

# OUR COAST

NCCOAST.ORG | *Working Together for a Healthy Coast* | WINTER 2019



North Carolina  
Coastal Federation  
*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

**Ambitious Goals  
for Coastal Protection  
and Restoration Underway**



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## ***Dear Friend of the Coast,***

Since 1960, the U.S. coastal population has expanded by more than 70 percent. This rush of people paved over many coastal paradises.

In his last of 78 novels, John D. MacDonald wrote in *Florida of Swamps and Silences*, that after “fast-dollar buckaroos” developers are dead, “the damage they do goes on and on, visited on their descendants forever. Their great-grandchildren will live in a world that is drab, dirty, ugly and dangerous ...sick and stinking.”

I’m grateful that the majority of our North Carolina coast has not suffered the same fate that MacDonald observed in Florida. In many places, you can still swim without worrying about getting sick and there are enough fish and shellfish for dinner or oyster roasts.

Increasingly, however, the same pressures and land use practices that destroyed other coasts have established a solid beachhead and are spreading much like wildfire here in North Carolina. We have one of the healthiest coastal regions left in the world but unless we redouble our efforts to protect and restore it, that won’t always be the case. As Winston Churchill said, “The price of greatness is responsibility.”

The North Carolina Coastal Federation feels responsible for protecting our coast. In this edition of *Our Coast* our ambitious agenda to protect and restore it is explained.

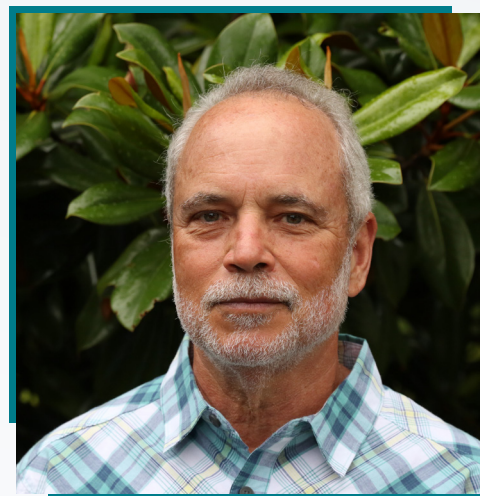
Not too long ago I was thinking about our work as I explored the shoreline of Bogue Sound at low tide. My hands were numb having just collected a 5-gallon bucket of beautiful oysters.

To my surprise, the oysters were large and fat – probably because this traditionally very salty marine lagoon has been pretty fresh of late.

That benefit for oysters of too much rainfall in Bogue Sound comes at a high price. Many traditionally good growing waters for oysters such as the Newport River have been polluted by dirty runoff ever since Hurricane Florence. In some areas, oysters died because of too much freshwater runoff caused by 100 inches of rainfall in 2018.

And all is not well, even in Bogue Sound. Areas of the sound near tidal creeks are closed due to polluted runoff and a green slimy algae covers submerged aquatic grassbeds, marshes and oysters. This algae thrives on nutrients and clear cold water. It will die off as the water warms and then the large mats of algae that resemble batts of insulation will decay along shorelines.

Based upon many years of studies, we know that modified hydrology is the root of the problem. We’ve ditched and drained so much land that the rate and volume of runoff has increased substantially and floods of dirty runoff transport nutrients, bacteria, sediment and other pollutants overboard. Extensive hydrologic changes take a



terrible toll on our natural systems — and ultimately permanently degrade our coast.

Because of major population growth and land use changes, it is unrealistic to think that we can ever completely restore our coast to its once pristine state. Instead, we do everything we can here at the Coastal Federation to protect the coast we inherited and to repair some of the damage that previously resulted from a lack of knowledge and foresight or at times, greed.

You receive this newsletter because you support the work of the Coastal Federation. I hope it provides you with a good understanding for how we use your support. We cannot be successful without you.

Thank you for sharing our love for the coast and helping us to protect and restore it.

— Todd Miller, Executive Director

A handwritten signature of Todd Miller in black ink.



**North Carolina  
Coastal Federation**  
*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

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PUBLISHED BY: North Carolina Coastal Federation  
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COVER PHOTO: *September Sunset* by Logan Prochaska. This photo was taken in Emerald Isle a few weeks after Hurricane Florence.

