

Restoring North Carolina's Coast

NC COASTAL FEDERATION RESTORATION & PROTECTION PROJECT

DURANT'S POINT



Hatteras Harbor

Hatteras Harbor is the center of the rich fishing culture of Hatteras Village. Since the village was settled in the 1700s, the community has made its living from the sea and the natural resources of the coastal environment. Generations of children and adults have wandered the marsh, boating, hunting, fishing and learning about the coast. The harbor safeguards this heritage and the livelihoods of many citizens who continue to make a living on the water. The harbor is protected to the north by a narrow spit of land known as Durant's Point. This stretch of land was eroding an average of two feet a year, taking with it the village's line of defense from storms.



Preserving a Working Waterfront

To protect the harbor, the North Carolina Coastal Federation worked with landowners and engineers to develop a living shoreline at Durant's Point. This project involved stabilizing the shore with a low-profile granite sill and creating needed marsh habitat. The sill buffers over 300 feet of shoreline from waves generated by wind and storms on Pamlico Sound, slowing and possibly reversing erosion. Openings in the sill allow for water circulation and fish passage. The roots of planted *Spartina* marsh grasses inside the sill help hold sediment in place and provide habitat for valuable estuarine species. The living shoreline provides dual benefits to the community: it restores the habitat used by the area's rich variety of fish, shellfish and other wildlife and protects the entrance to the harbor.

Aerial view of Hatteras Harbor. Durant's Point is the narrow strip of uninhabited land protecting the harbor to the right of the harbor entrance.





Cleaning a charter's catch at Oden's Dock in Hatteras Harbor.



The Albatross Fleet, the longest-running charter fishing fleet in Hatteras, finds refuge in Hatteras Harbor.



Students from Cape Hatteras Secondary School help plant marsh grasses at Durant's Point.



Kayaks donated by local outfitters are used to transport Cape Hatteras Secondary School students to Durant's Point and add to the experience of habitat restoration.

Community Involvement

Construction of the living shoreline was a community effort. Students learned about marsh and oyster habitat and ecology and their value in enhancing water quality throughout the school year from NCCF's environmental education staff. As an end-of-year field trip, the students helped restoration specialists plant marsh grasses behind the sill. Student and adult volunteers donated over 300 hours of their time to this project. The Dare County Commissioners and Hatteras residents and businesses also enthusiastically endorsed the living shoreline. Because Durant's Point is not accessible by road, transporting students and volunteers to the restoration site was a challenge. Fishermen offered the use of their boats, and two local outdoor provision companies, Kitty Hawk Kites and Hatteras Watersports, donated use of their kayaks.



Grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's community-based restoration partnership with Restore America's Estuaries and the Carlson Family Foundation have made this project possible.



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"Citizens Working Together for A Healthy Coast"

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org.