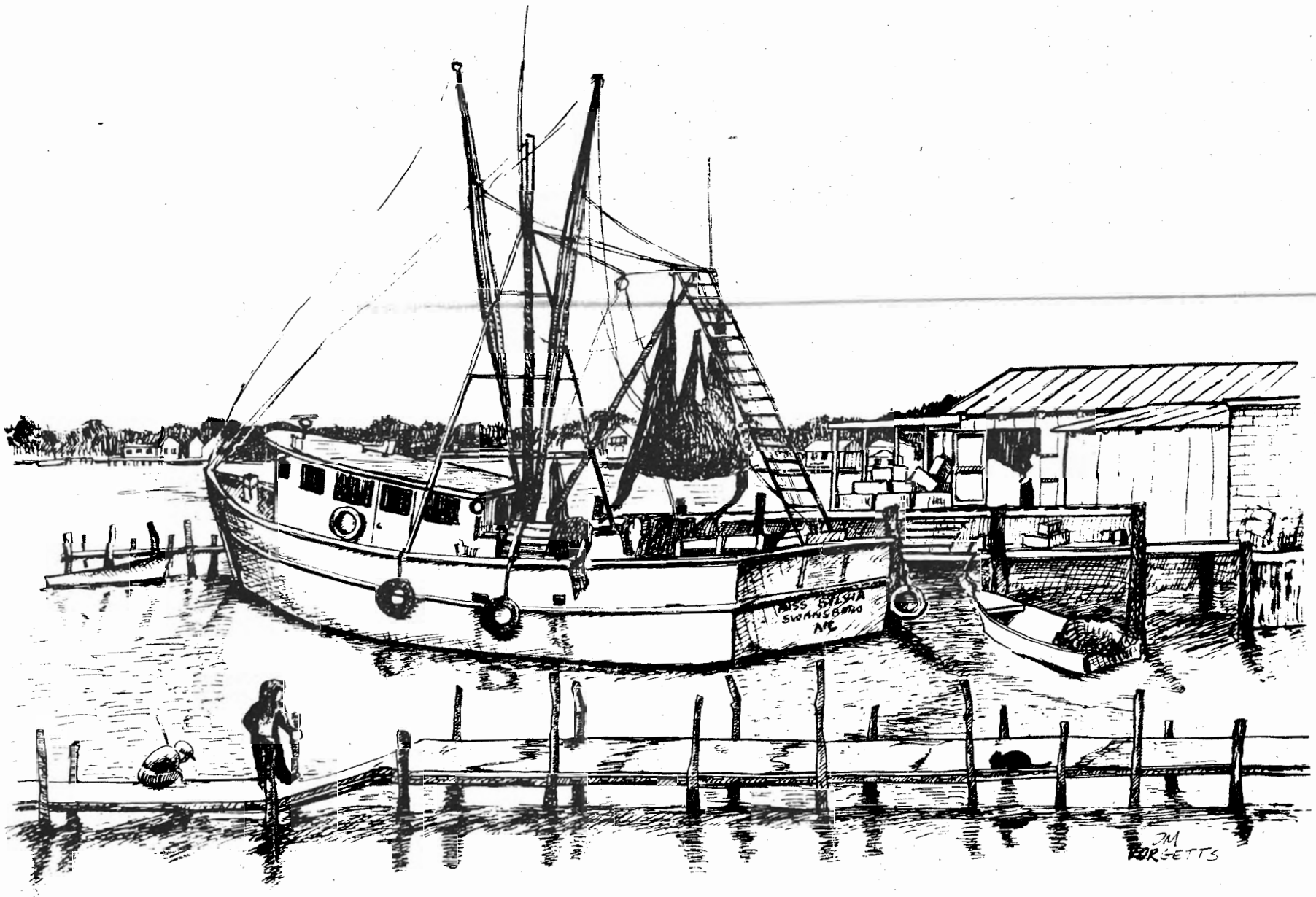
COASTAL REVIEW

VOL. II, NO. 1 SPRING, 1984 NEWSLETTER OF THE N.C. COASTAL FEDERATION PRICE - $5.00 A YEAR

SETTLEMENT PROTECTS WETLANDS • COASTAL FORUM • PEAT MINING INITIATIVES STILL ALIVE • COASTAL RESOURCES COMMISSION RESPONDS TO CITIZEN PLEAS • INTERNSHIPS • FARMERS AND FISHERMEN ON THE ROPES • CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF PEAT MINING



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PMA PROPOSAL DESTRUCTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE

Peat Methanol Associates (PMA) sold itself as a "salvation industry" to a poor county with deteriorated schools, high unemployment and in desperate need of additional tax base. It enticed the unemployed with the prospect of 350 new jobs.

Our state agencies reacted to PMA's proposal for over three years grappling for a way to get a handle on its long-range environmental, social and economic implications. State taxpayers spent tens of thousands of dollars to regulate the project.

At the public hearing held February 15 by the Legislative Study Committee examining peat mining and large-scale land clearing the results of our state's inability to deal decisively with a project that has proven to have been economically unsound and environmentally dangerous became all too clear.

Neighbors turned on each other in a bitter dispute in which neither side could win.

What PMA illustrated all too clearly is that our state agencies are not capable of exercising a leadership role in balancing the regional interests of coastal North Carolina.

But the PMA experience also resulted in progress towards addressing this shortcoming in our state regulatory agencies.

Interest groups with an economic stake in protecting coastal resources are better organized then ever before in history. The commercial and sports fishing, tourist, and family farming industries are coming forward with aggressive campaigns to better manage the natural and economic conditions that are essential to their occupations.

The General Assembly is responding to concerns about deteriorated coastal water quality and a regulatory system that has been incapable of controlling the combined effects of existing and proposed land uses.

A Water Quality Task Force has been organized by the Coastal Resources Commission which is examining legal responsibility for protecting coastal water quality.

All these activities must continue if the PMA episode is to turn into something constructive and to avoid wasting all the tax money spent responding to permit requests.

FEDERATION SEEKS TO ESTABLISH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

"We are seeking undergraduate and graduate students that are interested in conducting research that will help address important coastal management issues," reports Ann Hooper, the Federation's new Education Research Specialist.

Working on a part-time basis for the Federation, Hooper plans to establish an internship program that will expand the organization's ability to conduct independent research and to provide students with meaningful research projects.

A partial list of research needs include: effectiveness of North Carolina's Coastal Management Program; alternatives for economic development in coastal North Carolina; analysis of coastal water quality concerns; adequacy of the enforcement of coastal regulatory programs, status of family farms in the coastal region; and a wide variety of other possible topics.

Hooper stresses that students may offer their own proposals for research. Students may also qualify for financial assistance and/or course credit by participating in the Federation's internship program.

Further information about the program may be obtained by contacting Ann Hooper at 919-393-8185 or writing the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Route 5, Box 603 (Ocean), Newport, NC 28570.

COASTAL FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Federation aims to help organizations and individuals pool their resources and work together when possible while serving as a clearinghouse for information about economic, environmental and social conditions in the coastal region. It does not dictate or seek to influence policies or activities of individual groups. The Federation's activities are governed by a Board of Directors comprised of 30 individuals from throughout the region and the state. Many of these poeple are officers and directors of public interest groups which are engaged in activities that influence the coastal region. Having them as members of the Federation's Board helps facilitate communications between these organizations.