# STAFF NEWS

## Board Gains Two New Members

**Charles Meeker** is a partner with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Raleigh, representing private and public clients on local government issues including public transportation and development. Meeker served as mayor of Raleigh for five terms, from 2001 until 2011, tied with Avery C. Upchurch as Raleigh's longest-serving mayor.



While mayor, he advocated for downtown redevelopment and the creation of a light rail system connecting Raleigh to Durham, Research Triangle Park and Chapel Hill under the auspices of the Triangle Transit Authority. He also successfully pushed for the construction of the downtown convention center and hotel, which opened in 2008, as well as the reconstruction of Fayetteville Street, converting the pedestrian mall to an urban "main street" with outdoor dining, art galleries and open spaces. Meeker previously served as a member of the Raleigh City Council during 1985 through 1995.

Charles' family has vacationed or lived on Ocracoke Island since 1960, witnessing its transformation from a quaint fishing village to a busy tourist town. In an interview with WRAL-TV in 2009, Charles noted that "Every community needs to remember and honor its history and that when communities preserve their history, they also create interesting futures for themselves."

**Ryan Bethea** is the owner of Oysters Carolina, a mariculture operation on Harkers Island. He is known for his famous salty oysters called Native Sons. Before opening his shellfish farm, Ryan was a middle school teacher. Ryan grew up in Durham and vacationed at the coast but his love for oysters didn't develop until he was in his 20s. He now takes a lot of pride in providing people with fresh, local oysters that are always harvested on the day they are eaten.



Ryan only sells his oysters in North Carolina. He won 2016 Oyster of the Year at the North Carolina Seafood Festival's Shuck, Rattle and Roll event and was featured in the November 2018 issue of *Our State* magazine. Ryan is active in The North Carolina Shellfish Growers Association that was founded in 1995 to represent the interests of the shellfish industry and its advancement.



## Bonnie Mitchell Joins Southeast Staff

Bonnie Mitchell, originally from Richmond, VA, graduated from the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in marine biology. Prior to joining the Coastal Federation, she was an Environmental Education Intern with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the swamp boat captain for Shallotte River Swamp Park. As swamp boat captain, she provided educational tours on local flora and fauna. Most recently, she dedicated her time to the Plastic Ocean Project as a volunteer coordinator.

Starting January 2019, she shifted her efforts to outreach, volunteer coordination, program implementation and administrative work as the Coastal Federation's Coastal Outreach Specialist in the Wrightsville Beach office.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Come share your love for the coast by volunteering at our spring coastal cleanups and special events. For details, visit [nccoast.org/events](https://nccoast.org/events) or call **252-393-8185**.

