

**NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council
Crystal Coast Civic Center
Morehead City, NC
April 27, 2004
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Bob Shupe (Chair)	Spencer Rogers
Bill Morrison (Vice-Chair)	Dara Royal
Frank Alexander	Harry Simmons
Joe Beck	Lester Simpson
John Daughy	John Spurrell
Carlton Davenport	Mike Street
Webb Fuller	Wayne Teeter
Rick Gardner	Penny Tysinger
Wayne Mobley	Beans Weatherly
Jim Mulligan	Dave Weaver
Lee Padrick	Ginger Webster
Bill Price	Calvin Wellons

Council Call to Order

Bob Shupe called the meeting to order at 3pm, with 24 members in attendance. The Council approved the January meeting minutes without amendment.

NC Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

Gloria Putnam, Coordinator of the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program gave a presentation about the program. The nonpoint source program is also called the 6217 program because it was created by Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Management Act's Reauthorization and Amendments. The program exists to develop and implement 56 federally-defined management measures to restore and protect coastal water quality. Management measures will address pollution from agriculture, urban areas, marinas and other nonpoint sources. The NC program's management area includes the 20 CAMA counties as well as portions of Jones, Martin and Pitt counties. Ms. Putnam stated that North Carolina leads the south in addressing coastal nonpoint source pollution. The NC program has been federally approved and is proceeding to implementation. Ms. Putnam noted that the program does not have implementation authority, but must rely on agencies like the CRC that do have such authority.

CHPPs Update

Mike Lopazanski informed the CRAC that the list of about 155 potential management actions has been reduced and refined to approximately 20 management actions. The CHPP development team has approved the draft plan, and it now goes to the Department for review. Once the Department approves the draft, it will go through another round of public meetings this summer, in advance of the September 9th Tri-Commission meeting. Each of the three Commissions will be expected to adopt the CHPP between October and December 2004. Implementation will begin in January 2005. The Advisory Council requested that the Division allow at least 30 days from when the draft CHPP is published until the first public meeting is held.

Estuary Live: Marsh Sill Demonstration Project

The Advisory Council participated in a session of Estuary Live courtesy Dr. Carolyn Currin of the NOAA Beaufort Fisheries Lab, Dr. Bill Kirby-Smith of the Duke University Marine Lab, and staff at the Rachel Carson NERR. The Council looked at a marsh sill demonstration site on Pivers Island that replaced a section of concrete bulkhead. Dr. Currin described the sills as very expensive to construct, which typically leaves little money for monitoring. The Pivers Island demonstration site has developed a monitoring program that uses citizen and student volunteers. Dr. Currin reported that the sill has been recruiting similar numbers of marine animals as the on the marsh side as compared to the fringing marsh. Dr. Currin stated, however, that even though the total number of animals was similar, there were fewer species found inside the sill than in the fringing marsh. No studies have been done on the open-water side of the structure. The marsh inside the sill has not yet reached the density of the fringing marsh. Dr. Kirby-Smith explained that the sill deflects incoming wave energy to the shoreline on either side of the structure, but that this deflection does not cause shoreline erosion at this site because of the concrete bulkhead on either side of this particular sill. Dr. Kirby-Smith said that sills could cause shoreline erosion in other locations where the adjacent shorelines are not hardened. Dr. Kirby-Smith cautioned that the granite riprap used to construct marsh sills is a non-native substrate, and there may be problems in covering natural soft bottom substrate with granite. He also suggested that oyster reefs are a native substrate may be more stable in storms than riprap for preventing shoreline erosion.

CRC/CRAC Coordination

CRC Vice Chairman Hackney conveyed his ideas to the CRAC on enhance the working relationship between the Commission and the Advisory Council. Dr. Hackney stressed that the CRAC members are involved in the day-to-day affairs of their constituents, so they should not hesitate to advocate those concerns to CRC. Dr. Hackney told the CRAC that the Commission relies on the CRAC to be the connection to the municipalities and agencies that are affected by the CRC's rules and he hopes that the CRAC will be more active in reporting CRC actions to their constituents and bringing concerns back to the Commission.

Fisheries Management Plans and Their Relationship to CHPPs

Mike Street spoke about the connections between Fishery Management Plans and the CHPPs. Because of major problems in coastal fisheries in the late '80s and early '90s, the Fisheries Moratorium Act put a moratorium on new commercial licenses from 1994 to 1998. During that period, a report was prepared to describe the problems and suggest management strategies. That report led to the Fisheries Reform Act, which passed in August 1997. The Fisheries Reform Act called for Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for each of the important fisheries, and a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) to protect and restore fishery habitat. Five FMPs have been completed since 1997, and three more are currently under development. Two of the previously completed plans are also undergoing scheduled revisions. The CHPP has been drafted and will be adopted by the end of the year. Implementation will begin in January 2005.

Adjourn

With no further business the Advisory Council adjourned at 5:20pm.