



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

ANNUAL REPORT



Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.

—Helen Keller

Our incredible coast is sometimes referred to as Napa Valley of oysters. It grows succulent oysters in vibrant creeks and sounds. But that accolade is a warning as much as a tribute. Intense pressures to use and enjoy our coast create pollution and habitat degradation that damage our waters and shorelines, and restrict shellfishing, swimming and public beach access. At the North Carolina Coastal Federation we work across disciplines to forge unique partnerships to protect and restore our coastal resources. We bridge the gap between research, government action and the people who use and depend upon the coast. This annual report shows how much can be accomplished by working together. Thank you for being part of our winning team here at the federation and helping protect our beautiful coast for future generations. Because together we can do so much.

Todd Miller

Todd Miller, Executive Director

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OUR MISSION

The North Carolina Coastal Federation empowers coastal residents and visitors from all walks of life to protect and restore the water quality and critically important natural habitats of the N.C. coast.

Headquarters and Central Office

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Southeast Office

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**North Carolina
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2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Restored oyster reefs and wetlands now protect the shoreline at Jones Island, a centerpiece for recreation and education activities in the White Oak River.

COASTWIDE

- Completed the federation's long-range plan to have three permanent offices serving the entire coast through a successful capital campaign supporting the relocation and renovation of a historic home in Wrightsville Beach. The Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center opened in May and serves as the public hub of programming and outreach activities for the region.
- Led a statewide campaign to promote the use of Low Impact Development practices to protect and restore water quality, including a two-day summit in Raleigh highlighting new research, tools, and success stories.
- Participated in a state-appointed stakeholder group that established minimum design criteria for state-mandated stormwater control systems.
- Hosted a coastal tour by climate change crusader Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, highlighting work by local researchers, communities, and the federation focused on climate change.
- Chaired a national team of experts in living shorelines policy and management to produce a report, "Living Shorelines: From Barriers to Opportunities," providing recommendations for eliminating obstacles to living shorelines on the national level.
- Published 250 stories, attracted an average of 63,000 visits a month to the website, and provided some of the state's most in-depth coverage of Hofmann Forest, the N.C. General Assembly, climate change and other key issues through *Coastal Review Online*, or CRO.
- Formed a new *President's Council* advisory group to connect the work of the federation with known leaders across our state and grow our ability to forge new partnerships.
- Engaged 966 volunteers who donated 13,662 hours to various federation projects; 2,175 students through hands-on education programs; and 307,389 people through education and outreach programs.

SOUTHEAST

- Designed and installed 14 stormwater reduction retrofits, 54 rain barrels, and 8 rain gardens in Wrightsville Beach, Wilmington, and the Lakes of Lockwood neighborhood, demonstrating successful strategies to restore impaired coastal waters.
- Installed rain gardens, native landscaping and rain barrels on Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity homes and developed low impact development techniques for landscaping at new Habitat homes.
- Designed and installed more than a dozen innovative retrofits to prevent polluted stormwater runoff from entering coastal waters and partnered with the National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative to monitor and evaluate the retrofits.
- Enhanced and restored three acres of oyster reef habitat in the Lockwood Folly River and planted more than 3,000 salt marsh plants along the shoreline of Stump Sound at Morris Landing.
- Led opposition to the proposed Titan cement plant, coordinating the Stop Titan Action Network (STAN). STAN stopped Titan from obtaining any further permits, appealed the state air quality permit issued in 2012, and supported the Special Use Permit process in New Hanover County.
- Worked with local stakeholders and property owners to launch a campaign to Save Rich Inlet and oppose the building of a terminal groin at Figure 8 Island.

CENTRAL

- Stabilized eroding shorelines and created valuable estuarine habitat with oyster bag sills and wetland plantings at Jones Island in the White Oak River, at Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores, at Carrot Island in Beaufort, and at Onslow Beach, Traps Bay and Pollocks Point at Camp Lejeune.
- Planted 123,617 native tree seedlings (including bald cypress, green ash, oaks, and more) on 442 acres at North River Farms in Carteret County.
- Designed innovative retrofits for two large and problematic stormwater ponds in Cape Carteret draining to Outstanding Resource Waters, and

facilitated the donation of conservation easements on the ponds.

- Designed two large-scale coastal wetland restoration projects to improve water quality in Wards and Williston Creeks in Carteret County.
- Coordinated a community garden and adapted a curriculum for environmental education and demonstration gardens for teacher workshops at Earthwise Farm.
- Engaged 296 student, teacher and community volunteers to clean up trash and marine debris from 12 coastal marsh sites in Carteret and Onslow counties.
- Graduated seven students from the federation's Coastal Advocacy Institute, our three-month environmental immersion program, with student projects including drafting stormwater ordinances, collecting data on permitting for living shorelines in other states, and developing watershed management plans.

NORTHEAST

- Removed 2.6 tons of marine debris from northeastern N.C. waters by hiring commercial fishermen to remove derelict fishing gear.
- Conducted yearlong education programs for disadvantaged youth at River City YouthBuild, focusing on low impact development training, classroom environmental lessons, field trips and the installation of a rain garden and a cistern.
- Completed restoration on 1,350 acres of wetlands within Mattamuskeet Drainage Association in Hyde County, restoring historic hydrologic function and habitat and while providing a buffer from agricultural runoff for nearby coastal waters.
- Coordinated a coastwide oyster restoration workshop, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to guide future oyster habitat and restoration efforts in the state.
- Responded to local concerns over 250 acres of wetlands being drained in Pamlico County and filed a "notice to sue" to force the federal government to enforce the Clean Water Act that protects wetlands.
- Worked with oyster growers to help facilitate the expansion of mariculture operations in Dare County.



Volunteers pitch in to restore oyster habitat and stabilize an eroding shoreline at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores.



The federation's education program offers hands-on learning opportunities for students up and down our coast.



The landscape scale restoration project at North River Farms restored wetland habitat and reduced agricultural runoff to coastal waters.



Citizens of all ages continue to oppose the Titan America cement plant proposed along the Northeast Cape Fear River. The federation leads this effort to prevent negative impacts on public health, wetlands, air and water quality, and the regional economy.



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3609 NC 24 (Ocean) • Newport, NC 28570

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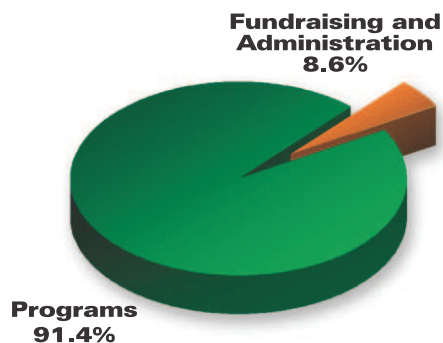
REVENUE & EXPENSES

These audited financials for the year ending December 31, 2014 are available in approximately July of the following year.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Memberships	\$202,550
Donations	\$555,486
Campaign Donations	\$60,999
Events Net	\$49,759
Grants	\$2,612,192
Rental Income	\$153,314
Investment Income	\$107,869
Miscellaneous	\$123
TOTAL GRANTS	\$3,742,292
and REVENUES	

HOW WE SPENT YOUR DONATIONS



Program	\$3,546,873
Fundraising & Admin.	\$332,540
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,879,413*

* Reflects program expenditures using funds raised in 2013. A copy of the 2014 audit can be found at www.nccoast.org and is available on request.



2014 DONORS

Membership and donations make our day to day work possible. We greatly appreciate each and every supporter of our coast. The following are donors who gave in 2014 at recognition levels:

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