## FEBRUARY 12

Bogue Sound Volunteer Cleanup

Coastal Federation Headquarters  
Ocean

## FEBRUARY 16-17

Wilmington Home Show

Wilmington Convention Center  
Wilmington



## MARCH 2-3

Crystal Coast  
Home and Garden Show

Crystal Coast Civic Center  
Morehead City

## MARCH 12

2019 North Carolina  
Oyster Summit

North Carolina Museum of Natural  
Science Nature Research Center  
Raleigh

## MARCH 15

Volunteer Shoreline Cleanup

Carolina Beach State Park  
Carolina Beach

## MARCH 16

St. Patrick's Day Festival

Emerald Plantation Shopping Center  
Emerald Isle

## MARCH 20

Bogue Sound Volunteer Cleanup

Coastal Federation Headquarters  
Ocean

## MARCH 29

Winter Sunset Weekly Acoustic  
Wine-Down and Warm-Up

Sanctuary Vineyards Winery  
Jarvisburg

## APRIL 12

Volunteer Shoreline Cleanup

Ward Creek Bridge  
Harkers Island

**CHECK OUT  
NCCOAST.ORG/EVENTS FOR  
MORE INCLUDING:**

Earthwise Farm Garden Days

Coastal Earth Day Celebrations

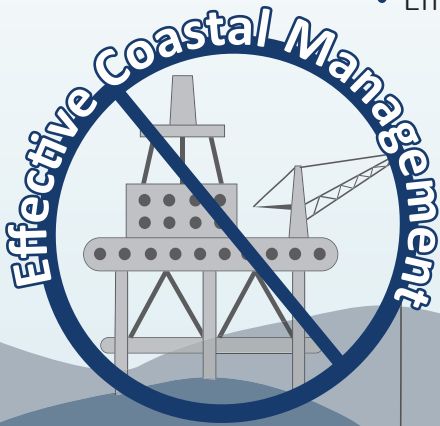
Living Shoreline Projects



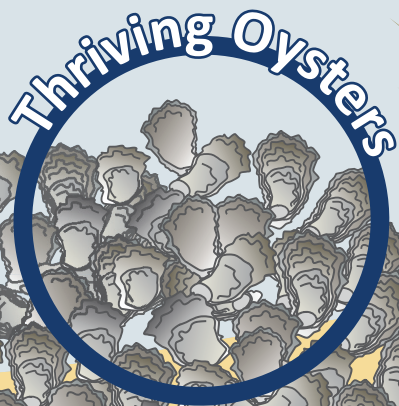
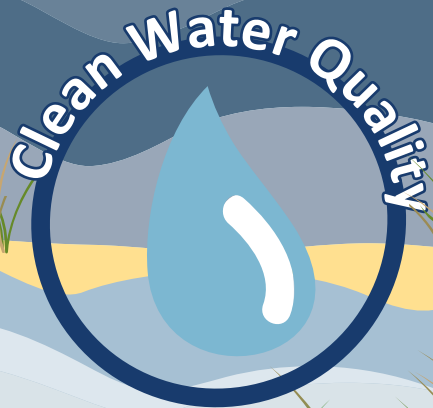
# OUR 2019 GOALS

In 2019, the Coastal Federation will focus on five ambitious and overarching goals to protect and restore the North Carolina coast. They include:

- Clean water quality that supports fishing and swimming.
  - Living shorelines that prevent soundside erosion and provide coastal habitat.
    - Thriving oysters that support a healthy coastal environment and economy.
    - Effective coastal management that protects our coast.
      - A coast that is free of marine debris



*Follow our progress at [nccoast.org](http://nccoast.org)*



Marine Debris Graphic by Brgfx - Freepik.com

Spargina Graphic by arandres-edu/magest.com



# WATER QUALITY

*nccoast.org/stormwater*

## Lake Mattamuskeet Watershed Restoration Plan Completed

On Dec. 3, 2018, nearly 100 people attended a public symposium where the Lake Mattamuskeet Watershed Restoration Plan was unveiled. Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina, is a vital and treasured part of Hyde County's amazing natural and cultural heritage. Water quality in the lake is declining and its water levels are increasing. To address these issues, Hyde County, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with the Coastal Federation to develop a watershed restoration plan to help reverse the trend of degradation.

The goal of the plan is to provide a blueprint for how to best address water quality and flooding issues that affect nearby landowners and harm the lake's fish and wildlife.

Development of the plan began in May 2017 and public input to identify key issues and potential management solutions was given throughout quarterly public meetings. The watershed management plan explains how the lake was formed, how it functions, its current status and health and identifies a series of practical management options to address water quality and flooding issues.

The final draft was submitted to the N.C. Division of Water Resources for formal approval on Dec. 7, 2018, following the public symposium.

To learn more about the Lake Mattamuskeet Watershed Restoration Plan, visit [nccoast.org/lakemattamuskeet](http://nccoast.org/lakemattamuskeet).

## Making a Plan to Reduce Runoff

Pine Knoll Shores is one of the latest local governments to take the issue of polluted stormwater management head-on by adopting a watershed restoration plan.



The town unanimously approved the plan that calls for the use of stormwater retrofits on public and private properties to reduce runoff.

The Coastal Federation partnered with the University of North Carolina Wilmington's (UNCW) Environmental Science Department, East Carolina Council and Pine Knoll Shores to create the plan. Pine Knoll Shores now

## LOOKING AHEAD

Over 2,000 acres of ditched and drained wetlands will be restored at North River Wetlands Preserve beginning in 2019. The project will involve building a dike to hold water on the land. The project is being funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Several types of coastal habitats will be created and millions of gallons of runoff will be reduced.

joins many coastal local governments including Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, Cedar Point, Swansboro and Beaufort in adopting a watershed restoration plan.

