

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FINAL REPORT*

Grant Number: 2017-P-059

Grant Title: Veterans Park Handicapped Accessible Fishing Access

Grant Award Period: 7/1/17 – 6/30/18

Project Costs:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Permits & Plans	\$3,100	\$1,965.60
Construction Costs	\$92,200	\$57,185.72
Staff Costs	\$7,500	\$18,079.24
Signage	\$1,800	\$4,266.21
Site Prep & Landscaping	\$5,000	\$5,409.10
TOTAL	\$110,600	\$86,952.28

Final Project Summary:

The Oak Island Veterans Park project had three main goals. 1) provide much needed public access to fishing along the ICW 2) provide persons with disabilities access to a public fishing area 3) educate the public on fishing regulations, ethical angling, and fish conservation. Oak Island staff contracted the construction of the fishing tee, and boardwalk with management from CAMA and local inspectors. The fishing pier was built 60 feet from the shore, with a fishing area consisting of 400 square feet. A covered area of 120 square feet was constructed for those who cannot be in full sun, and lower ADA wheelchair railing were installed for those fishing in a wheelchair. Permanent benches, monofilament recycling container, and a bait cutting station were installed on the pier fishing area. Educational signs explaining fishing regulations and common fish found in the area were installed on the pier. A 185 foot, six foot wide boardwalk was installed along the bulkhead for water access, and another boardwalk installed from the parking area to the pier for those with disabilities. The parking area was re-configured and regraded by Town staff to better accommodate persons with disabilities and increased traffic. All grades are below the twelve degree ADA standard, and provide van accessible parking for wheelchairs.

Construction was completed in May 2018, and a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the project to the public. This new fishing pier and boardwalk has been constantly used by those with and without disabilities, increasing the general public's fishing opportunities on Oak Island. Future programs on the fishing pier and boardwalk consist of kids fishing derbies, fish educational sessions, and more.