The Directors of the Federation include:

(1) Don Ensley, President, Greenville;
(2) Bob Deland, Vice-President, Chapel Hill;
(3) Todd Miller, Secretary, Newport;
(4) Ann Hooper, Treasurer, Beaufort;
(5) Frank Adams, Gatesville;
(6) Vince Bellis, Greenville;
(7) Larry Bray, Duck;
(8) Robert Butcher, Emerald Isle;
(9) Clark Callaway, Beaufort;
(10) David Cecelski, Harlowe;
(11) Derb Carter, Raleigh;
(12) Tom Caulfield, Jacksonville;
(13) David Clements, Sneads Ferry;
(14) John Costlow, Beaufort;
(15) H. O. Golden, Stumpy Point;
(16) Karen Gottovi, Wilmington;
(17) John Guyette, Greenville;
(18) Bob Hall, Durham;
(19) Jim Hinkley, Raleigh;
(20) Jonathan Howes, Chapel Hill;
(21) Jamie King, New Bern;
(22) Persey Luney, Durham;
(23) Marion Nichols, Durham;
(24) Orrin Pilkey, Durham;
(25) Mathew Prescott, New Bern;
(26) John Runkle, Chapel Hill;
(27) Chuck Shelton, Leland;
(28) Linda Shaw, New Bern;
(29) Susan Simpson, South River;
(30) Gus Witherspoon, Raleigh.

COASTAL REVIEW

Newsletter of the North Carolina Coastal Federation
Route 5, Box 603 (Ocean), Newport, NC 28570
Telephone (919) 393-8185

STAFF: Todd Miller of Ocean, Executive Director; Fred Bonner of Raleigh and Aurora, Activities Director; Ann Hooper of Beaufort, Education Research Specialist; Terry Pollock of Beaufort, Program Development Director; and Curtis Rodgers of Plymouth, Education Specialist.

The NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization seeking to involve citizens in decisions about how coastal resources should be managed. Its aim is to share technical information and resources to better represent present and long-term economic, social and environmental interests of coastal North Carolina.

COASTAL REVIEW is published quarterly. A $5.00 subscription fee provides funds to publish the newsletter and to make special mailings about important coastal issues and events. Larger contributions are needed. All donations are tax-deductible.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the hundreds of private citizens for their generous financial support.

Letters to the Editor
COASTAL FORUM

ELECTION YEAR POLITICS

TO THE EDITOR:

In recent months, Governor Hunt, Senator Helms and others have voiced considerable opposition to the construction of a pipeline from Lake Gaston to Virginia Beach, Va., in the absence of an environmental impact statement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We applaud the state for asking that the total impact of the pipeline be fully documented prior to permit decisions.

However, we find the manner in which the state handled the now defunct Peat Methanol Associates project totally inconsistent with its firm stand on Lake Gaston.

THE STATE'S HANDLING OF THE PEAT PROJECT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH ITS FIRM STAND ON LAKE GASTON

In all likelihood PMA's project would have had major environmental impact on the entire Pamlico-Albemarle peninsula and adjacent waters through freshwater intrusion into rich estuarine nursery areas of the highly productive Pamlico Sound. There are also questions such as metal release (mercury, lead and iron), increased turbidity and the long-range problem of the mined-over area being reclaimed to corporate farmlands.

North Carolina had the opportunity to require an environmental impact statement by regulating the project under the Coastal Area Management Act. Instead, it opted to use the Mining Act -- which was never intended to regulate projects of this magnitude and complexity -- as an "umbrella" over all permit decisions.

So, unlike its position with regard to Lake Gaston, the state apparently has little interest in assuring the environmental quality in sparsely populated eastern counties. In short, it appears from these two projects that our leaders' efforts to protect the environment are based more on political considerations than any real concern for the quality of our water, air and land.

Dick Leach
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, Inc.

TO THE EDITOR:

When we confront environmental issues we often wage a false battle. We fight for the survival of natural settings and life forms, while developers fight for an increase in the illusive standard of living.

The war is not against nature or those who would destroy it. It is a war against ourselves. It is what is inside a person who walks a lonely beach against what is inside someone shopping at the supermarket.

We are selfish creatures. We define the world by our own humanistic evaluation. Without nature we are doomed to stagnation, for once all the permutations of man-generated thought and action are played out, we will have no external impetous to carry our awareness any further.

Einstein did not formulate his theory of relativity in his office, but rather beside a stream in the woods near his home. There are other examples.

So when I look at the mess that we have made of Bogue Banks as contrasted with the purity of Shackleford, I feel as much for the loss of our own spirits as for the land itself. All of the disputes about what we are doing to nature are truly a sham when compared to the battle we are losing against ourselves.

George Baily
Chapel Hill

North Carolina League of Conservation Voters

A statewide organization concerned about conservation of the environment has formed to help environmentally-oriented political candidates win their elections.

The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters is not composed of any one environmental group, political party, or profession. The one thing its members have in common is a strong desire for wise use of North Carolina's natural resources.

The League plans to help elect pro-environment candidates by raising money for environmentally-oriented political candidates and campaign activities; supplying volunteers to staff phones, canvass, and distribute leaflets; publicize environmental issues by distribution of information on campaigns, voting records, etc.; and building grassroots coalitions to be used to work for and against legislators in all districts.

Write League President Bill Holman, P.O. Box 12462, Raleigh, N.C. 27605 for more information. Regular membership in the League is $15.00.

Support For Coastal Management A Two-Way Street

At their January meeting the Coastal Resources Commission voted t appoint a task force to examine what it could do to protect water quality a the request of fishermen, farmers and other coastal residents.

Throughout its ten year history the Commission has, with variou degrees of success, undertaken to develop a comprehensiv management program capable of perpetuating the natural productivi and the biological, economic, and aesthetic values of our coast resources.

Fishery and conservation interests have charged that the Commissio has not placed enough emphasis on issues such as water quality whic are of major importance to the majority of coastal residents and visitor

In response, management officials continue to point out that issue such as water quality are inflamatory subjects, politically controversia and therefore difficult for their program to address without stron political support.

Yet, public opinion polls reveal that North Carolinians think the environment is getting worse and that much more should be done protect our natural heritage for generations to come.

Translating general public opinion into aggressive support f management efforts is difficult. Very few citizens can fathom th complexities of our coastal management program.

But a natural constituency does exist for protecting coastal resource Anyone that uses the coast for recreation or to make a living has a stake seeing that its resources and economy are managed properly.

The Water Quality Task Force appointed by the Commission mu make every effort to publicize and involve the public in its efforts to bui grassroots support for any new initiatives it proposes.

And citizens must go out of their way to stand by the Commission wh the political attacks by special interests begin.

Now is the time to experiment with new and aggressive measures th will link the Coastal Resources Commission in much closer harmony wi the public it is appointed to serve.

Coastal Federation Sets Course

by Ralph Paskman

An improvement in the quality of life in the coastal region of North Carolina is the primary objective of the North Carolina Coastal Federation, according to the new president of the organization.

Don Ensley, a professor at East Carolina University, and chair of Minority Affairs for the state Democratic Party, says the Coastal Federation will concentrate on enhancing the activities and relationships of a diverse group of organizations ranging from farmers to fishermen with similar and common goals and interests.

Ensley believes the Coastal Federation, a recent recipient of sizeable grants from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, is now in a position to serve as a clearinghouse for local groups concerned with social, economic, environmental, and other issues that impact on the coastal region.

The acquisition of a computer, as well as an increased staff, has given the Federation a much greater capability for supplying members with research and other information that otherwise would not be available to a local organization or individual member. The computer's access to information banks will greatly simplify the gathering of data needed as a basis for planning and action by members of the Coastal Federation.

Executive Director Todd Miller describes the Coastal Federation as a "clearinghouse" willing and able to coordinate and mesh the activities of organizations with common objectives. Bolstered by new resources, it can function as a communications center for members for the exchange of information and ideas.

Miller says the Coastal Federation, formed in 1982, aims to help organizations work together and pool their resources when possible. The Coastal Federation, he stresses, does not dictate or seek to influence policies or activities of its associated organizations. Its role is to offer support that can range from handling mailings and being a communications channel to supplying research of all kinds. For example, it helped link commercial fishing groups with environmentalists opposed to peat mining ventures believed to endanger coastal water quality.