Later this year, the Town of Carolina Beach will work with the Coastal Federation, Cape Fear Council of Governments and UNCW to develop a plan of their own. New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation is also working with UNCW and the Coastal Federation to prepare a plan for Pages Creek.

"Local governments are really recognizing the value in advanced planning to help clean up surface waters and reduce flooding," said Lauren Kolodij, deputy director with the Coastal Federation. "Having a plan in place positions local governments to secure funding to implement their plans."

Photo: Linda Sunderland

# LIVING SHORELINES

[nccoast.org/livingshorelines](http://nccoast.org/livingshorelines)

## Living Shoreline Temporary Rules Adopted

Shortly after Hurricane Florence made its mark on the North Carolina coast in September, the Coastal Federation asked the N.C. General Assembly to provide the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission authority to adopt temporary rules that would expedite the permitting process for living shorelines for waterfront property owners recovering from the storm. Lawmakers agreed and granted the Commission that authority, which was easier to get a permit.

Living shorelines are an effective and more natural erosion control strategy, compared to bulkheads or seawalls, that use plants and small structures to help stabilize estuarine shorelines by reducing wave energy and creating habitat for marine life.

In November 2018, the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission voted unanimously to adopt temporary rules in order to make the permitting process for living shorelines more streamlined on the state level for installing living shorelines.

The rules are temporary but the permanent rules will be in effect by the time the temporary is set to expire. The emergency temporary permit can be used while both the new federal and state permits are in the process of being adopted.

One of the key elements within the permit is that building a living shoreline no longer needs to be coordinated among several agencies. Removal of this coordination will make it easier for property owners to apply to build a living shoreline on their property because the processing time will be shorter.

"The adoption of this permit is a huge step for the future of our coast," said Todd Miller, executive director of the Coastal Federation.

## \$1.1 Million Grant for Living Shorelines Awarded

The Coastal Federation was awarded a \$1.1 million grant in November 2018 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to build living shorelines at Atlantic Harbor, a community harbor Down East in Carteret County and at Whittaker Pointe in Oriental.

"These living shorelines will protect and restore the shorelines that safeguard the entrances to these two community harbors," said Dr. Lexia Weaver, coastal scientist with the Coastal Federation.

"Living shorelines have proven to be much more effective for erosion control in storms than bulkheads and we're happy to bring them to Atlantic and Oriental. The harbors are crucial to the communities' economies and ways of life," Weaver said.

## LOOKING AHEAD

*The third annual National Living Shorelines Technology Transfer Workshop will be held on Oct. 16 - 17 in New Bern, N.C. This event is co-hosted by the Coastal Federation and Restore America's Estuaries. The workshop will feature presentations, group activities and field trips to living shorelines in the surrounding area.*

The grant, made through the National Coastal Resilience Fund will be matched by \$997,464 from the Town of Oriental, Carteret County and state and private contributions. This grant funding will pass through the Coastal Federation to support on-the-ground work in these coastal communities by hiring contractors and purchasing supplies to build the living shorelines.

In addition to securing the money for this project, the Coastal Federation is also supporting the local economies and environment in Oriental and Atlantic.





# OYSTERS

[nccoast.org/oysters](http://nccoast.org/oysters)

## Mariculture Strategic Plan Submitted to Legislature

Recognizing the potential for North Carolina to lead the way in oyster mariculture and become the “Napa Valley” of oysters, the North Carolina General Assembly called for the development of a shellfish mariculture plan for the state. The North Carolina Policy Collaboratory of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill was charged with leading the effort and assembled key stakeholders to develop the plan that was completed at the end of 2018. Members of the Shellfish Mariculture Advisory Committee (SMAC) worked diligently over the course of a year to develop the plan, bringing to it academic, industry, policy and legal expertise and working toward a unified outcome: a plan to grow mariculture in a sustainable way.

The North Carolina Strategic Plan for Shellfish Mariculture: a Vision to 2030, was submitted to the General Assembly on Dec. 30, 2018. It includes seven major recommendations that focus on support for shellfish growers, marketing needs, efficient regulatory structure, and statutory changes, maintaining and improving water quality and addressing research needs. Several supplementary recommendations were also included in the plan. Conceptual plans for the creation of a North Carolina Oyster Trail and a state Oyster Festival were included in the final plan as well.

