

CSRWG 16 May 2008
Elkins Coastal Conservation Association of NC

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To: Coastal Stormwater Rules Working Group

May 7, 2008

Re: Coastal Stormwater Runoff Rules

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit organization comprised of 17 coastal state chapters spanning the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and Pacific coasts. CCA's strength is drawn from 100,000 recreational saltwater anglers who make up its membership nationally and 4,000 in NC. As a conservation organization focused on protecting our marine resources, CCA supports water quality measures and protection of fish habitats.

The Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina (CCA NC) wishes to make the following comments regarding the implementation of the stormwater runoff rules. Current stormwater rules have failed miserably. Shellfish waters continue to be polluted at an alarming rate. In excess of 56,000 acres were permanently closed as of 2005 due to fecal coliform bacteria contaminating shellfish waters. More than 90% of closures are the direct result of stormwater runoff. Enacting these proposed rules will slow, halt or even reverse this dangerous trend. The techniques proposed to control stormwater runoff under these rules are low-tech and inexpensive.

CCA NC supports the proposed stormwater runoff rules as amended by the Rules Review commission on March 20, 2008.

Sincerely,

Chris Elkins PhD
Chairman, Government Relations Committee CCA NC and
Associate Professor (Microbiologist), Division of Infectious Disease
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The stated purpose of the Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina is to advise and educate the public on conservation of marine resources. The objective of CCA is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. Contact CCA NC at www.ccanc.org.