



## new commission at work

# MAJOR TASK AHEAD FOR COASTAL COUNTIES

"Can you imagine taking 20 counties in 300 days and doing a complete 20-year land study projection? That's what we have got to do."

With that analysis, Chairman Thomas D. Eure put the new Coastal Resources Commission to work. The task was established when the 1974 session of the North Carolina General Assembly approved the Coastal Area Management Act. The legislation asks the people of the 20 counties that border the ocean and the sounds to take inventory of their resources and to prepare blueprints for the future development of their communities. The Coastal Resources Commission was set up to support and assist in the local planning and management efforts.

"There is one tremendous impact that this law is giving to a group of people who are not elected officials," said Eure at the first joint meeting of the Commission and its Advisory Council. The Beaufort engineer added, "They've put us on a very tight schedule. If we don't get it done it's almost self-destructive. We're going to get it done."

But Eure is aware that the Coastal Resources Commission will not have to work alone. In its role as a standard-setting and review board the Commission has already been met with tremendous support from all 20 counties and dozens of the municipalities.

Part of the support is linked to the fact that the Commissioners are coastal residents, nominated mostly by local governments in the coastal counties. The vice chairman is David Stick of Kitty Hawk. Other members of the Commission are: Frank Furlough, Columbia; L. D. Smith, Holly Ridge; J. Parker Chesson, Elizabeth City; Erie Haste, Hertford, Glenn Lancaster, Windsor; Doug Powell, Wrightsville Beach; William Kopp,

This is the first edition of *The Coastline*. This newsletter is the publication of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission established by the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974. The North Carolina General Assembly approved the legislation to insure planned growth and fruitful development in the twenty counties bordering the ocean and sounds.

The *Coastline* is designed for people who live in the coastal area, work in the coastal area, or own property in the coastal counties. After reading this first edition you may wish to examine the form on the last page. If you have questions for the Coastal Resources Commission or suggestions for this publication, please write or call **The COASTLINE**.

Future editions of this publication will appear approximately every two months. Each edition will deal with the process of implementing the Coastal Area Management Act, problems encountered, and solutions found in the coastal counties.

## BILL SETS TIGHT SCHEDULE

One of the first challenges set up by the Coastal Area Management Act has already been met by all 20 counties involved in the legislation. October 29 was the date for local governments to state whether they would prepare their own land use plans. The board of county commissioners in each of the counties advised the Coastal Resources Commission before the date that they would produce their own plans.

In addition, many of the towns and cities in the area also stated intentions to undertake plans. The Act specifies that towns enforcing zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and the State Building Code shall have plan-making authority if they want it. Other towns can either make recommendations to their county commissioners or ask for authority to be delegated from the county commissioners.

# ADVISORY COUNCIL: LIAISON ARMY

The 46 members of the Coastal Resources Advisory Council form a small army of talent. The Council is the liaison between the local governments and the Coastal Resources Commission.

In the portion of the Coastal Area Management Act that established the Advisory Council, particular attention was given to assembling a wide range of expertise and geographic representation. The legislation specifies at least 33 representatives of local government, 9 representatives of state departments, and 3 technologists or marine scientists.