The SMAC included many relevant stakeholders including representatives

from the Coastal Federation, Todd Miller, executive director; Ana Zivanovic-Nenadovic, senior policy analyst; Erin Fleckenstein, coastal scientist; Bree Charon, coastal specialist; and board member Tom Looney.

“Oysters are the ultimate clean technology. They benefit jobs, tourism, habitat, clean water, living shorelines, and they provide financial return to help maintain North Carolina’s culture and community spirit,” said Looney.

## From Mountains to Sea

The annual Highlands Food and Wine Festival takes place just west of Asheville and features North Carolina food, wine and North Carolina oysters.



This year, the festival’s waste management company, ZeroHero, recognized the importance of recycling the oyster shells left from the event and contacted the Coastal Federation to get the shells back home.

The Coastal Federation uses recycled oyster shells to restore oyster reefs and buidling living shorelines. The shells are strategically placed in coastal waters

where they will attract baby oysters and grow into new oyster reefs.

“This is a great example of people coming together to do the right thing,” said Leslie Vegas, the Coastal Federation’s northeast coastal specialist. “The event organizers and Macon County realized the importance of getting these shells back to the coast where they can be used to grow more oysters.”



In coordination with Macon County Public Works and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, the shells were driven eight hours across the state by Shaun Cribbs, recycling coordinator at Macon County Public Works.

From 2003 to 2018, North Carolina ran a state-funded oyster shell recycling program, but by 2018 all state-run oyster shell recycling centers were closed due to budget cuts and there were no staff to run the program.

With the state program gone defunct, the Coastal Federation has stepped in, where possible, to coordinate oyster shell recycling efforts from oyster roasts and coastal restaurants.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The third and final phase of construction for the Swan Island Oyster Sanctuary will begin in 2019. Since construction began in 2017, the sanctuary has grown from a 15-acre oyster reef in the Pamlico Sound to an almost 40-acre project that will be able to provide habitat for millions of oysters.

The project is made possible by funding from private donations, the General Assembly and NOAA’s Community-based Restoration Program. The Swan Island project is part of the Coastal Federation’s 50 Million Oyster Initiative which aims to have 50 million oysters in North Carolina waters by 2020.

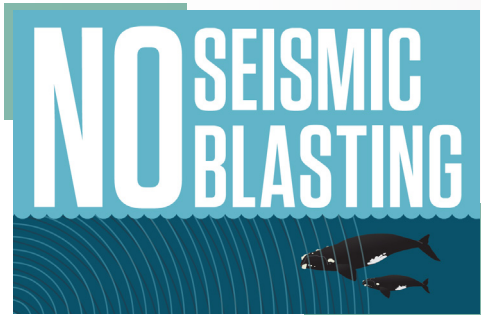


# COASTAL MANAGEMENT

[nccoast.org/coastalmanagement](http://nccoast.org/coastalmanagement)

## Lawsuit Filed to Fight Offshore Oil Drilling Off Our Coast

On Dec. 11, 2018, a lawsuit was filed by leading environmental groups including the Coastal Federation to prevent seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic Ocean. Seismic airgun blasting is an extremely loud and dangerous process that is used to search for oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean's surface. This process is the first step toward offshore drilling and if allowed, seismic airgun blasting will harm marine life, including whales, dolphins and fish.



The lawsuit filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of its clients claims that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) violated the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act when it issued permits called incidental harassment authorizations (IHAs) in late November 2018. Those permits authorize five companies to harm or harass marine mammals while conducting seismic airgun blasting off the coast of North Carolina and along the east coast from Cape May, New Jersey, to Cape Canaveral, Florida.

"Seismic testing and offshore drilling are incompatible with our coast in North Carolina," said Todd Miller, executive director at the Coastal

Federation. "There's never a window that would be a good time for seismic testing to happen. Studies show that seismic affects the behaviors of marine mammals, fish and zooplankton and seismic is harmful for fisheries. And on top of all that, it's a precursor to offshore drilling which is strongly opposed here in North Carolina."

