

NC COASTAL FEDERATION RESTORATION & PROTECTION PROJECT:

## MORRIS LANDING

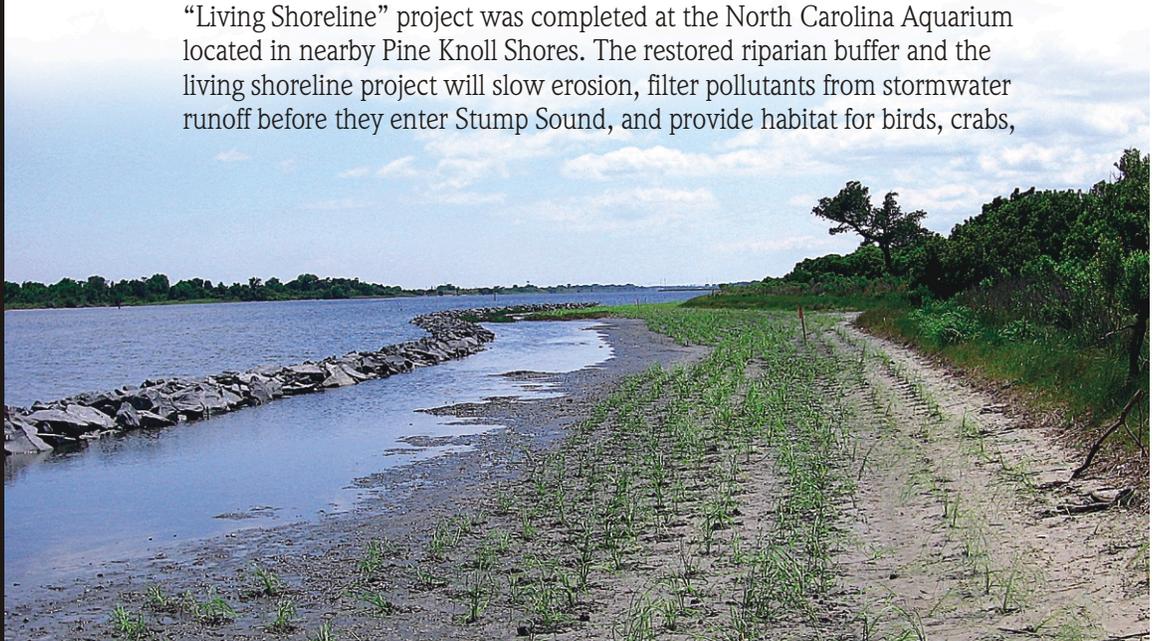
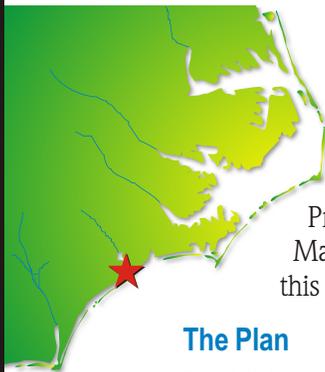
In 2004, the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) purchased a 52-acre site at Morris Landing through a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Morris Landing is located south of Cape Lookout on Stump Sound, in the central portion of the North Carolina coast. This site is a local favorite for swimming, boating, fishing, and oyster harvesting. However, heavy unrestricted use of the area was leading to degradation of the shoreline in the form of habitat loss as a result of vehicular traffic, erosion, and dumping of trash.

### The Threat

The exceptional water quality in Stump Sound has been declining over the past decade. Without intact forest, salt marsh, and wetland habitats to provide natural buffers, this decline will continue. NCCF is working with Restore America's Estuaries, NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program, FishAmerica Foundation, EPA, NC Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), and local citizens to protect and restore this area.

### The Plan

In addition to the permanent conservation easement on the site, NCCF will work to restore or preserve the vegetated riparian buffer along 3,300 feet of the shoreline. A 600-foot rock sill has been installed along the shoreline, and marsh habitat will be restored behind the sill. A similar "Living Shoreline" project was completed at the North Carolina Aquarium located in nearby Pine Knoll Shores. The restored riparian buffer and the living shoreline project will slow erosion, filter pollutants from stormwater runoff before they enter Stump Sound, and provide habitat for birds, crabs,



and many different fish species. In partnership with the Town of Holly Ridge, NCCF has also included an educational walkway, platform and community fishing pier among the site's amenities.

A portion of the Morris Landing site will become a staging area for a number of oyster habitat restoration activities. As an alternative to stone, oyster shell bags have been integrated into a section of the shoreline sill. During 2005, 16,000 bushels of oyster shell have been deposited to create oyster reefs in Stump Sound. These reefs have been seeded with juvenile oysters to help increase the oyster population on the newly-created reefs.

Oyster shell has been found to be the best substrate for oyster larvae to settle on, but is a limited resource at this time. For this reason, citizens and businesses may deposit oyster shells at an oyster shell-recycling bin at Morris Landing. NCDMF will stockpile shell for oyster restoration projects, and will construct a dock for shell loading and community fishing.

### Volunteer Involvement

Thanks to the Town of Holly Ridge, local school students and residents, site clean up is already underway at Morris Landing. Volunteer involvement is also needed and encouraged for oyster restoration activities, planting marsh vegetation, and site monitoring.



# North Carolina Coastal Federation

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### About the North Carolina Coastal Federation

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's largest non-profit working to protect and restore coastal North Carolina. There are many exciting opportunities to get involved in restoration projects and help preserve our coastal environment. If you would like to support our efforts, please consider becoming an NCCF member. You also can learn about volunteer opportunities and other programs by checking out NCCF's website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org), call 252-393-8185, or come by NCCF headquarters at 3609 Hwy 24 in Ocean, located between Morehead City and Swansboro.