Here are the members of the Council: Jerry Hardesty, Chairman, Currituck; Lewis Renn, Vice Chairman, Jacksonville; James Fox, Wilmington; Robert Rowe, Winton, John Bell, Elizabeth City; Carmi Winters, New Bern; W. C. Tripp, Shallotte; Thomas Gray, Buxton, Eddie McDuffie, Gatesville; Eddie O'Neal, Swan Quarter; M. H. Vaughan, Wilmington; W. Randolph Thomas, Jacksonville; Wallace Thompson, Elizabeth City; Charles Ogletree, Columbia; Douglas Davenport, Creswell; Holden Ballou, Beaufort; Charles Kimbrell, New Bern; Dr. John Crawford, Hertford; Dr. John Sledge, Jr., Currituck; Odell Williamson, Ocean Isle Beach; Thomas Wright, Jr., Wilmington; William Gardner, Edenton; Charles Evans, Nags Head; James Hackney, Jr., Washington; L. F. Amburn, Jr., Edenton, Earl Holton, Vandemere; R. S. Monds, Hertford; John Ferebee, Camden; Dr. Hayes Gregory, Aurora; Hampton Brett, Windsor; Robert Kelemen, Beaufort; Joe Morris, Ahoskie; Albert Calloway, State Division of Community Assistance; Everett Knight, State State Division of Environmental Management, Jim Brown, State Division of Marine Fisheries; Tom Earnhardt, State Department of Administration; Dr. Jacob Koomen, State Division of Health Services; Grace Rohrer, State Department of Cultural Resources; Durwood Laughinghouse, State Department of Agriculture; Troy Doby, Isabel Holmes, State Department of Transportation; Dr. Milton Heath, Institute of Government; Dr. Jay Langfelder, North Carolina State University; Michael Street, State Division of Marine Fisheries; Dr. James Parnell, University of North Carolina at Wilmington; and James Sykes, National Marine Fisheries Service.

## ADVISORY CHAIRMAN KNOWS SURE THINGS

The chairman of the new Coastal Resources Advisory Council says there are at least four sure things in life. In a recent interview with an area broadcaster Jerry Hardesty affirmed, "You used to be able to count on death and taxes alone." But the Currituck planner continued, "Now you can count on death, taxes, planning, and management."

Hardesty was drawing on personal experience when he made that remark. The Advisory Council chairman was a prime mover in the "Currituck Plan" which was a new approach to land use planning on the North Carolina coast.

Currituck is the county with perhaps the greatest proportion of land tied to the water-related uses. In terms of population the county is small, but in terms of potential for development and pressure from the Tidewater Virginia area, the county is great. Hardesty says this is why planning is so important.

Careful planning allows a maximum of land uses to fit into the economy and lifestyle of an area. On the other hand, clumsy planning or a lack of management will cause the resources of an area to be depleted. This can stifle the economy and cramp the lifestyle of the people of the area.

Hardesty and the Advisory Council will be working closely with State and local government and the Coastal Resources Commission to insure that all planners have the proper advice and assistance to prepare healthy plans for the management of the 20 coastal counties.

## MAJOR TASK, *cont.*

Bolivia; Gene Huntsman, Beaufort, Dewitt Darden, New Bern; Charles Wells, Wilmington; Roberts Jernigan, Jr., Ahoskie; Walter Davis, Kill Devil Hills; Axson Smith, Belhaven.

Most local governments are preparing their land use plans with some assistance from the regional organizations or state planners. The counties included in the Act are those that border either the ocean or the sounds; Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

The Coastal Area Management Act calls for the land use plans to be submitted for Commission approval by November 23 of this year.

While the legislation puts a heavy burden on the local citizens and the members of the Coastal Resources Commission, Chairman Eure is quick to point out that the intent of the Act is "to develop properly, with good forethought and good planning." And he sums it up this way, "We want open grounds, we want clear development, we want people to come in and use our state. But we want to preserve what they're coming in to see, the things we enjoyed as youths."

Eure concludes, "This is when we place our hands on the history book. And maybe someday our grandchildren will look back and say, 'my granddad was on that Commission and they did a good job'."

## BILL SETS

Working closely with their towns in this fashion, the county boards must gather all the necessary data and develop their county land use plans by November 23 of this year. At that time the Coastal Resources Commission will begin reviewing the proposals with a limit of 45 days for accepting them or returning them to local governments with recommendations.

# AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

While planning is one major tool available to the coastal area counties, management is another. Management efforts are under way now and will still be going strong even after the local planning is complete. One of the first responsibilities under the Coastal Area Management Act requires the Coastal Resources Commission to take an inventory of those lands in the coastal counties that are either fragile or culturally significant. These lands include wetlands, dunes, estuarine waters, wildlife refuges, watersheds, forestry lands, existing parks, beaches, floodplains, historic sites, and areas that may be impacted by key facilities.