The Coastal Federation opposes seismic airgun blasting because of its negative effects on fish and marine mammals and because of the potential barriers it poses to ocean access for recreational and commercial fisheries. For more information on the Coastal Federation's position on seismic testing visit [nccoast.org/seismicsurveys](http://nccoast.org/seismicsurveys).

## Legal Firm Calls for Additions to EPA Contaminant Lists

In December 2018, the Coastal Federation supported formal comments by the Southern Environmental Law Center calling for the addition of identified toxic pollutants to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL).

The Coastal Federation supports the nomination of these chemicals to the CCL noting that current regulations are insufficient to protect vital drinking water supplies for communities in North Carolina and throughout the country.

The CCL is a list of contaminants that are not currently regulated for drinking water but are known to or are very likely present in public water systems. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to publish a list of regulated contaminants every five years, and in doing so, directs the

EPA to consider the health effects for unregulated contaminants. The EPA uses this list to identify priority drinking water contaminants that present the greatest public health concern.

Once the list is published, the EPA must decide whether or not to regulate at least five of the contaminants on the list. The nominations put forth by the Southern Environmental Law Center include 1,4-dioxane, PFAS, hexavalent chromium and brominated haloacetic acids. The commenters urge EPA to adopt maximum contaminant levels for the nominated pollutants under the Safe Drinking Water Act. PFAS are a group of man-made industrial chemicals that include GenX, a contaminant emitted by the Chemours Company near Fayetteville and the subject of an ongoing enforcement action in North Carolina.

The Coastal Federation is planning an educational forum for community members to learn about the legislative and research efforts of the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory's Statewide Emerging Contaminants Initiative. More information can be found on our website at [nccoast.org/genx](http://nccoast.org/genx).

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
*The Coastal Federation is partnering with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management to develop the North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resiliency Plan. This Plan was requested by Governor Cooper's the Executive Order 80 that was signed in October 2018. As part of plan development, the project team will host a series of meetings for stakeholder input and organize a Coastal Resiliency Summit in the summer of 2019.*

# MARINE DEBRIS

[nccoast.org/marinedebris](http://nccoast.org/marinedebris)

## Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project Continues for a Sixth Year

In January, the Coastal Federation began its sixth year of the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project with the help of 78 watermen and women who collected lost crab pots along the coast. Every year, crab pots and other fishing gear are lost in our sounds.

Since 2014, the Coastal Federation has been working with state and local partners to remove this marine debris which is hazardous to boats and marine life. This year's project is being funded by a \$100,000 appropriation from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Photo: Logan Prochaska



Crab pots can become lost in many ways and get hung up or drift into channels creating hazards to boaters and wildlife. The Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project provides a way to get these hazards out of the water where they no longer pose a threat.

Not only does the project remove marine debris, it also puts fishermen and women to work during a slow time of the year.

"I've seen great success in the partnerships involved with this cleanup work over the past several years," Chad Hemilright, fisherman and project participant from Kitty Hawk shared. "Being on the water nearly every day as a full time commercial fisherman, it's important to remove the lost pots and keep our waters clean and safe."

Last year 3,496 crab pots were recovered from the water by 76 fishers along the coast. This year's stats will be available in late February. Be on the lookout for updates in our monthly e-newsletter or on our website.

The Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project began in 2013 and is a key part of the Coastal Federation's overall marine debris reduction campaign.

For highlights on the past five years of the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project visit [nccoast.org/crabpotproject](http://nccoast.org/crabpotproject).

## Kicking Off the New Year with Coastwide Cleanups

To kick off the Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project, the Coastal Federation hosted a series of community cleanups on Jan. 12.

In Rodanthe, Coastal Federation staff and volunteers, in partnership with Dare County, cleaned up the community center at Rodanthe-Waves. The group found over 3,500 items including a refrigerator full of



unopened drinks, beach chairs, car parts, lots of treated lumber and over 400 aluminum cans. A final weight of the dumpster containing the debris revealed that the northeast office removed five tons of debris.

"This was the most debris we've ever removed during a cleanup event," noted Sara Hallas, Coastal Federation northeast coastal education coordinator. "We could never have done this without our incredible volunteer base, dedicated community partners and devoted staff members. The volunteer support we received in January is such a motivating way to start off the new year."