Also elected as officers of the North Carolina Coastal Federation in addition to Ensley and Miller were Bob Daland of Chapel Hill as Vice-President, and Ann Hooper, of Carteret County Crossroads as Treasurer. The new slate of officers was elected by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of twenty-five citizen groups that now participate in the Federation

The new leadership will give priority to expanding the base of the Coastal Federation to encompass all organizations, including civic and religious, who are concerned with the quality of life of people who live and work in the coastal region. Further information may be obtained by contacting Todd Miller at 393-8185 or writing the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Route 5, Box 603 (Ocean), Newport, N.C. 28570.

Peat Mining Initiatives Still Alive

Despite the collapse of the Peat Methanol Associates' project, a number of proposed peat mining ventures are still being considered.

First Colony Farms is in the process of determining whether or not it should continue the permit process begun by Peat Methanol Associates so that it will have a permit to broker if a new user for the peat should happen along.

It has also been reported that Carolina Power and Light is planning to test burn peat at its power plants in Wilmington and Goldsboro using peat from Pamlico County.

An investor from Chicago named Sam Esposito has obtained a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the North Carolina Utilities Commission for a peat fired power plant capable of producing 40-55 megawatts a day. The Certificate states that the plant would be built at Texasgulf Chemical Company even though Texasgulf officials state that they have made no such agreement.

Esposito has reportedly approached other industries about his plant as well as the City of Washington.

PLAN FOR SYNTHETIC FUELS PLANT DROPPED

by Ken Allen, Jack Horan and Katherine White

(Excerpted from the February 21, 1984 edition of The Charlotte Observer.)

A proposed $541 million plant to make methanol synthetic fuels from peat in Eastern North Carolina is dead, project partners said Monday (February 20).

The major partners - Koppers Co. and Transco Energy Co. - decided to pull out after the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corp. board refused to go along with a request for additional loan guarantees and methanol price subsidies.

In December 1982, the Washington County project received a tentative federal promise of loan guarantees of $366 million and price supports of as much as $465 million.

But the corporation's board refused to approve an additional 17% in financing, partly for higher methanol price subsidies to make up for the decline in world oil prices that made methanol fuel less attractive.

The withdrawal of Transco and Koppers of Pittsburgh meant the partnership, Peat Methanol Associates, lost 17.5 million in project development costs. The two had planned to invest 121 million of their own money if the board had approved the plant.

"It's a question of having the group together, and at this point, we're not," said Robert Fri, president of Energy Transition Corp., a Washington-based company that was coordinating the plant's development. "I don't believe any of the existing partners can take up the slack."

Transco's officials said the expectation that world oil prices would be lower than previously expected in the late 1980s and 1990s caused bankers to refuse to lend the project $33 million in nonguaranteed loans. "They read the same oil price projection that we did."

In addition, the lower oil prices meant the project needed $46 million more in price subsidies to make methanol production profitable.

The plant was due to begin operating in 1986, producing methanol as an octane enhancer in gasoline from peat mined on 15,000 acres.

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Subscribers will receive the North Carolina Coastal Federation newsletter, periodic mailings concerning important coastal happenings, and notices of Federation meetings and outings.

COMMISSION CALLS FOR BAN ON PHOSPHATE

by Brad Rich

(Excerpted from the February 27, 1984 edition of the Carteret County News-Times.)

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission has given its support to a proposal for a statewide ban on the use of detergents containing phosphates.

Meeting on Thursday and Friday (February 23 and 24) in Raleigh, the commission endorsed a resolution supporting a ban, and sent it to other agencies and commissions concerned with the issue.

Phosphates combine with nitrates and potassium to provide a nutrient-rich medium for algae growth in rivers and other bodies of water. In recent years, algae growth has become severe in some rivers, including the Neuse, and has prompted increased concern from fishermen and environmental groups.

Robert Mahood, director of the state Division of Marine Fisheries, said algae can cause problems in at least two ways.

"In some areas, algae can completely clog up rivers and creeks," he said. "Also, when algae dies, the anaerobic bacteria that eats algae can use up all, or most, of the oxygen in the water."

According to fisheries director Jerry Gaskill, the commission "just decided it was time to take a stand, one way or the other."

"This thing has been studied by many different agencies, and everyone agrees phosphate does add to algae blooms," Mr. Gaskill said. "We (the commission) have been talking about it for two years or so."

"Six other states have done it, and they've begun to get their waters cleaned up," Mr. Gaskill said.

Jerry Gaskill

Photo by Bill Ray Winston-Salem Journal

The resolution adopted by the commission stated that non-phosphate detergents are available at reasonable prices, and said studies have shown that these products do a comparable job of cleaning clothes.

CRC Responds to Citizen Pleas
Task Force on Water Quality Formed

More than a dozen representatives of fishing and conservation groups appeared before the Coastal Resources Commission at its last meeting on January 26 and 27 asking for quick action to prevent further pollution of estuaries and seafood nursery areas.

In response, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint a task force to determine its legal authorities as they relate to protecting coastal water quality with particular emphasis placed on the Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula. A deadline of six months was established for the task force to finish its work.

The citizens included farmers and fishermen from Onslow, Dare, Carteret and Brunswick counties. They stressed that coastal water quality is deteriorating at alarming rates and that despite numerous task forces and studies, no one in state government is taking charge and effectively protecting coastal water quality.

"Without a doubt, you have the power and the opportunity to act on these vitally important issues of water quality, fresh water intrusion, massive land clearing and all types of development that are affecting the water quality of coastal North Carolina," Jerry Gaskill, chairman of the state's Marine Fisheries Commission, told that Coastal Resources Commission.

The Commission was reminded that it is mandated in the Coastal Area Management Act passed by the General Assembly to provide "a management system capable of preserving and managing the natural ecological conditions of the estuarine system, the barrier island system, and the beaches, so as to safeguard and perpetuate their natural productivity and their biological, economic, and aesthetic values."

The citizens stated that while other state agencies and commissions regulate various resources within the coastal region, the Coastal Resources Commission is the one legal body that looks at the "big picture" and can mandate general policies that must be followed by federal and state agencies in their regulatory decisions.

PHOTO CREDIT

Many of the photos in this edition of Coastal Review were contributed by Wading Creek Photo, Rt. 1, Box 284, Beaufort, NC 28516.

404 Settlement Protects Wetlands

As a result of a recent out of court settlement stemming from a lawsuit brought by the National Wildlife Federation against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Carolina's wetlands have been afforded an added measure of protection.

The suit, resulting from a Corps' practice of exempting certain wetlands from comprehensive permit review under the Clean Water Act, was settled out of court in February.

Any proposed development over [illegible] in any freshwater wetland will now have to receive a permit from the Corps. In most cases, this means that an environmental impact statement is needed before a permit can be issued.

Development projects that are from 1 to 10 acres in size may also need a permit depending upon the nature of the proposed activities. Projects under one acre in size are not affected by the decision.

"Major peat deposit holdings in Hyde and Pamlico counties that previously could have been strip-mined without a federal permit now require close review by the Corps," according to Derb Carter, an attorney for the National Wildlife Federation.

Impact of The Coastal Barrier Resources Act

"The Coastal Barrier Resources Act has been an active development management influence in a number of coastal locations," according to a draft report recently circulated by David Godschalk of the Department for City and Regional Planning of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Congress passed the Act in an effort to minimize loss of life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and damage to natural resources by: (1) restricting future Federal expenditures and financial assistance that encourages coastal barrier island development; (2) establishing a Coastal Barrier Resources System; and (3) considering means for long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Godschalk found that most people believe that the Act will accomplish its broad goals, although to varying degrees. He writes, "Supporters commend both its actions in withdrawing subsidies and its public message supporting coastal barrier conservation. Skeptics point out that committed developers, backed up by a strong market, will not only proceed with development but also will eliminate any plans for single-family, low density projects."

