

Managing North Carolina's Estuarine Shoreline



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Goals of the Study

- Identify the emerging issues that will impact North Carolina's estuarine shoreline in the next 15 years.
- Provide technical information.
- Recommend management strategies.

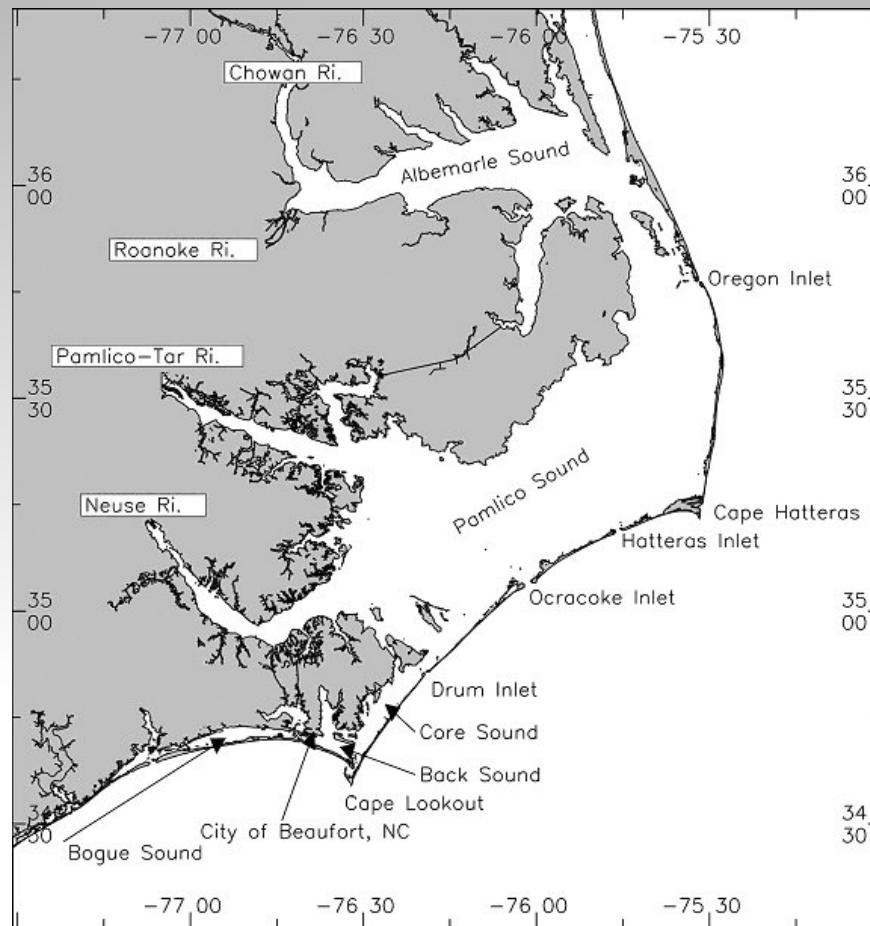
Timeline

- Two-year study: 2011-2012.
- Final report to state-level regulatory agencies and commissions, as well as to local governments.
- Outreach via workshops and publications.

Advisory Committee

- Includes members from major state environmental regulatory agencies, local government and academia.
- The advisory committee:
 - Provides the Center with technical expertise;
 - Will assist in developing management recommendations; and
 - Will assist in distributing final report to DENR divisions, local governments and relevant regulatory commissions.

Area of Study



Map Courtesy of NOAA

Emerging Issues

- Estuarine shoreline stabilization
- Water availability
- Water quality
- Regulatory monitoring and enforcement
- Wastewater

