

# 2026 COASTAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Session 3 - Coastal Growth and Economic Development

Location: Bask Hotel  
814 Shepard Street, Morehead City, NC  
Date: May 12 - 13, 2026



North Carolina  
Coastal Federation

### Day 1 – May 12

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 10:00 am  | <b>Arrival and Coffee</b><br><i>Participants arrive, check in, and mingle.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Southern Salt Seafood Company and Waterfront Restaurant</b><br>701 Evans St, Morehead City, NC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00 – 10:30 am | <b>Welcome</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Chuck Flink</b><br>Howard C. and Margaret G. Bissell Director<br><br>Pappas Real Estate Development Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10:30 – 11:45 am | <b>Roundtable Discussion: Coastal Growth &amp; Economic Development</b><br><i>Leaders from across sectors, including economic development, tourism, marine industry, and real estate, join for a candid conversation about the opportunities and tensions shaping North Carolina's coast. From the I-42 expansion to the growth of blue economy industries, panelists will explore what it takes to build a thriving coastal economy while protecting the clean water, healthy ecosystems, and distinctive sense of place that make our coast a desirable place to live, work, and play.</i> | <b>Mary Beth Houston</b><br>Division 2 Engineer,<br>North Carolina Department of Transportation<br><br><b>Mary Cheatham King</b> Mary Cheatham King Real Estate<br><br><b>Richard Mann</b><br>Planning & Economic Development Director, Hyde County<br><br><b>Ed Mitchell</b><br>President, River Dunes<br><br><b>Ed Stack</b><br>Marine Industry Executive |
| 12:00 - 1:15 pm  | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Southern Salt Seafood Company</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

1:30 – 2:15 pm

**Olympus Dive Center Tour**

*A visit to one of North Carolina's premier dive operations, exploring the diving industry as a window into the broader economics of coastal recreation and marine tourism. The conversation will focus on artificial reefs – how they are created, managed, and sustained – and the outsized economic impact they generate for coastal communities.*

**Robert Purifoy**

Owner, Olympus Dive Center

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2:30 – 5:00 pm

**Field Trip: Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park**

*Tour one of the most comprehensive marine service and manufacturing facilities on the East Coast. The 175-acre park on the ICW is home to nearly two dozen businesses, including custom boat construction, engine service, yacht sales, marine supply, and fabrications. This stop will offer a vivid picture of the marine manufacturing and service economy in coastal NC.*

**Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park**

530 Sensation Weigh,  
Beaufort, NC

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5:00 - 6:00 pm

**Hotel Check-In & Free Time / Informal Networking**

**Bask Hotel**

814 Shepard St, Morehead  
City, NC

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6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Cohort Networking Dinner**

*An opportunity to continue conversations, build relationships, and connect more informally with fellow cohort members following the day's sessions.*

**Red Fish Grill**

711 Sheard Street, Morehead  
City, NC

## **Day 2 – May 13**

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7:00 – 8:00 am

**Breakfast & Coffee**

**Bask Hotel**

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8:00 am - 10:00 am

**Field Trip: NC Coastal Federation Shellfish Mariculture Hub**

*A look at the future site of the North Carolina Coastal Federation's Shellfish Mariculture Hub – a first-of-its-kind shared facility for shellfish growers.*

**Ana Zivanovic-Nenadovic**  
Chief Program Officer, North  
Carolina Coastal Federation

**Ryan Bethea**  
Owner, Oysters Carolina

*Cohort members will hear from Federation staff about the hub's vision: lowering barriers to market entry, providing shared refrigeration, equipment, and water access, and positioning North Carolina's oyster industry for significant growth. Local oyster industry representatives will join us on site to share their experiences and the economics of aquaculture firsthand.*

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 – 10:45 am</b> | <b>Down East Mariculture Supply Company</b><br><i>Jarrett Bay in Williston. The business produces oyster seed and supplies gear to growers, and is part of the NC Oyster Trail. Participants will tour the facility and hear firsthand what it takes to run a small-scale mariculture business on the NC coast.</i> | <b>Susan Hill</b><br>Owner, Down East Mariculture Supply Company                                                                                                        |
| <b>11:30 - 12:45 pm</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Promise Land Market</b>                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>1:00 - 3:30 pm</b>   | <b>Carteret Community College Tour: Workforce Training and Aquaculture Programs</b><br><i>A guided tour of CCC's workforce development programs, with a focus on aquaculture and marine-related training. This visit will highlight the role of community colleges in building the coastal workforce pipeline.</i>  | <b>Tracy Mancini</b><br>President, Carteret Community College<br><br><b>Dave Cerino</b><br>Director of Aquaculture Research and Development, Carteret Community College |
| <b>3:30 - 4 :00 pm</b>  | <b>Cohort Closing Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Carteret Community College</b>                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>4:00 – 4: 15 pm</b>  | <b>Travel back to the Bask Hotel</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>4:30 pm</b>          | <b>Optional Wrap-up</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Promise Land Market</b>                                                                                                                                              |