At Hoop Pole Creek in Atlantic Beach, the Parrot Head Club joined Coastal Federation staff and volunteers as they scoured the 31-acre Hoop Pole Creek Nature Trail. There they found boogie boards, fishing poles, an air mattress and lots of dock debris.

In Holly Ridge at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve, Coastal Federation volunteers, Keep Onslow Beautiful and the N.C. Coastal Reserve cleaned up tons of trash including 350 glass bottles, 400 plastic bottles, 200 aluminum cans and 80 plastic bags.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Coastal Federation will soon be working in our central coastal waters to remove marine debris that was dumped by Hurricane Florence's strong winds and tides.

In late 2018, the General Assembly approved \$400,000 in funding to remove the piles of dock lumber, debris and trash that was scattered by the storm.

The Coastal Federation will be working with contractors to collect, transport and properly dispose of the debris. Phase I of the project will begin soon in the central coastal region. The Coastal Federation, the N.C. Division of Coastal Management and other agencies will be working together to secure additional funding to clean up other regions of the coast.



## Coastal Federation Receives Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating

For the fifth year in a row, the Coastal Federation has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest independent charity evaluating service in the country.

Charity Navigator rates charities by evaluating their financial health, accountability and transparency. The ratings awarded demonstrate how efficiently a charity uses its financial support and how it sustains programs and services.

Four stars is the highest rating awarded and means the Coastal Federation “exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause” according to Charity Navigator’s ranking system. Only 10 percent of nonprofits achieve the prestigious 4-star rating for five consecutive years.

Calling itself the “guide to intelligent giving,” Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. Charity Navigator helps guide informed giving by evaluating more than 9,000 charities. They do not accept advertising or donations from the organizations they evaluate to ensure unbiased reviews.

“We are so proud to have earned this rating for the fifth year in a row,” said Sarah King, development director for the Coastal Federation. “It really reflects our commitment to being good stewards of our members’ contributions and to effectively put those donations to great use protecting and restoring our coast.”

**To read Charity Navigator’s letter of commendation, visit [nccoast.org](http://nccoast.org).**

## Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. Joins Community Partner Program

This year the Coastal Federation is debuting a new and exciting program for the business community and is thrilled to have Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. as its first Community Partner. The program was developed to showcase partnerships with community business leaders and their commitment to protecting the coast.

Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. is helping make great strides in wetland restoration along the North Carolina coastal plain. In 2018, Larry Sneed, president of Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. took on the hefty role of managing the restoration of 8,000 acres of coastal wetlands through a project funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in partnership with the Coastal Federation. This massive restoration project is just now underway in eastern North Carolina and will result in substantial habitat and water quality improvements along the coast.

Sneed puts his engineering expertise and appreciation of the coast in the forefront of all he does. He is a valuable partner not only in wetland restoration but also in many of the Coastal Federation’s urban stormwater projects that reduce polluted stormwater along the coast.

These projects use pervious pavement, infiltration systems and rain gardens to significantly reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and pollutants entering coastal waters and watersheds.

In addition to being an invaluable partner in our restoration work, Sneed is a member of the Coastal Federation’s Southeast Regional Advisory Committee and has dedicated many volunteer hours at our events. We are grateful to count Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. as a valued Community Partner.



Photo: Sam Bland



# North Carolina Coastal Federation

*Working Together for a Healthy Coast*

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Photo: Logan Prochaska

## Hop on board – let's work together to protect the coast.

To join or renew your annual membership,  
visit [nccoast.org/membership](http://nccoast.org/membership).

You can also renew by mailing a check to 3609 N.C. 24 (Ocean),  
Newport, NC 28570.

Your membership helps keep our coastal waters clean  
and safe for boating, fishing and swimming.

**Questions?** Call us at 252-393-8185  
or send us an email at [nccf@nccoast.org](mailto:nccf@nccoast.org).

## NEW YEAR, NEW PLATE



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the award-winning daily news service dedicated  
to covering the North Carolina coast.

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## SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 Pelican Awards will be taking place  
at the **Crystal Coast Civic Center** in Morehead City  
on **Aug. 2, 2019**.

For updates about our upcoming events,  
visit [nccoast.org/events](http://nccoast.org/events).