

## **COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**March 23, 2006**

**Ramada Inn, Kill Devil Hills**

### **Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan**

DCM intern Kelly Price gave a presentation on the development of North Carolina's Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan. The plan is almost complete, and a public comment draft is available on DCM's website.

### **Priority Issues**

The Council identified 23 issues that facing the CRC and CRAC as coastal policy makers and managers. Following are those issues identified as most important.

1. Shellfish Closures and stormwater runoff. We have concerns with engineered systems and their efficacy, and enforcement of variance conditions within the 30-foot buffer.
2. Public Access to public trust water resources. This includes loss of fishing piers, boat ramps, and public marinas. We need to look at funding to address the issue, for example DMF fishing pier funding, the use of Saltwater Fishing License funds, and the Wildlife Resources Commission's boating access program. We must consider the new federal ADA requirements for use of public funds in the provision of access opportunities.
3. Variances granted within the 30-foot buffer, for swimming pools, as an example.
4. We propose that the CRC develop a General Permit equivalent to a federal consistency determination so that a state or local government can take on permit responsibilities. The GP would apply to beach nourishment and dredge & fill projects that are run by local governments instead of the Army Corps of Engineers. The GP would transfer ongoing federal consistency reviews for projects that have already been approved.
5. Enforcement of existing regulations and the development of a funding mechanism for compliance monitoring.
6. Sandbags – Why do we have them? Do we have to have them?
7. We have provided you all with a copy of a proposed CRC Resolution in support of a Community Conservation Assistance Program for North Carolina. The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts adopted the program, and has since asked the General Assembly for authorization and funding. The program would assist owners of developed properties to limit harmful stormwater runoff from their properties. The Council can provide a speaker for the June meeting to discuss how the program has been operating in New Hanover County.

