

Location: Morehead City and Pivers Island
Date: April 21-22, 2026

Session Goal: To highlight marine research facilities and the broader marine science community in eastern North Carolina, examining contributions to the economy, culture, and coastal resilience, as well as opportunities for greater collaboration and alignment across institutions.

April 21 – Marine Sciences & Extension

Parking at Bryant Student Center, Carteret Community College

9:00 – 9:30 am	Arrival / Coffee	Sweet Beans Midtown Café Bryant Student Center
9:30 – 10:00 am	Welcome remarks <i>Goals and vision of the Session</i>	Carteret Community College
10:00 - 11:00 am	Tour of UNC Institute of Marine Science	Dr. Joel Fodrie Director, UNC IMS
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Tour of NC State Center for Marine Science and Technology	Dr. David Eggleston Director, NC State CMAST
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch and Overview of NC Sea Grant	CCC Foundation Building John Fear Deputy Director, NC Sea Grant
1:45 – 3:15 pm	Bogue Sound – Beaufort Inlet Boat Tour <i>Environmental significance; Research Highlights.</i>	Depart from CCC Docks
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Round Table Discussion <i>Collaboration and Coastal Resilience</i>	CCC Foundation Building NC Coastal & Marine Science Leaders
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Travel to Compass Hotel / Check In	Compass Hotel 103 Cedar St, Beaufort
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Meet & Greet with the Local Science Community Optional, floating pre-dinner reception; Cash bar.	Backstreet Pub 124 Middle Lane, Beaufort (walking suggested)
7:15 – 9:00 pm	Dinner	Front Street Grill at Stillwater 300 Front St, Beaufort (walking suggested)

April 22 – Pivers Island Marine Labs

Parking at Orrin Pilkey Research Lab, Duke University Marine Lab

6:30 – 8:00 am	Breakfast & Coffee <i>Hotel lobby (coffee is available at 6:00, breakfast at 6:30)</i>	Compass Hotel 103 Cedar St, Beaufort
8:00 – 8:15 am	Drive to Pivers Island <i>Bring water, snacks, sunscreen; dress for weather. Beach-friendly shoes recommended.</i>	Piver's Island 135 Duke Marine Lab Rd, Beaufort <i>Parking at Orrin Pilkey Research Lab</i>
8:30 – 11:30 am	Rachel Carson National Estuarine Research Reserve Tour	Rebecca Ellin Coastal Reserve Program Manager Paula Gillikin Stewardship Coordinator Justin Ridge Research Coordinator <i>North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve</i> Rachel Gittman Assistant Professor <i>East Carolina University</i>
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Lunch	Duke University Marine Lab Cafeteria
12:30 – 2:30 pm	Duke University Marine Lab / R/V Shearwater Tour	Dr. Andy Read Director, <i>Duke University Marine Lab</i>
3:00 – 4:00 pm	NOAA Beaufort Lab Tour	Todd Kellison Director, <i>NOAA Fisheries</i> Dr. Greg Piniak Director, Beaufort Lab <i>NOAA National Ocean Service</i>
4:00 pm	Adjourn / Optional Wrap-up Discussion <i>Join us for an optional wrap-up discussion at Promise Land Market.</i>	Promise Land Market 909-B Arendell St, Morehead City