

Take Action for Lake Mattamuskeet



Are you worried about flooding on your property?

Have you wondered why the lake water isn't clear anymore?

Have you wondered where all the grass in the lake has gone?

For the last year, a group of people has come together to explore solutions for these problems and develop a plan for fixing them. If you're concerned about the lake and how it is impacting you and your property, **we want to hear from you.**

Here's how you can get involved:

- Visit www.nccoast.org/lakemattamuskeet to:
 - Learn more about the problems and what is being done to make the lake healthy again.
 - Submit comments about your concerns or ideas to restore the lake and improve conditions for people living around the lake.
 - Sign up to receive email updates as the plan is being developed.
- Attend the next public meetings on **May 8, Jul. 10 and Sep. 18** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Hyde County Government Complex in Swan Quarter.
- Contact Erin Fleckenstein (252) 473-1607 or erinf@nccoast.org.
- Reach out to your stakeholders who are guiding this process (reverse side).

Please see the back of this handout to learn about what we know so far about flooding, water quality and grass.

This project is a partnership of:



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

Here's what we understand so far about...

...why land around the lake is flooding more frequently and for longer stretches of time:

The movement of water out of Lake Mattamuskeet is controlled by water control structures on each of the four main canals that connect the lake to Pamlico Sound and Alligator River. Water levels within the watershed vary depending on water levels in the sound, wind direction and rainfall. Over the past decades, rising sea levels and silting in the main canals have resulted in a poorly functioning drainage system. The lake depends on passive gravity drainage and cannot be lowered during periods of high tide.

...why the lake water is not clear any more:

Since the 1980's, water quality declines have been monitored in the lake. Results consistently show pH and chlorophyll a levels above normal limits, indicating algae blooms in the water. These blooms are caused by excess nutrients in the water, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Toxic algal blooms have also been monitored. These blooms have some of the highest concentrations of algal toxins in the country, bordering on federal limits for recreational contact.

...why the grass has gone missing from the lake:

The algae blooms are blocking sunlight from making it to the lake bottom. When this happens for long periods of time, grass begins to disappear. As grass is lost from the lake, the sediment on the bottom that was held together by grass roots becomes loose. These loose sediments are stirred up by wind as well as bottom feeding carp, and they drift in the water, preventing light from reaching the lakebed. Without light, new grass can not start growing and this leads to more areas of loosened lakebed, more sediment in the water, and less grass. As of 2017, Lake Mattamuskeet has lost all grass beds. Dense beds of grass are desired because they help maintain clear water, support fish and crab populations, and provide food for waterfowl.

Stakeholder Committee Members

Daniel Brinn — Hyde Drainage: 252-926-7252 (o), 252-943-7973 (m), dbrinn@hydecourtnc.gov

Michael "Slim" Cahoon — Farming Community: 252-944-5384, Michaelcahoon1961@gmail.com

Pete Campbell — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 252-926-4021 (o), 252-944-6495 (m), Pete_campbell@fws.gov

Doug Howell — N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission: 252-482-5943 (o), Doug.howell@ncwildlife.org

Art Keeney — Residential Community: 252-945-6660 (m), Art.keeney@yahoo.com

Bill Rich — Hyde County: 252-333-2596 (m), brich@hydecourtnc.gov

Ben Simmons — Farming Community & Fairfield Drainage District: 252-944-3070 (m), twsbcsiii@aol.com

Pat Simmons — Hospitality Industry

JW Spencer — Hyde Soil and Water Board: 252-926-4061 (h), 252-944-6793 (m), Jwspencer6793@gmail.com

James "Booboo" Topping — Residential Community: 252-943-4214, Ruggedhunter14@gmail.com

Joey Ben Williams — Impoundments: 252-944-3807 (m), williamsfarm@embarqmail.com

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