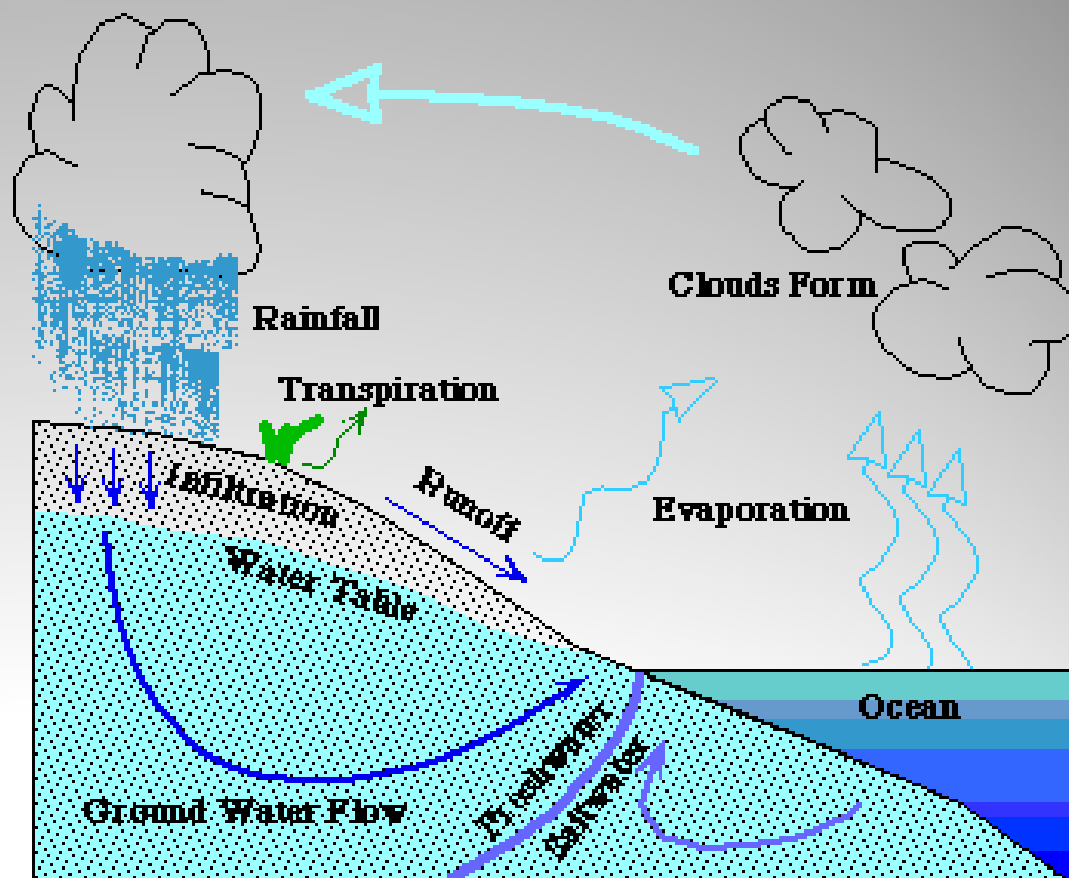


Shoreline Stabilization

- Primary method to stabilize the estuarine shoreline are vertical, hardened structures.
- NC rules on hardened structures vs. marsh sills:
 - Days to a couple of weeks for a hardened structure permit vs. ~ 90 days for a marsh sill permit.
 - Higher threshold to receive a marsh sill permit.
- What are NC agency concerns over marsh sills?
- What are the experiences of other states?
- Would NC support a policy preference for living shorelines?

Water Availability

- More efficient use of existing water sources.
- Do some areas need more monitoring wells?
- Should there be more reporting requirements for some users?
- Saltwater intrusion – where? How significant?
- Incentives for greater water reuse?
- Do existing rules adequately address shift from groundwater to surface water?
- 50-year planning horizon.



Courtesy of NC Division of Water Resources

Water Quality

- Stormwater runoff became a major water quality concern in 2005.
- What have been the impacts of the new rules?
- Wastewater treatment and collection – limiting factor in growth and development for rural communities.



City of Havelock



Lenoir County

Monitoring and Enforcement of Existing Rules

- Research will compare and contrast similar environmental programs – one focus will be on the coastal stormwater program.
- Agencies are concerned about the lack of funds for proper monitoring and enforcement.
- What are the stated goals and objectives of the program, and in what ways are they being met or not being met?
- In addition to requesting more funds, what other options are available to an agency to enforce existing rules?

Many Thanks To Our Partners!

- National Sea Grant Law Center
- North Carolina Sea Grant College Program
- University of North Carolina School of Law



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