

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission approved the following grants for the 2008 cycle:

PEOPLE

Take A Kid Fishing Foundation, Inc.

Take a Kid Fishing

\$25,000

This grant will help the non-profit Take a Kid Fishing program provide approximately 850-1000 disadvantaged and disabled youth and their chaperones the opportunity to go saltwater fishing on June 24-25, 2009. The children will learn why it is important to know the size limitations and how to properly catch and release fish.

Brunswick County

Bricklanding Road Boat Landing

\$300,000

This grant will go toward the purchase of property in Brunswick County on which to build a public boat ramp. The one-acre track lies at the intersection of Bricklanding and DeVane roads, across the U.S. Intracoastal Waterway from Ocean Isle Beach. The ramp in this location will provide convenient access to the waterway, the Shallotte River Inlet, Tubs Inlet and the Atlantic Ocean.

Carteret County of Carteret

Cedar Point Public Boating Access Site

\$122,500

This grant will go toward the acquisition of about .68 acres of waterfront property in Cedar Point that lies between an existing Wildlife Resources Commission boating access and a public right-of-way maintained by the town. The three properties will be redeveloped to form a larger, safer site that is available for use to all citizens, free of charge.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Snow's Cut Boating and Fishing Access Area

\$500,000

This grant will help increase boating access and shoreline based fishing opportunities for anglers who do not own boats or anglers with limited mobility at an existing Wildlife Resources Commission boating access site in Carolina Beach. Plans call for renovating the existing four-boat ramp to increase launch capacity and building a 200-foot public fishing pier.

HABITAT

NC State University

Spawning Characteristics and Reproductive Capacity of Blueback Herring

\$44,665

This grant will partially fund the study of spawning characteristics and reproductive capacity of blueback herring in the Albemarle Sound. The study will assess the reproductive capacity of different aged river herring and determine their ability to contribute to and help grow the stock populations.

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

Minimizing Habitat Impacts through Enhanced Review of Coastal Developments Permits

\$135,325

This grant will fund two positions in the Division of Marine Fisheries dedicated to reviewing coastal development permit applications to other environmental agencies. This was a recommendation of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. Commenting on permit applications is a key tool that DMF uses to protect and sustain marine and estuarine resources.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Institute of Marine Sciences

Testing Alternative Designs of Planting Seed Oysters

\$132,242

This grant will fund research to develop a design for seed oyster planting on oyster reef sanctuaries to maximize the survival of the seed oysters and establishment of oyster reef habitat. Researchers will test planting different sizes of oysters seed at different times of the year on different sanctuary sites to see how size, season, reef location and environmental conditions impact survivorship.

Albemarle Pamlico Natural Estuary Program

Performance-Based Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring

\$110,738

This grant will help develop standardized, long-term SAV monitoring protocols and provide baseline and yearly variation data aid in research to evaluate environmental conditions that provide suitable submerged aquatic vegetation habitat.

FISH

Center for Marine Sciences and Technology, NC State University Movement and Mortality of Spotted Seatrout

\$98,828

This grant will help fund research to estimate fishing and natural mortality, movement rates, and stock structure of spotted seatrout to provide data needed for stock assessments and effective management of North Carolina's stock.

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Recreational Fishing Data Collection Program

\$496,527

This grant will fund improvements in the DMF recreational fishing data collection program so that the agency can more accurately estimate recreational impacts on fisheries. This was the main reason for implementing a Coastal Recreational Fishing License in North Carolina.

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Center for Marine Science Text-Messaging from King Mackerel Tournament Anglers

\$23,741

This grant will fund a pilot project at four king mackerel tournaments in Carteret County where anglers will be asked to electronically report their day's fishing activities by cell phone. This study will compare official tournament measurements to measurements provided by anglers and compare catch and effort data from the pilot project to current and historical data collected by DMF and the participating tournaments for each event.