

## 2025 Accomplishments

### State Goals with Accomplishments

- A. Advocate for funding for both the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund and the Shallow Draft Inlet Dredging Fund to benefit local community projects.
  - a. The State legislature has not passed a budget in two years. No funds are allocated for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund at the current time.
- B. Continue to ensure directed funding for the Shallow Draft Inlet Dredging Fund for local needs
  - a. Surf City was awarded funds from the Shallow Draft Inlet Dredging Fund for beach nourishment in 2025.
  - b. A recent report by MaynardNexsen indicates that The Shallow Draft Inlet Fund has evolved from a dredging fund into a broader waterway management and water-quality tool.
- C. Continue to advocate for funding addressing island-wide resiliency projects
  - a. Both Surf City and N. Topsail Beach received resiliency grants for stormwater mitigation.
- D. Advocate for 3-5 years of funding for Vitex removal in dunes and beach grass replanting
  - a. The island towns were awarded a two year grant from the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund for island-wide removal of *Vitex* in the dune system.
  - b. The Vitex removal project is seasonally underway. Vitex information is posted on the TISPC website, including an interactive map showing progress toward eradication.
- E. Protect state match reserve for Surf City Federal 50-Year Project
  - a. The current state match will continue to be held in reserve until final costs have been determined for the Surf City project so that additional local costs can be covered.
  - b. Discussed with Representative Carson Smith
- F. Advocate for Shellfish lease management controls that provides public access to state waters
  - a. All three island towns and both counties passed resolutions to request a legislative moratorium on new shellfish leases in Onslow and Pender Counties.
  - b. Funding for an Oyster Lease study by the North Carolina Collaboratory was proposed and supported. No State budget has been passed.
  - c. Endorsed a proposed NOAA grant for The North Carolina Sea Grant and The North Carolina Coastal Federation to study oyster leases and conflicting uses. Stump Sound is to be the study area.
- G. Advocate for sustainable coastal insurance rates
  - a. No activity
- H. Work to pass state legislation to ban and to remove derelict vessels



# Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission



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- a. Supported a bill to strengthen Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. The bill did not meet cross over, but will be re-introduced in 2026
  - I. Notify TISPC of pending legislation, regulations, and administrative rulings that impact Topsail Island
    - a. On-going
  - J. Support Beach Inlet Management Fund (BIMP) state appropriations
    - a. BIMP funding is in the 2025/26 Farm Bill awaiting approval

## **Federal Goals with Accomplishments**

- A. Expand legislation for use of sand from CBRA zone for non-CBRA zone beach nourishment when federal funds are involved; also continue to push for administrative change.
  - a. The 2019 Barnhardt decision of the Department of Interior decision was re-instated. This decision allows federal funds to be used to dredge within a CBRA and deposit material for beneficial use outside of a CBRA zone using federal funds.
  - b. Proposing legislation to make this decision permanent.
- B. Continue legislative effort to amend the NTB CBRA Map Unit L06
  - a. Major progress was made last year to remove developed areas of North Topsail Beach from CBRA and continued this year. Representative Murphy introduced H.R. 1885, the Town of North Topsail Beach Coastal Barrier Resources System Map Amendment Act of 2025.
  - b. Testimony in support of the Bill was given by North Topsail Beach Major Pro Tem Tom Leonard on May 20, 2025
  - c. A series of meetings were held on September 25<sup>th</sup> with Senate offices, the Office of Representative Greg Murphy, The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries, and Brian Nesvik, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- C. Continue to support the 50-yr Surf City Coastal Storm Risk Management Project
  - a. A positive General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) was received from USACE in July. Town officials, with support from Ward and Smith and TFG, continue to work to expedite release of the project and funding from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and OMB.
- D. Support an island-wide FEMA team who uses the latest technology to determine losses when making disaster recovery recommendations
  - a. TISPC has received information about the proposed FEMA Reform Act of 2025 and is considering its support
- E. Notify TISPC of pending legislation and regulations that impacts Topsail Island
  - a. On-going



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**Local Commission Goals and Initiatives**

- A. Promote public education for our Vitex eradication program on Topsail Island
  - b. A website was developed for Vitex public education. The website received 1,725 views through November 2025
- B. Promote adoption of the 'Beach Clean' initiative by businesses and educate public to its goals
  - a. This initiative was adopted by businesses to promote effort as an important part of tourism.
  - b. Topsail Island Chamber of Commerce assisted with the placement of the 'Leave No Trace' beach clean logo in plastic display stands in several hundred vacation rentals on the island.
- C. Continue cooperation between TISPC and environmental group
  - a. TISPC has cooperated with the NCCF on several projects from living shorelines, Resilient Docks and Piers, to bans on abandonment of vessels; several initiatives have become state law.
- D. Network through NCBIWA and other groups to promote coastal and waterway issues that complement beach nourishment and coastal resiliency issues
  - a. Promoted Beach Inlet Management Plan (BIMP)
  - b. Attended NCBIWA meetings, represented on the Board of Directors
- E. Move to use of mats versus permanent structures over new dune systems
  - a. Topsail Beach has been successful in the use of beach mats and North Topsail Beach has CAMA approval for one at a public-parking handicap access.
  - b. We are encouraged that the CRC is considering use of beach mats at dune crossovers without need for a special permit for either public or private crossovers
- F. Understand and monitor CRC regulations and proposed rulemaking for integration into state and federal goals as appropriate
  - a. Committee members attend CRAC and CRC meetings to keep abreast of proposed changes and how they will impact Topsail Island.
- G. Stay abreast of studies on sea-level rise particularly as it related to coastal and sound-side flooding then integrate into state and federal goals as appropriate.
  - a. On-going
- H. Be involved with efforts to find solutions for the disposal of non-federal dredge materials