

December 29, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

Most, if not all of you are aware of erosion issues facing our Coastal Communities and the need to address them on a factual basis. Some of you are also aware that a small, but vocal minority, opposes any effort to prevent this erosion and has in our view circulated misleading and erroneous claims about it. We believe that facts and science should be the bases on which the solutions to this problem are developed. The process for developing those solutions has been created by our General Assembly, and we are urging you to actively engage in that process.

There is need for a strong long-term coastal policy with respect to inlet erosion issues addressing environmental, economic and property needs. According to Caswell Beach Mayor Harry Simmons, North Carolina has been losing hundreds of millions of dollars in public and private property and infrastructure at several of its 19 coastal inlets as well as the loss of public access and coastal wildlife habitat as a result of unchecked inlet erosion.

A successful long term tool to combat inlet erosion is a Terminal Structure sometimes referred to as a "Terminal Groin". A Terminal Structure is perpendicular to the shoreline, just long enough and tall enough to hold in place a pre-determined volume of sand, which would be placed there following construction. It is usually unobtrusive and permeable. One might not even be aware of it in some cases. Sand is not "stolen" from other beach areas or ebb shoals since it comes from offshore locations with sufficient sand and placed behind the Terminal Structure. A properly engineered and constructed terminal structure will not stop the natural sand migration, and therefore, adjacent beach areas will continue to receive sand. Two terminal structures at Fort Macon and Oregon Inlet have been successful without damaging other areas. North Carolina and Oregon are the only states without this tool. A blue ribbon national Academy of Science study supports the use of Terminal Structures.

Opponents have incorrectly and unfairly used the words "jetties" and "seawalls" to describe terminal structures in effort to garner emotional opposition to terminal structures. "Jetties" and "seawalls" are different from beneficial Terminal Structures and serve different purposes. We are not advocating the use of "jetties" and "seawalls".

The NC General Assembly passed Session Law 2009-479 directing the NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) in consultation with others to study the feasibility and advisability of the use of terminal structures as erosion control devices and report back by April 1, 2010. It specifically requires the CRC to consider **scientific data** regarding effectiveness, engineering, costs and the impact on:

- Adjoining areas;
- the environment;
- natural wildlife habitats,
- the economies of the coastal communities

The CRC has assembled an impressive and knowledgeable team of experts to assist in its Study and we support this team.

We need to provide our local coastal communities with this tool for controlling inlet erosion and we cannot let a small, but vocal minority stop the CRC from considering and possibly authorizing the use of a legitimate scientifically-proven and engineered tool to protect our coastal economies and beaches. We need to become the vocal majority in favor of Terminal Structures and other scientific, fact based methods of controlling inlet erosion.

We need your assistance in building a contact list of supporters throughout North Carolina from all of the coastal communities, the cities and rural areas, the coast, the mountains and parts in between, willing to allow us to use their names as supporters. At the appropriate time, we will submit a letter to the NC General Assembly and the Governor expressing our strong support for the Terminal Structure and other fact-based tools for controlling inlet erosion. Everyone is either affected or knows someone who is affected by coastal inlet erosion. We need you to be a supporter and we need you to reach out to your neighbors throughout the state to join us by adding their authorized names to our email list.

Please have you and your neighbors, here and back home, send us an email, at

[nccoastalpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:nccoastalpreservation@gmail.com)

authorizing us to use your names in support of the Terminal Structure and other scientifically, fact-based tools of controlling inlet erosion.

Thank you for your support.

William Harazin 6 Comber Figure Eight Island	Bob & Mary Plybon 5 Comber Figure Eight Island	Hadley & Cameron Callaway 316 Beach Road North Figure Eight Island
Flip & Jeanie Ray 168 Beach Road South Figure Eight Island	Parker & Becky Overton 13 Comber Figure Eight Island	Chris & Meg Veno 10 Comber Figure Eight Island
Bill & Sally Johnson 18 Comber Figure Eight Island	Steve & Cyndi Cherok 10 Comber Figure Eight Island	Bill & Patty Courtney 15 Comber Figure Eight Island
Jorman & Sue Fields 2 Comber Figure Eight Island	Dean & Linnea Smith 9 Surf Court Figure Eight Island	Becky French 6 Comber Figure Eight Island
John & Cherie Weigle	Andy & Pat Poineau	Carol Farbolin

16 Comber  
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7 Inlet Hook  
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