"Another possibility," Godschalk explains, "is that the market for oceanfront housing, restricted from undeveloped areas, will simply intensify in developed areas. In this case, exposure to coastal hazards and Federal expenditures in developed areas could increase but damage to natural resources may not be as extensive. Skeptics point out that lobbyists managed to get many of the areas planned for current development deleted from the Act's maps prior to enactment."

Funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Godschalk conducted case studies in North Carolina and Florida. He also surveyed developers, public officials and conservationists in Florida, North and South Carolina to determine their views of the Act.

To obtain information on how to receive a copy of the final report contact David Godschalk, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Conservation '84

Conservation '84, the fourth annual statewide meeting of conservationists and environmentalists in North Carolina, will be held at the Radisson Plaza in Raleigh on Saturday, March 24, 1984.

The morning session will include a review of some of the accomplishments during the past year and a discussion of some of the important issues and initiatives of 1984.

In this important election year, the afternoon will be devoted to a forum for candidates for Lieutenant Governor and Governor. Come prepared with questions for the candidates on environmental issues and concerns.

As in the previous two years, Conversation '84 will be held at the same time as Outdoors North Carolina Expo at the Raleigh Civic Center which this year is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation.

If you need more information about Conservation '84, write or call 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 207, Raleigh, NC 27605, telephone 919-832-2971. Registration is $5.00 with a $10.00 additional charge for those wanting a buffet luncheon.

Neuse River Foundation

Phosphate Ban No Panacea

A recent resolution passed by the Neuse River Foundation stresses that a ban on phosphates in detergents is only one component of a comprehensive program to protect coastal water quality.

The Neuse River Foundation has devised its own river basin management approach to control phosphorus discharges into our state's rivers.

A ban on all future point source discharges of phosphorus into the river system by substitution of land application systems or other alternative non-discharge treatment of all phosphorus-laden wastes is advocated by the Foundation.

In addition, legislation and regulations which ensure to the greatest degree practicable the elimination of phosphorus from existing discharges of waste and land runoff into river systems is sought by the Foundation.

The alternatives for reducing existing phosphorus discharges include: (a) a ceiling on permitted discharge volumes into river systems, which contain any level of phosphorus in any of its forms; (b) agricultural incentives, possibly through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to reduce cropland losses of phosphorus and other nutrients into the rivers; (c) a ban on phosphorus-based detergents; and (d) continuous monitoring of river systems as to whether necessary reductions and water quality objectives are being achieved.

NC estuarine nurseries are top producers of America's favorite seafood. Shrimp and other seafood species are particularly sensitive to poor water quality in early stages of their life cycle.

Photo by Mark Hooper

CITIZENS WANT STRONGER CAMA PROGRAM

by Brad Rich

(Reprinted from the March 5, 1984 edition of the Carteret County News-Times.)

NORTH CAROLINA'S Coastal Area Management Act has been effective, but doesn't go far enough in addressing water quality problems, environmental activists told federal officials Thursday night (March 1, 1984).

The occasion was a public meeting conducted by the federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources (OOCR), to solicit citizens' opinions of the 10-year-old state coastal management program.

THE SEMIANNUAL review is a requirement of the federal Coastal Zones Management Act, which provides some funding for North Carolina's CAMA program.

Bill Stearns and Pat Scott of the OOCR, and Pres Pate of the Morehead City field office of the state Office of Coastal Management, were on hand to listen.

EACH GOT AN earful, as individuals and representatives of groups such as Carteret County Crossroads, the North Carolina Fisheries Association, the Carteret County Wildlife Club and the North Carolina Coastal Federation, spoke.

The consensus was that, while CAMA has helped, loopholes in the act still permit some unnecessary damage to water quality. Most speakers called for more stringent state standard, and less local control of the CAMA program.

"NORTH CAROLINA has a stringent program in some aspects, but there seem to be some large loopholes," said Clark Callaway, owner of Clark's Seafood, Beaufort, and vice-president of the N.C. Fisheries Association.

"There are no parameters for freshwater, or for nitrogen and phosphorous. CAMA does a good job with the permits we have now, but it doesn't address the major issues affecting water quality."

MR. CALLAWAY SAID specific issues that needed to be addressed through CAMA included large-scale land clearing projects, such as farming, forestry and peat mining.

Bob Simpson, an outdoorsman and free-lance writer, echoed Mr. Callaway's sentiments. He said CAMA often resulted in "a real problem when you're putting in a dock or doing a small amount of dredging," but posed little threat to those who wanted to "clear 10,000 acres."

"YOU HAVE TO go through all kinds of permits" to get that pier, Mr. Callaway added, "but right down from you is a farm that's tearing up the shellfish in the creek you've been going to all your life."

Ann Hooper, of Carteret County Crossroads, said citizens supported CAMA, but wanted more. "We feel an urgency," she said. "We feel we're being nickled and dimed to death."

OTHER ISSUES discussed at the meeting included beach access and land-use planning. Speakers said CAMA's beach access program was too little, too late, at least for Bogue Banks, and said local planning officials usually lacked expertise needed to address some problems.

Henri Johnson, attorney for the N.C. Fisheries Association, also praised CAMA. "We want it, we need it, and we need it stronger," she said. "They (Office of Coastal Management personnel) have the intelligence and the eagerness (to do the job), but they just don't have the people."

"WE HAVE HIGH standards here for eastern North Carolina. We don't compare it to New Jersey, we compare it to the way it was in our fathers' and grandfathers' times, and we're in sad shape."

Mr. Pate said "No one understands more some of the shortcomings (CAMA) than the staff."

"WE ARE HAMPERED by some of the language of the legislation, and we're hampered politically by some legislators who are not our friends. We hope we can continue to make progress. We're a young program, only 10 years old."

Ms. Scott, of the OOCR, said she was amazed to hear citizens calling for more state involvement and stricter standards.

"IN MANY states we go to, all we hear is that people want the state and federal governments to bug out of their affairs," she said.

Mr. Stearns said the OOCR had been in the state for several days, talking to other citizens and coastal management officials in Raleigh. The organization's assessment will be published in a report in several months."

If the agency found that the state was not complying with its own program - and Mr. Stearns said that was highly unlikely in a program with as good a reputation as the one in North Carolina - the state could lose its right to stop federal funding of activities it felt were inconsistent with the CAMA program.

Fishing industry representatives told Federal evaluators that much more needs to be done to protect coastal water quality.
Photo by Wading Creek Photo.

Cumulative Impacts of Peat Mining

Peat mining, methanol production and agricultural reclamation of areas stripped of their peat "may have an adverse environmental impact on water quality", according to an on-going state funded study.

These adverse impacts will result because coastal water quality is already severely degraded. According to the report, the Alligator and Pungo Rivers are rich in nutrients that were not there ten years ago. "Additional loadings will further degrade water quality", concludes the study.

Undertaken by a team of scientists from NCSU, UNC, ECU and Duke, the study finds that if lagoons and lakes are used to manage runoff and industrial plant effluents they will "probably become unacceptably eutrophic". The report goes on to conclude that, "Unless these lagoons and buffer wetland systems efficiently remove nutrients from the water as it passes through, there will also be substantial nutrient loading of the Pungo River and the Alligator River and consequent euthrophication."

Paid for by the North Carolina Coastal Energy Impact Program of the Office of Coastal Management and the Water Resources Research Institute, the study examines social, economic and environmental consequences of different levels of peat mining activities within the coastal region. Different levels of possible development are examined from no mining, to currently permitted mining, to widespread mining, to the failure of the industry once it becomes established.

