



North Carolina Coastal Federation

Working Together for a Healthy Coast

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Carolina Coastal Federation Sponsors Oil Forum, Pelican Award Celebration

OCEAN - Experienced voices from across the state and around the nation will participate in a daylong forum, July 31 in New Bern, to examine the implications of offshore drilling on the N.C. coast.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation, the forum's sponsor, will later that day present its annual Pelican Awards to honor people, organizations and businesses for exemplary actions to protect the coast.

The forum, "**Shaping Our Economic Future: Offshore Drilling in N. C.**" runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the New Bern-Craven County Convention & Visitors Center, 203 S. Front St. in New Bern.

Presenters include national, regional and local researchers, regulators, and coastal residents who will share their experience and views on the economic and environmental implications of oil and gas exploration and development.

The public is invited to attend the open forum that will allow for ample audience Q & A throughout the sessions. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch and refreshments. Go to www.nccoast.org/oil for more information or to register.

Following the forum, the federation will host its annual Pelican Awards celebration from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., honoring the outstanding achievements of people, groups and businesses that have gone above and beyond in their commitment and actions to protect and restore our coast.

The evening festivities will also feature music, a shrimp boil and a silent auction with a variety of coastal-themed items from art to one-of-a-kind excursions. Tickets are \$50 for

members, \$60 for nonmembers.

For more information or to register, visit www.nccoast.org/pelican or call the federation at 252-393-8185.

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