

2026 Advocate Goals

State Goals:

- A. Advocate for recurring and increased funding for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund
 - B. Continue to ensure directed funding for the Shallow Draft Inlet Dredging Fund for local needs
 - C. Advocate for funding addressing resiliency projects identified under the Topsail Island RCCP
 - D. Advocate for 3-5 years of funding for Vitex removal in dunes and beach grass replanting
 - E. Protect state match reserve for local costs of the Surf City Federal 50-Year Project
 - F. Advocate for shellfish lease management that considers its negative impacts of other uses
 - G. Support State legislation and funding that addresses Abandoned Derelict Vessels (ADV's)
 - H. Notify TISPC of pending legislation, regulations, and administrative rulings that impact Topsail Island
 - I. Advocate for sustainable coastal insurance rates
-

Federal Goals

- A. Achieve legislative change that allows for use of sand from CBRA zones for non-CBRA zone beach nourishment when federal funds are involved
 - B. Continue legislative effort to amend the NTB CBRA Map Unit L06
 - C. Continue to support the 50-yr Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project
 - D. Support an island-wide FEMA team who uses the latest technology to determine losses when making disaster recovery recommendations
 - E. Notify TISPC of pending legislation, regulations, and administrative rulings that impact Topsail Island
-

Local Commission Goals

- A. Promote public education for the *Vitex* eradication program on Topsail Island
- B. Promote adoption of the 'Beach Clean' initiative by businesses and educate the public
- C. Continue cooperation between TISPC and environmental groups
- D. Network through NCBIWA and other groups to promote coastal and waterway issues that complement beach nourishment and coastal resiliency issues
- E. Move to use of mats versus permanent structures over new dune systems
- F. Monitor CRC regulations and proposed rulemaking for integration into state and federal goals as appropriate

- G. Stay abreast of studies on sea-level rise particularly as it relates to coastal and sound-side flooding then integrate into state and federal goals as appropriate
- H. Be involved with efforts to find solutions for the disposal of non-federal dredge materials

Opportunity List – these items have long-term implications for the island & towns

STATE

- **No Wake Zone** – Support of Surf City’s No Wake Zone request surrounding areas of the old Swing Bridge to include Sear’s Landing, and Soundside Park. – Enforcement of established no wake zone on island waterways.
- **Creek Cleanout** – Identify state assistance to fund creek/tributary clean out (i.e. Virginia Creek, Becky’s Creek, Batts Mill Creek)
- Monitor and protect watersheds and water quality
- **Living Shorelines** – Support developing a study to identify areas of high erosion to assist local governments in targeting new locations for living shoreline development.
- **Marsh Protection** – with sea level rise we need to determine possible solutions that protect this valuable resource – thin-layer placement, nursery habit, water sink and mainland storm protection.
- **Resilience Funding** – when we consider grant opportunities our towns do not qualify – per capita income too high, not a disadvantaged community – need to have programs that support our needs – living shoreline, road improvements, drainage systems, etc.
- **Salt Water Fisheries Management** – support fisheries management strategies that balances commercial and sport fishing interest and results in a sustainable fishery resource

FEDERAL

- **Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Project - Support authorization of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2026**
Passing the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA on a biannual basis has provided the nation’s coastal engineering community with the reliability and certainty that it needs to advance critical resilience projects like the one at Surf City. Authorization for the “Surf City only” project to be eligible is necessary through WRDA 24. – continue to request monies to keep connecting waterways navigable
- **Ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has Sufficient Resources to Support Post-Disaster Activities**
Under its Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) authority, USACE may assist impacted communities with post-disaster recovery and conduct repairs to the critical infrastructure that they are responsible for maintaining.

Recognizing how budgetary constraints can limit timely disaster recovery operations, TISPC supports Congress directing USACE to conduct a full review of its past FCCE expenditures and, using forward-looking data, provide an estimate of likely future FCCE expenditures. This review should be submitted to Congress along with any recommended changes to the FCCE authorization that may be necessary to ensure USACE has the budgetary flexibility and resources to deliver timely, efficient post-disaster recovery support wherever and whenever it is needed.