"Peat mining and subsequent reclamation activities as described in the scenarios are likely to significantly increase trace metals, pesticides and coliform bacteria in runoff from permitted areas," states the report. It goes on to say that, "Impacts of such increases presently are not fully known."

Increased employment opportunities are expected to be created by peat mining activities except to the extent that environmental impacts adversely affect the commercial fishing and recreation/tourism industries. The report also finds that long-run fiscal problems may arise in cases where local government must provide expanded services and facilities but is unable to tax the new facilities.

Many unanswered questions concerning the impact of peat mining activities are also raised by the study in the form of lists of additional research needs.

Preparers of the report from NCSU were David Adams the project coordinator, Richard Broadhead, Leon Danielson, Judith Gale, Melvin Huish, Joseph Phillips and Wayne Skaggs; from UNC were William Campbell and Edward Kuenzler; from Duke were Richard DiGiulio, David Evans and Curtis Richardson; and from ECU Lee Otte. Jim Smith of the Office of Coastal Management also contributed to the research.

FARMERS & FISHERMEN ON THE ROPES

Proclaiming that eastern North Carolina is not for sale, family farmers in northeastern North Carolina are joining with commercial fishermen to fight corporate ownership of farmland.

Hugh Maxwell, a Washington County farmer, was selected as spokesperson for the group. It will be called the "Family Farm Association".

Meeting March 8 in Swan Quarter, farmers and fishermen from Beaufort, Carteret, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties decided that they needed to work together to safeguard their ability to earn a living.

A major focus of its efforts will be directed towards getting the General Assembly to restrict or prohibit corporate ownership of farmland. The implications of corporate ownership have become increasingly clear in recent years to many farmers and farm supply dealers in the region.

This year First Colony Farms turned its leasing program over to a national farm management company called Doans. This firm increased the cost of leasing farmland and is reportedly planning to farm much of First Colony's acreage itself.

Many farmers, particularly those with large equipment loans, are fearful that they may not have any land to farm or that they can't afford to continue under Doan's new leasing policies.

Although the legislature is not likely to make corporations owning farmland sell their holdings, it can follow the models now set by 14 other states which restrict or prohibit new purchases of farmland by non-family farm corporations.

Wall Street financial experts state that many of the financial incentives for corporations owning farmland may be removed if they are not able to sell their holdings to other corporations when tax advantages expire.

Parks Discussion Planned

Citizens interested in helping to chart the future of our state parks are invited to seven public hearings to be held across the state in March and April.

The issues and recommendations presented at these meetings will be the basis for a five-year plan for the Division of Parks and Recreation.

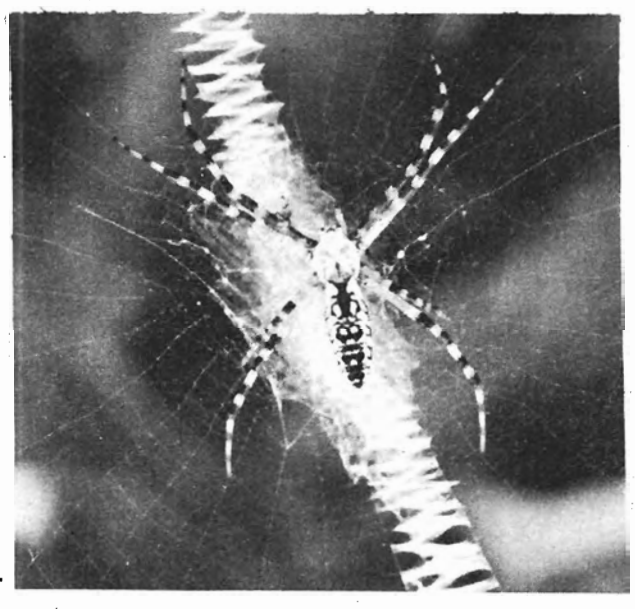
Coastal residents may attend the hearings to be held March 26 in Greenville at the ECU Regional Development Institute, First and Reid Streets, or on April 17 in Wilmington at the UNC-W Bryan Auditorium in Morton Hall.

Contact the Division at P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7686 for more information.

Nags Head Woods Visitor Center Established

Dare County residents and their summer visitors now have a new place to get out of the mosquitoes, Jim and Henrietta List, Nags Head Ecological Preserve Managers, recently announced.

With the help of donations from private foundations and local citizens, the Nature Conservancy has constructed a visitor center which it hopes will become a community education facility of national stature.



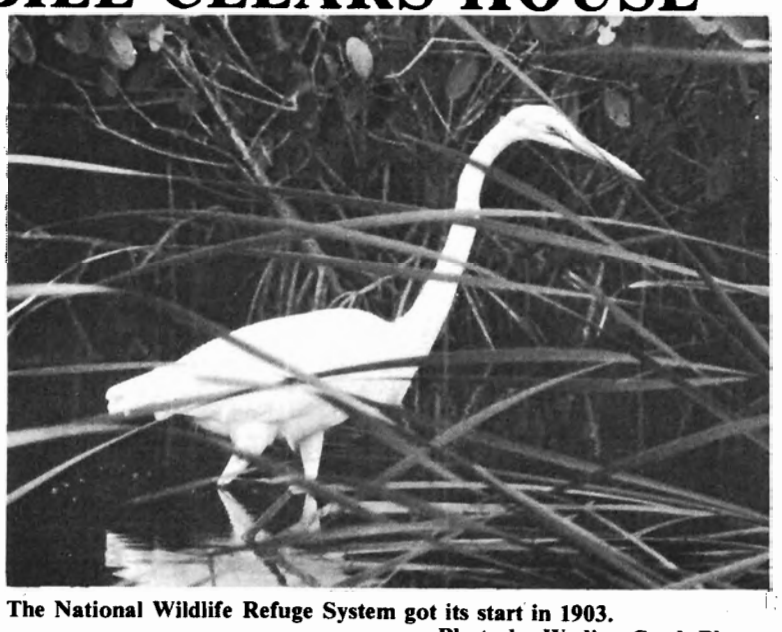
Visitors will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the mysteries of the woods.
Photo by Wading Creek Photo.

The facility includes a screened pavillion for exhibits, slide shows and seminars, a dark room, library, a lab for delving deeper into the mysteries of the Woods, and a system of self-guided trails for exploring the woods' fascinating ecosystem.

Anyone interested in keeping up with activities at the center can join "Friends of Nags Head Woods," to receive a quarterly newsletter. Members also receive the North Carolina Nature Conservancy newsletter and the national Nature Conservancy News. All contributions, however, are spent solely at Nags Head Woods. Subscribing memberships cost $10.00 with larger contributions requested.

Write "The Friends of the Nags Head Woods," P.O. Box 1942, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 for more information.

DISMAL SWAMP WILDLIFE REFUGE BILL CLEARS HOUSE



The National Wildlife Refuge System got its start in 1903.
Photo by Wading Creek Photo.

(Washington, .D.C.) -- Legislation authorizing the expenditure of $22 million for land acquisition and $12.1 million for development of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives February 6, 1984.

Congressman Walter B. Jones, whose First Congressional District includes the North Carolina portion of the refuge, called passage of the bill, which contains funding authorizations for two other refuges, "vital to the development of our national wildlife species and critical habitat, these refuges provide interpretive and educational programs allowing the public to attain an in-depth understanding of the values of fish and wildlife resources."

The Great Dismal Refuge was created in 1974 and encompasses 113,194 acres in North Carolina and Virginia, of which 10,850 acres remain to be acquired. The North Carolina acreage still sought for inclusion in the refuge totals 4,226 acres located in Camden, Gates and Pasquotank counties, with an estimated value of $3,592,000.

