



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
The Honorable Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore

FROM: Neal Robbins
Director of Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: N.C. Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund Report
Division of Marine Fisheries

DATE: Sept. 3, 2014

Pursuant to Session Law 2007-323, prior to the expenditure of any funds from the Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund, the Division of Marine Fisheries shall report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Seafood and Aquaculture. The division also shall report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Seafood and Aquaculture on the use of these funds on a quarterly basis until the funding expires. The reports will now be presented to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations since the Joint Legislative Committee on Seafood and Aquaculture was eliminated in Session Law 2011-291.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at 919-707-8618 or via email at Neal.Robbins@ncdenr.gov.

cc: Assistant Secretary Brad Ives
Division of Marine Fisheries Director Louis Daniel
Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Carr McLamb



Division of Marine Fisheries Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund 2014 Annual Legislative Report

In 2007, the N.C. General Assembly created the \$20 million Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund to acquire waterfront properties or develop facilities to provide, improve or develop public and commercial waterfront access (Session Law 2007-323).

The fund is financed through certificate of participation bonds to be repaid by the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and administered by the director of the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Working with a citizen's advisory panel, a department-level coordination committee and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Board, the division developed standards and guidelines for a program to retain and enhance working waterfronts and public access to coastal waters through cooperative state and local partnerships.

Funding efforts focused on purchasing, developing and improving multipurpose facilities that provide access for the commercial, recreational and marine industries, and marine research. It was determined funding should be equitably distributed along three coastal geographic areas – Northeast, Central and Southeast.

Requests for proposals were issued in late 2007 and the initial round of proposals was approved in May 2008. Funding was contingent on state appraisals, successful price negotiations for property acquisition and possible supplementary finances through other sources.

The division has now closed on all properties approved for purchase.

As of July 2012, 13 proposals have been approved for funding totaling \$20 million.

Northeast Area - Six projects, totaling \$8.52 million

- \$414,866 to enhance commercial access at the foot of the Alligator River Bridge in Tyrrell County by building a rock jetty, bulkhead and 10 boat slips.
- \$1,413,255 to expand the Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park into Hyde County, by purchasing 7.489 acres designated for marine-related businesses.
- \$1,527,072 to assist in construction costs to replace the N.C. Aquarium's Jennette's Pier in Nags Head, providing recreational fishing access and a wheelchair ramp for handicapped beach access.
- \$4,015,475 million to purchase a 13.45-acre tract at the foot of the William B. Umstead Memorial Bridge in Manns Harbor for improved commercial and recreational boat ramps and docking facilities, a public fishing pier, restroom facilities, green space for canoe and kayak launching, and a 75 to 90-space parking facility.
- \$389,214 to purchase a .519 acre parcel at Cahoon Seafood in Hyde County, and for design to reconstruct the property to enhance commercial dockage.

- \$761,024 to purchase 10.175 acres at Fisherman's Wharf in Swan Quarter, which adjoins a Wildlife Resources Commission boat ramp, providing a site to stockpile oyster sanctuary materials, provide dockage to research vessels and provide marsh for sea level rise studies.

Central Area - Four projects, totaling \$5.62 million

- \$1,240,822 to enhance Radio Island fishing pier in Carteret County by extending the pier, building six boat ramps, adding 70 parking spaces and constructing a dock house and restroom facility.
- \$195,547 to expand the boat ramp and improve the parking facility at Dinah's Landing in Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County to enhance recreational fishing access.
- \$2,200,000 for plan and design for the N.C. Aquarium's Emerald Isle Ocean Pier in Carteret County, and construction of a public access area on Bogue Sound.
- \$1,985,546 to purchase 30.84 acres of property in Cedar Island to maintain commercial dockage, provide access to a high quality water source for remote setting of oyster larvae to be placed on oyster sanctuaries and for cultch planting activities, and to provide a base of operations for Division of Marine Fisheries and other research organizations in northern Core and lower Pamlico sounds.

Southeast Area - Three projects, totaling \$5.86 million

- \$2,879,606 million to purchase 6.98 acres at the end of Lewis Road in Hampstead for a public boat ramp with multiple launch lanes, floating docks and 75-space parking facility.
- \$915,000 to purchase land adjacent to Wildlife Resources Commission's boat ramp at Sunset Harbor in Brunswick County for additional parking and a restroom facility.
- \$2,062,573 to buy four parcels on Fulcher's Landing Loop Road in Sneads Ferry for commercial and recreational docks, a public boat ramp and a parking facility.

Funds available from land purchases for approved projects were used to release a request for proposals for mini-grants in October 2010. Seven of the 13 original projects requested additional funds and all were awarded \$40,000 each, which is reflected in the above listing of the projects.

Currently, there are three ongoing projects. In the northern area, the designs for the Cahoon Seafood in Hyde County are being finalized. In the central area, the bathrooms at the Radio Island fishing pier should be completed by January 2015 and site development at the Emerald Isle Ocean Fishing Pier should be concluded in May 2015. Once these projects are completed, all of the commitments of this fund will be met.

By working with cooperative state and local partnerships it is projected the WAMI funding will leverage \$56 million in total costs of the projects.

The division has developed an inventory of available WAMI projects if additional revenue becomes available in the future.