

NC Coastal Resources Commission under the Boards & Commissions Efficiency Act: Eliminating the Voices of Fishing, Agriculture and the Public

What is the Coastal Resources Commission?

The Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) establishes policies for the N.C. Coastal Management Program, designates areas of environmental concern, adopts rules and policies for coastal development within those areas, and certifies local land-use plans.

The CRC consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Twelve of the 15 members must have experience in a particular area of expertise. Three members may be “at-large.” Current member designations include:

- Coastal Forestry
- State/National Conservation Organization
- Local Government (two seats)
- Coastal Land Development
- Financing of Coastal Land Development
- **Coastal Agriculture***
- Marine-related Business
- **Wildlife or Sports Fishing***
- Marine Ecology
- **Commercial Fishing***
- Coastal-Engineering (Vacant)
- **3 At-large members (1 Vacant)***

*Eliminated under Boards and Commissions Efficiency Act

Boards and Commissions Efficiency Act: Eliminating Key Stakeholders from Coastal Policy Development

The Boards and Commissions Efficiency Act would reduce the CRC from 15 to 9 members. Specifically, the bill would eliminate seats now reserved for commercial fishing, wildlife or sports fishing, coastal agriculture, and all three “at-large” members.

The CRC was created to bring together experts in varying fields and interests to address the many issues facing the NC coast. The proposed consolidation of the CRC weakens its ability to fashion policy that addresses the priorities of all coastal stakeholders.

Eliminating these seats would also:

- Potentially increase the ratio of non-coastal residents on the Commission from 2:13 to 2:7.
- Limit the potential to appoint non-coastal residents on the commission to the coastal land development and financing seats since there will no longer be “At-Large” seats.
- Remove from the Commission its one minority member, and one of two women (the Coastal Area Management Act directs that there “shall” be due consideration given to securing appropriate representation of women and minorities).

North Carolina Coastal Federation

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