"I have been assured that the Senate will bring this measure to final passage without delay, clearing it for the President's signature. There has been an urgent need for prompt action as the integrity of the refuge has been threatened by the potential private purchase, partitioning and draining of a key Virginia tract designated for acquisition. Should this occur, it would cause the draining of a substantial portion of the already existing refuge and the resultant loss of valuable habitat," said Congressman Jones.

This national system got its start in 1903 when President Teddy Roosevelt designated tiny Pelican Island in Florida as a wildlife refuge. There are now over 400 National Wildlife Refuges protecting resources on over 88 million acres of land and water.

Subject of Report

HEAVY METALS IN PEAT

A recent Master's thesis funded in part by the National Science Foundation and completed under the guidance of the U.S. Geological Survey indicates that peat bogs in eastern North Carolina contain a wide range of heavy metals.

The range of metals in peat were found to be very similar to coal. Arsenic, boron, chlorine and selenium were all found in concentrations greater than normally encountered in coal.

It was also found that the geographic location of the peat plays an important role in the concentration of heavy metals. Channelled areas had higher concentrations for most metals than non-channelled areas. Peat under the influence of marine conditions had higher concentrations than peat located in less marine-influenced areas. Peat near the edge of the basin or near slightly higher land areas, also had higher concentrations of metals.

Synthetic Fuels officials couldn't be reached for comment. The corporation was created in 1980 to promote the development of an American synthetic fuels industry with federal subsidies as a hedge against sharply rising oil prices and shortages.

The surface and the bottom of the peat deposits were found to have the highest levels of heavy metals. Fires and plant life were thought to concentrate metals at the surface.

Selenium, aluminum, iron, magnesium, calcium, sodium, potassium, phosphorus, titanium, bromine, strontium, barium, and manganese were all the most abundant elements present in peat.

Forty-nine peat samples were analyzed for 68 different metals. The samples were all taken in Dare County.

The report, entitled "The Occurrence and Distribution of Elements in a Modern Coal-Forming Environment on the Atlantic Coastal Plain in Dare County, North Carolina", was prepared by Philip Baxter Daniel under the guidance of the Department of Geology of the University of South Carolina.

WILDLIFE CLUB BUILDS CLUBHOUSE

Last year the Carteret County Wildlife Club moved a donated building to its property on North River. This "clubhouse" will serve as a meeting place and, given its height from a top pilings, an ideal nature observatory.

The Club considers its 40-acre property a wildlife sanctuary, and impoundments for waterfowl have already been created in the marshes. Plans for other wildlife refuge programs are now being considered.

After a few more working weekends of volunteer labor by members and friends of the Club, the building will be sufficiently respectable to accept guests.

The Club is also now in the process of maintaining and clearing the Neusiok Trail, an 18-mile path through the Croatan National Forest which it first cut in the early 1970s. The Trail begins at Pinecliff Recreation Area on the Neuse River, crosses Highway 101, and ends at the Newport River.

Canoe trips and other outings are planned by the Club later this spring. Contact Susan Simpson at 4500 Termite Lane, Morehead City, NC 28557 for more information.

Demographic & Economic Trends of Eastern North Carolina

Douglas Wilms and William Powell of the Regional Development Institute of East Carolina University have recently published a booklet outlining major demographic and economic trends in eastern North Carolina.

Complete with charts and text, the report profiles such characteristics as population changes, farm income, infant death rates and voter registration.

Contact the authors at the Institute for copies of their study.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY STUMPY POINT

At a meeting January 24, 1984 of the Stumpy Point Civic Club the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS: A host of dangers, from the insidious threat of deadly chemicals in our food and water to the potential catastrophes of nuclear power plants, make daily headlines. Potential fatal hazards on the job, waste and destruction of natural resources and a declining quality of life in the United States have made environmental issues sharp indicators of how pervasive the crisis of our society has become. But, the enormous attention given to exposing environmental dangers has not produced anything resembling comparable steps toward resolving them.

THEREFORE: We, the members of the Stumpy Point Civic Club, citizens of the fishing village of Stumpy Point, whose sole economic reason of existing is commercial fishing, would like to go on record as objecting to the continuing deterioration of the water quality in and surrounding the Pamlico-Albemarle Peninsula. We are convinced that our government regulatory agencies have been ineffectual in protecting our coastal waters. We want our children's children to know that we were aware of what was happening and that we did protest. History will determine whether or not it did any good.

SIGNED: James Meekins, President, Stumpy Point Civic Club

Focus of Recent Study

Impact of State Port

The Morehead City State Port contributes significantly to the economy of Carteret County, according to a recent report commissioned by Carteret County Crossroads.

However, the report also finds that the Port's contribution to the county is only a fraction of that derived from industries (tourism, fishing, marine research and retirement) that are dependent on a high quality environment.

Written by consultant John Runkle of Chapel Hill, the report estimates that industries dependent on a high quality environment account for $354 million dollars of the county's economy.

The total impact of the Port on the state economy, according to State figures, is $216 million with almost half of that being related to the tobacco industries of the Piedmont.

While recognizing the economic contribution of the port, the report is critical of recent management decisions, such as the shift from general cargo, lumber and tobacco to bulk products, producing a minimum of local employment and income.

In addition, according to the study extensive future development of the port as a bulk handling facility might threaten the growth of county's economy by causing deterioration of the environment.

It suggests that the county government and citizens should have a role in future decisions regarding port operations and expansion.

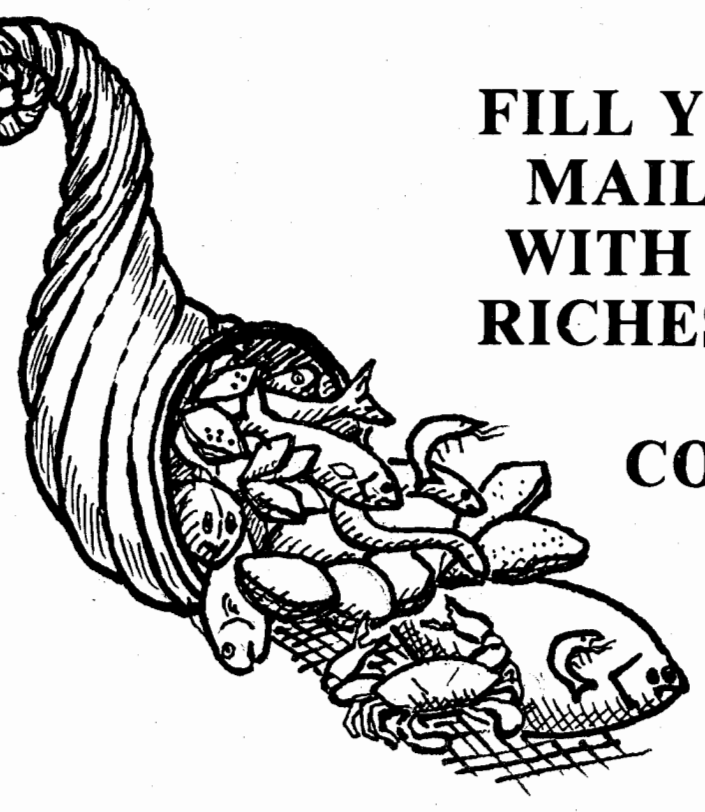
Onslow County

GROUP TOPPLES CONDO PROPOSAL

A proposal to build a 12-story condominium within feet of surrounding single family cottages has been voted down by the Onslow County Commissioners.

The structure, proposed for West Onslow Beach, was opposed by the Onslow County Conservation Group which works to provide good attendance at planning board and county commissioner meetings about the proposal.

The organization was also recently successful in getting Permuda Island eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places. Lena Ritter, chairperson for the group's Permuda Island project, led six members to Raleigh to speak in favor of inclusion. Investors interested in developing the island were opposed to the decision to make the island eligible for inclusion on the Register.



