SWC Region = OBX
National Scenic Byway (2009)

Borders 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest estuary in United States

Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores

21 unincorporated communities

Traditional and modern trades
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

www.saltwaterconnections.org
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/


- An Inventory of NC Fish Houses and 5-year Update: B. Garrity-Blake and Barry Nash: www.ncseagrant.org/images/stories/ncsg_p df/documents/products/reports/
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THANK YOU!

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