



*saltwater connections*

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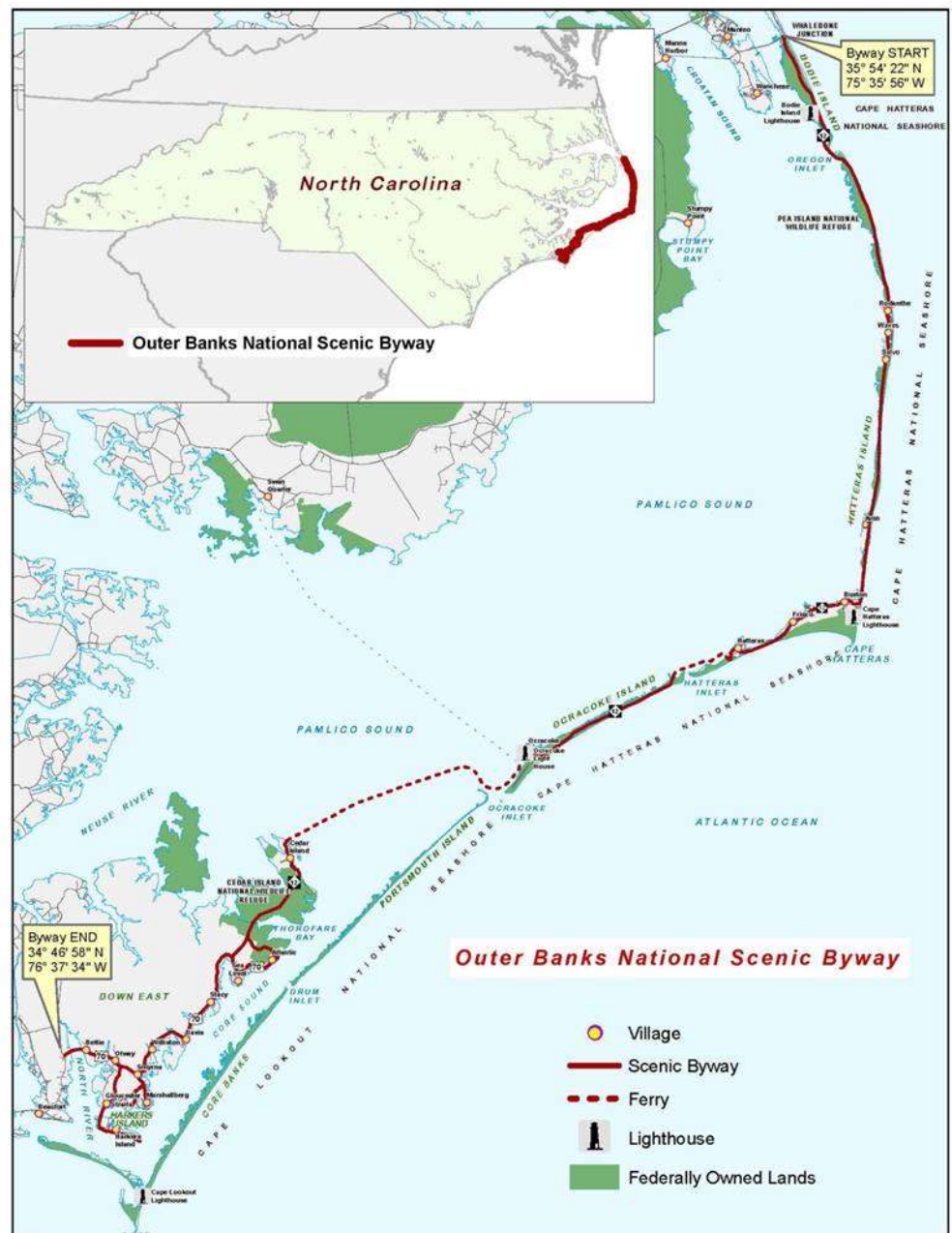
# SWC Region = OBX National Scenic Byway (2009)

Borders 2<sup>nd</sup> largest estuary  
in United States

Cape Hatteras and Cape  
Lookout National  
Seashores

21 unincorporated  
communities

Traditional and modern  
trades



**Outer Banks National Scenic Byway Corridor Map**  
IMPLEMENTATION OF WAYSHOWING AND VISITOR ORIENTATION  
Attachment A







## Challenges of Coastal Life

(Highway 12 after Superstorm Sandy)



# Challenges to the Seafood Industry



## Loss of Working Waterfronts:

2007 Legislation (property tax break, \$20 million for public access sites) helpful to a point.

# Saltwater Connections

Launched in 2010, 3-  
year initiative

Outgrowth of ongoing  
work of community  
members

Regional and  
Comprehensive

Asset-Based

Funded by NC Rural  
Center/ Z-Smith  
Reynolds Foundation



# Asset Mapping in 21 Villages



- Maritime Heritage Sites
- Locally-Owned Businesses
- Natural Areas (e.g. best places to view night sky)
- Churches and graveyards
- Schools

# Resource Team Visits

- NC Sea Grant
- NC Dept of Commerce
- NC Arts Council
- Historic Preservation
- Marine Fisheries
- Community Planning
- Economic Development
- Colleges/Universities





# Resource Team Reports



- Modeled after Handmade in America's Small Town revitalization Program
- Specific to N. Hatteras, S. Hatteras, Ocracoke, Down East
- Challenges and Goals
- Recommendations

# Community Projects



- Local Seafood Branding
- Seafood Transportation
- Community Gardens
- Youth Entrepreneurship
- Heritage Tourism
- Waterfront Access

# And there's more...

- Islands/Down East School Collaboration
- Community Oral History Project/Heritage Trail
- Formation of Local Foods Councils
- Strengthening Local Political Organization





# Overall Benefits of SWC



- Process of vision-building
- Forging partnerships
- Work is community-defined and driven
- Existing assets (e.g. working waterfronts) front and center in effort to rebuild sustainable economy

# Long-Term Success?

- Time will tell...
- Future of SWC Initiative
- Communities are the answer: continuing with the work, partnerships, tools/resources



# SWC Partners and Resources

- NC Rural and Econ Dev Center
- **The Conservation Fund**
- Z-Smith Reynolds
- **NC Sea Grant**
- Duke University's Nicholas School
- **Maine's Island Institute**
- Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
- **NC Catch**
- National Park Service
- **NC State's Center for Environmental Farming Systems**
- East Carolina's Center for Sustainable Tourism
- **Duke's Center for Documentary Studies**
- UNC Coastal Studies Institute
- **Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership**
- **SWC Resource Team Reports:**  
<http://saltwaterconnections.org/resource-teams/>
- **Outer Banks Scenic Byway:**  
<http://www.outerbanksscenicbyway.org/>
- **Core.Sounders (Documentary)**  
<http://www.coresounders.com/>
- **NC Waterfront Access Legislation (2007):**  
<http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/PDF/2007-2008/SL2007-485.pdf>
- **An Inventory of NC Fish Houses and 5-year Update: B. Garrity-Blake and Barry Nash:**  
[www.ncseagrant.org/images/stories/ncsg\\_pdf/documents/products/reports/](http://www.ncseagrant.org/images/stories/ncsg_pdf/documents/products/reports/)



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**THANK YOU!**

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