FILL YOUR MAILBOX WITH THE RICHES OF THE COAST

SUBSCRIBE TO COASTAL REVIEW TODAY!

LAND LOSS PREVENTION PROJECT WORKING TO SAVE SMALL FARMS

An ominous trend in land ownership has helped decimate the family farmer and rural land owner in North Carolina.

Once North Carolina had more small farms than any state in the country. However, between 1964 and 1978, 72,000 small farms went out of business, primarily due to foreclosures, tax sales, and heirs property problems.

Since 1910, white farm ownership has declined about 56 percent in North Carolina while black/indian farm ownership declined 94 percent. Annually, 100,000 acres of farmland are paved over, built on or otherwise lost.

An important cultural heritage is at stake.

Since January 3, 1983 the Land Loss Prevention Project has worked to prevent the decline in the amount of land owned by low income land owners by undertaking an ambitious program of community education and by providing direct legal assistance.

The Project provides legal advice on land problems, referral to private attorney, grants to defray litigation, expenses for surveys and appraisal costs, research assistance for attorneys, community education through speakers, films and printed materials, special courses for law students on land problems, attorney training and referral to other resource groups.

Funds for the Project are provided by Legal Services of North Carolina, Inc., the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, National Bar Association, the Episcopal Church Center's Coalition for Human Needs and the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers.

For help or materials call 1-800-672-5839 (in state free call) Monday through Friday or write NCABL Land Loss Prevention Project, Inc., P.O. Box 179, Durham, N.C. 27702.

An ominous trend in land ownership has helped decimate the family farmer and rural land owner in North Carolina.
Photo by Bill Ray, Winston-Salem Journal

NEWLETTERS AND REPORT OF INTEREST

Coastal Review, (what you are now reading!) To assure you receive future copies, send a $5.00 tax-deductible contribution to the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Route 5, Box 603 (Ocean), Newport, NC 28570.

Marine Advisory News, published monthly free for the marine community. Available by writing Bob Hines, Marine Resources Center, Bogue Banks, P.O. Box 896, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512.

Neuse River Notes, newsletter of the Neuse River Foundation. Available for $10.00 by writing NRF, P.O. Box 5451, New Bern, NC 28560.

Currents, of the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation is available for $5.00 by writing the PTF at P.O. Box 1854, Washington, NC 27889.

Newsletter of Carteret County Crossroads can be received for $5.00 by writing CCC at P.O. Box 155, Beaufort, NC 28516.

Carolina Conservationist, monthly newsletter of the Conservation Council of North Carolina is available for $15.00 by writing CCNC, 307 Granville Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Newsletter of the Onslow County Conservation Group is available for $10.00 by writing OCCG, 104 Keller Court, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

General Management and Development Concept Plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore, January 1984. Can be ordered by writing Cape Hatteras National Seashore, P.O. Box 675, Manteo, NC 27954.

Circumstances Surrounding The First Colony Peat-To-Methanol Project, November 10, 1983. Can be ordered free by writing U.S. General Accounting Office, Document Handling and Information Services Facility, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20760. Ask for report GAO/RCED-84-32, November 10, 1983. Also request to be sent monthly notices of publications available from the General Accounting Office.

CAMAgram, free newsletter reporting the activities of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission. Write NC Office of Coastal Management, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687.

Please send the necessary information if you want your group's newsletter or research efforts listed in future issues of Coastal Review.

Protecting the Neuse To Be Discussed

Progress made in protecting the waters of the Neuse River will be examined on April 13, 1984 when the White Oak-Neuse River Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Bern Restaurant in New Bern.

Committee member Jamie King of New Bern said in a recent telephone interview that the meeting would also focus on "what we have to look forward to in terms of initiatives to improve and protect the water quality of the river."

King, a Board of Director of the Neuse River Foundation, is pleased that the committee will be meeting in the coastal area where many of the river's water quality problems are most severe. "We normally meet in Smithfield or Raleigh which makes it difficult for coastal residents to get involved in the committee's activities."

Anyone wishing to eat with the committee should be prepared to pay $7.75 for dinner.

CRITICAL CLEAN WATER VOTE IN U.S. SENATE

Daniel Weiss of the Izaak Walton League of America is calling upon advocates of clean water to write their Senators in favor of reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

He announces that in late March the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on a bill, S. 431, that would reauthorize and strengthen the Act.

The bill would: (1) require the identification and clean-up of waters contaminated with high levels of industrial toxics called "toxic hot spots"; (2) require states to develop and implement programs to reduce runoff from farms, streets and construction sites; and (3) provide money for the clean-up of Chesapeake Bay.

Opponents of the legislation have tried to weaken it by undermining control on toxics, reducing protection of wetlands by exempting most water projects from review by the Corps of Engineers, and exempting New York City's Westway highway from review under the Act.

Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act is essential to maintain and enhance coastal water quality.
Photo by Mark Hooper

Presented to Legislative Study Committee

Chamber Poll Indicates Strong Support for Protecting Water Resources

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce presented the results of a poll it conducted of its membership and made three recommendations at the public hearing held February 15 by the Legislative Study Committee examining peat mining and large-scale land clearing.

Mike Kelly, a Board of Director of the Chamber, informed the committee that an overwhelming majority (90 percent) of its members indicated through their poll that they wanted their water resources maintained and managed responsibly.

He also stated that a majority of the poll respondents also felt that extensive land clearing operations present serious drawbacks to the fishing and tourism industries.

Kelly told the committee that, "The disadvantages of the long-term environmental and economic aspects of these activities far outweigh the advantages. We also feel that the existing laws in North Carolina are not adequate to protect all levels of water quality. Adequate controls are needed to be implemented to measure such items in our waters as nitrogen content, groundwater quality, freshwater runoff, and the by-products of an agricultural boom for both the present and years to come."

The Chamber made three recommendations to the committee: (1) An environmental impact statement should weigh the long-term regional effects equally with the short-term local benefits of a project; (2) The Coastal Resources Commission under the auspices of the Coastal Area Management Act should be given control of the permit process for land clearing projects; and (3) If permits are allowed, the state should set penalties which are reasonable and can be enforced if any project is not in accordance with established guidelines.

The Chamber has 462 members located mostly in Dare County.

New Directions in Aerial Photography

East Carolina University presents a one-day workshop for professionals, academicians, and students who work with or need to know about aerial photography as a tool.

Planned for April 5, 1984 at the East Carolina Regional Development Institute, the workshop will examine the types, contents and uses of aerial photography.

Contact New Directions, Division of Continuing Education, ECU, Greenville, NC 27834 for registration information.

Bay Scallops

A HARD MORNING'S WORK IN THE COLD

by James Stephens

Jacksonville Daily News Staff
(January 21, 1984)

When a man who has spent most of the 63 years of his life building high steel buildings in New England says it's cold, it's wise to look to your long underwear for protection.

So it was last Wednesday (January 18, 1984) at the iceplant in Swansboro as Roy Stanley prepared to go bay scalloping.

It was cold, and the knot of people standing around the kerosene stove in Vic Scimeca's office were having some fun with the idea of anybody going out on the water in the morning's weather.

A mist that was on the verge of turning to sleet was falling from the low clouds hanging over the choppy grey waters of the White Oak River, and the winds were kicking up over 20 knots.

Stanley conceeded that it was chilly all right, but the way he said it on the way out the door made you feel like it had nothing to do with Swansboro that morning.

A cool 10-minute ride east on the Intracoastal waterway took Roy and his small open boat to the reedy shallows near the old ferry landing, and Roy cut the motor. The tide was going out and the small outboard scudded along the shell-covered bottom as the boat drifted.

