

*Office of the Governor  
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper  
Governor*



20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

March 16, 2017

Ms. Patricia Montanio, Director  
Office of Habitat Conservation  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: N.C. Coastal Federation's proposal to the FY2017 NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resilience program

Dear Director Montanio:

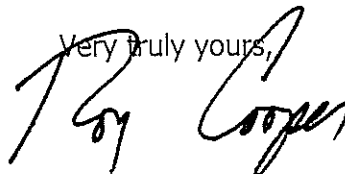
On behalf of the State of North Carolina, I offer my support for the North Carolina Coastal Federation's collaborative proposal to the NOAA Coastal Resilience grant program for its project: "Responding to Increased Demand for Living Shorelines in North Carolina."

In 2015, Coastal Federation formed a partnership with state parks, small businesses, private landowners and wildlife refuges to build several thousand feet of living shoreline throughout the coast. Interest for living shorelines continues to grow, and the project will provide training and hands-on mentorship to local marine contractors to give them the skills needed to design and permit living shorelines.

The North Carolina coast, with more than 2 million acres of estuarine area, is one of the most biologically productive places on earth. It is also faced with the increasing challenges of shoreline erosion from storms. Living shorelines offer protection in the wake of hurricanes and storms and provide sustainable habitats for fish.

Commercial and recreational fishing are multi-billion dollar industries in the state, so habitat is of crucial importance. Most commercially important fish species spend part or all of their life cycles in salt marsh habitats.

I hope that your office will give this worthwhile project and the jobs and collaborative opportunity it creates full consideration and that you will support this effort. Thank you, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact Jordan Whichard in my office at (919) 814-2036.

Very truly yours,  
  
Roy Cooper

RAC/sm