The initial list has been drawn up and submitted for comment at a series of public hearings throughout the coastal area. These nominated lands are called Interim Areas of Environmental Concern. After designation, any person proposing to undertake a development within an Interim Area of Environmental Concern must notify the Coastal Resources Commission in writing at least

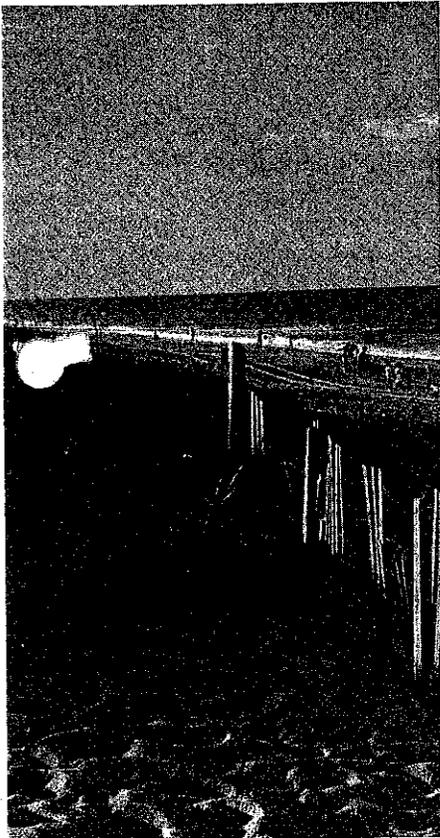
60 days before initiating construction.

During this year, the Coastal Resources Commission will hold at least one public hearing in every coastal county to gather additional comments and views on the Interim Areas of Environmental Concern. At the end of this year or early in 1976 the Commission will designate permanent Areas of Environmental Concern. These will be reviewed every two years for the purpose of deleting or adding areas.

Development within the permanent Areas of Environmental Concern will be classified in two categories: major and minor. Major developments are those that already require permission from State agencies, or which will have structures occupying a ground area of 60,000 square feet on a single parcel. Other developments will be called minor developments.

Local governments can choose to develop their own controls for minor developments within their jurisdiction, or they can let the State handle permit-letting. Decisions from towns and counties on preparing implementation and enforcement programs for permit-letting will be made in June.

When the management plans are in effect in 1976, regardless of whether a permit must be obtained from a local government or from a State agency, the Coastal Area Management Act provides that any person may petition the Coastal Resources Commission for a variance from a rule or regulation in cases of hardship or peculiar conditions.

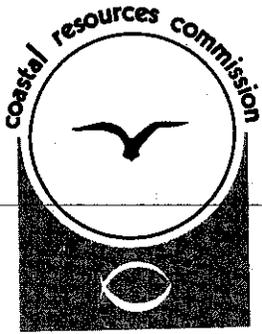


## TIGHT SCHEDULE | cont.

Management responsibilities under the Act will come into sharp focus during the summer. July 1 is the deadline for local governments to state to the Commission whether they wish to act as permit-letting agencies for certain types of developments that are proposed for areas specially designated by the Coastal Resources Commission as fragile or historically significant.

Most local governments are expected to want this control over minor developments in these special areas known as Areas of Environmental Concern; those that file a request will receive guidelines from the Commission by September 1 explaining how to set up a management program.

Local governments will then have the six months until March 1, 1976 to adopt their programs for permit-letting.



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The COASTLINE has a direct telephone installed to answer questions concerning the Coastal Area Management Act. In addition, there is a Speakers Bureau available to your civic group or club. If you have a request for information or a speaker, you may call Miss Betsy Warren at 919-829-2293 collect during business hours weekdays.

Or you may wish to use the request form below. Please send it to: Miss Betsy Warren  
P. O. Box 650  
Morehead City, N. C. 28557

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ARE YOU CURRENTLY ON The COASTLINE MAILING LIST?