That morning Stanley had come to a several acre stretch of water between exposed shoals and dense grass just west of the highrise bridge. The figures of several lone scallopers in yellow slickers rose above the grass beds nearby, their boats hidden beneath them as they worked the waters.

Scallops are usually taken with dredges - an elaborate name for a bent steel reinforcing bar several feet long with a small bag-like net attached to it. When the bar is drug along the bottom, the scallops, which live on the bottoms amid eel grass, are kicked up in the water and picked up by the net.

Stanley usually pulls two dredges behind the boat, and that morning they were yielding more seaweed and empty shells than scallops.

Every 10 or 15 minutes, he pulled in the dredges and emptied them onto the sorting board, where the scallops were sorted into one-bushel onion sacks. Sea urchins, grass and empty shells went back overboard.

The daily limit on scallops is 15 bushels per person per day with a maximum of 30 taken by one boat. But the season is playing out, he said, making it a hard morning's work to get the limit.

In the colder weather, the scallops, which normally live only one year, take on a little extra weight, but fishermen had already made a pretty big dent in the population, Stanley noted as he came up short on another haul.

"Then again," he said, looking over at the other boats, congregating on one stretch of water, "it could be this spot is cleaned out.

"On a good day earlier this season, I was pulling up a bushel with each dredge."

Now, with each haul, the cold was setting in deeper. Gloved fingers, when not in motion became stiffer. The wind was picking up, and the boat was not particularly burdened with scallops.

Stanley, who was doing a good bit of the work without gloves, began banging his hands together for warmth and occasionally sticking them in the outboard's warm exhaust water.

Like many back in town, Stanley doesn't live in Swansboro, or scallop, for profit. He has returned to the place of his birth after living in New England to - by his way of thinking - take things easy and to try and get his fill of fishing.

Unlike present day Swansboro, the town he left in the 1930s was the home of many who made their living from the sea. Stanley remembers that the town had all the charter boat and commercial fishing activity that Morehead City has today.

Scalloping is only a filler in the small boat fisherman's income. One species alone provides few with a livelihood. **Photo by Mark Hooper**

The waters in those days were far more productive, too.

In 1928, 1 1/2 million pounds of scallop meats were reported taken out of North Carolina waters, of which Bogue Sound is a major scalloping ground. In contrast, in what was a relatively good year recently, 130,000 pounds were taken during 1982.

Since baby scallops must have grass to become attached to while awaiting growth of their shells, the decline in harvests may be credited mainly to the loss of underwater vegetation.

Like many other fisheries of the state, scalloping is only a filler in the small-time fisherman's income. Clams, crabs, shrimp and oysters are more stable parts of the maritime harvest, but being seasonal, one species alone provides few with a livelihood.

A bushel, which can consist of well over 100 scallops, renders a little more than four pounds of the cork-shaped, white meats. That, Roy says, represents about two hours of steady shucking.

This year, no one is getting rich off the local bay scallops. Scallopers have only been getting $18 to $25 per gallon (eight pounds) of shucked scallops, from the wholesalers this season, which runs from December until spring on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The reason for the low prices, many say, is the Florida calico scallop industry's boom year, which is flooding the market with inexpensive, small sea scallops.

Most of those are steamed open and shucked mechanically, whereas the local bay scallops are all done by hand because of their smaller than usual size this year.

The shucking requires less trickery and force than is used for oysters, but there is a definite knack to opening the shell and separating the slimy organs from the meat without tearing it.

"Do maybe five bushels o scallops and you might b considered a novice at it," on shellfisherman in Swansbor observed.

Roy sells some of his catch, eat some, and often a friend will as him to "pick me up a bushel o scallops."

A wry grin comes over his fac when he is asked about the state o that bushel.

"No, I don't shuck them. I get little bit better price when I do th shucking."

"I'm good for a couple of bushel at a time. My wife, though, she like to shuck them."

Roy's catch that morning wa about 3 1/2 bushels for as man hours' work before he decided t call it a day. In the end, standin around Vic's kerosene stov warming his fingers, he decided was, after all, a cold day. He said h was considering going home t some warm clothes before turnin to the scallops in his boat.

INSURANCE FIRM GIVES 120,000 ACRES FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE IN DARE, TYRRELL

by Monte Basgall

(Reprinted from the News and Observer, March 16, 1984)

The Prudential Insurance Company of America has donated almost 120,000 acres of forest and wetlands in Dare and Tyrrell counties for preservation as the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, parties to the transaction announced Thursday (March 15, 1984).

Prudential's gift to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was valued at more than $50 million. It was hailed as the largest private land donation in North Carolina's history and one of the nation's largest ever.

The insurance company retains some holdings in the area. Its gift allows settlement of part of an environmental lawsuit filed last year to block its plans for developing some of the land, a party to the litigation said.

The donation was engineered with the help of The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit national organization that targets ecologically significant property for preservation.

"We just couldn't be happier," said William deBuys, director of the N.C. Nature Conservancy, who observed signing ceremonies Wednesday (March 14, 1984) in Washington, N.C.

"It's the biggest donation of its kind in North Carolina history," deBuys said in an interview. He estimated that the acreage involved was 2 1/2 times that of the District of Columbia.

Combined with an adjacent government-owned bombing range, the creation of the new refuge will put most of the Dare County mainland in federal hands. Most of Dare's islands are taken up by Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

G. Ray Arnett, the U.S. assistant interior secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, called the gift "one of the largest and most significant in the history of American conservation."

"The Alligator River Refuge represents an exceptionally wide range of wetland habitats," Arnett said in a statement. "(It) includes some of North Carolina's best examples of non-riverine swamp forests, pocosins and salt and fresh-water marshes."

The area is home to alligators, migratory waterfowl, deer, black bear and a fledgling colony of bald eagles. It is also important in the reproduction and growth of shrimp, oysters, herring, shad and striped bass.

James A. Summers, North Carolina secretary of natural resources and community development lauded Prudential's gift.

"I think what this means is ... that there will be a very important, large area of land that will serve as a wildlife habitat for present and future generations of North Carolina citizens," Summers said in a telephone interview.

Summers said federal in-lieu-of-tax payments for the transferred land would more than make up for revenue losses to the affected counties, which will no longer be able to collect property tax on the formerly private land. The new federal refuge probably will be managed by the N.C. Wildlife Commission, and hunting and fishing will be permitted, he said.

The director of the Raleigh-based Southeast Natural Resource Center, which is operated by the National Wildlife Federation, said the transaction settled part of a lawsuit filed in September against the federal government by the wildlife federation and seven other North Carolina and national organizations.

Derb S. Carter said the environmentalist plaintiffs would drop the second count of the lawsuit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had allowed dredging and filling on 4,000 of 23,000 acres that had been owned in part by Prudential, which wanted to develop the land for agriculture. The second count of the lawsuit challenged the corps' right to allow that development.

Prudential retains thousands of acres in the area after its gift to the government, including the 4,000 acres that had been disputed in the lawsuit. Carter said the terms of the settlement would allow it to proceed with its agricultural development, provided it left conservation easements and other pathways for wildlife.

Stream Watch Meeting Planned

A regional gathering of Stream Watch groups is planned for Apri 28 at the Archdale Building in Raleigh.

Meg Kerr, Stream Watch Coordinator, announces that the morning session of the meeting will give state officials an opportunity to explain the organization of State agencies as they relate to water resource programs. The afternoon will be spent discussing Stream Watch activities.

For more information, contac Kerr at the Division of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687 telephone 919-733-7015.

CONTRIBUTE TO COASTAL REVIEW

Articles about coastal events, groups and people are accepted. Also, write the editor to express your views. Contact the North Carolina Coastal Federation, Route 5, Box 603 (Ocean), Newport, N.C. 28570.

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE