

Beach News

New Terminal Groin Law. North Carolina has a new law that under specified conditions allows the use of terminal groins, reversing years of regulations and statutes against the use of such hard structures to protect inlets and beaches. According to the Carteret Shore Protection Office, a terminal groin "ideally will impound only enough sand to straighten the shoreline adjacent to an inlet." The North Carolina General Assembly passed and the Governor neither vetoed nor signed the bill, so it became law by default. The statute "allows a total of four terminal groins within the State as long as the applicant meets a suite of requirements, e.g., preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, proof of financial assurance to cover post construction monitoring and mitigation (if warranted), notification to adjacent property owners, etc." In a preliminary assessment of what the new law means for Bogue Banks, the Shore Protection Office notes that Fort Macon already has a terminal groin and says: "...we can now properly evaluate a terminal groin as a design element for Bogue Inlet as part of the Master Plan, which is the long-term (30-50 years) planning and permitting instrument for shore protection along Bogue Banks. The main question that will likely need to be reconciled is if we do construct a terminal groin, will we still need to realign the channel every 15-ish years? If yes, then that will be one decision matrix. If no, then that's another decision matrix."

Hurricane Season. Hurricane season officially began June 1 and continues until November 30. Although our coast has been spared major hurricanes in the past few years, 2010, according to the Carteret County Shore Protection Office, produced 12 hurricanes, the second most on record—the record being 15 in a single year. The July *Shore Protection Office Newsletter* continues to say, "...warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Atlantic and a waning *La Niña* are providing enough fuel for cyclone development (warm water) and a favorable atmospheric environment..." to anticipate the likelihood of an "above normal" 2011 hurricane season.

Hurricane/Storm Vocabulary. The Shore Protection Office provides the following helpful definitions:

Tropical cyclone - warm-core, atmospheric closed circulation rotating counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tropical storm - a tropical cyclone with a maximum sustained surface wind speed ranging from 39 mph to 73 mph using the U.S. 1-minute average.

Hurricane - a tropical cyclone with a maximum sustained surface wind speed reaching 74 mph or more.

Saffir Simpson Scale - a scale including a 1 to 5 rating based upon wind speeds, again utilizing the U.S. 1-minute average. A category 1 hurricane has winds ranging from 74 to 95 miles per hour (mph), category 2 ranges from 96 to 100 mph, category 3 ranges from 111 to 130 mph, category 4 ranges from 131 to 155 mph, and a category 5 hurricane has sustained winds exceeding 155 mph.

Major Hurricane - a hurricane reaching category 3 or higher on the Saffir Simpson Scale. Interestingly, category 5 hurricanes very rarely make landfall while maintaining their category 5 intensity - only three have ever made landfall in the U.S. - the Labor Day hurricane (1935), *Camille* (1969), and *Andrew* (1992). Now to account for some of the weather oddballs, we also need to include

Extratropical Storm - a cold-core atmospheric cyclone deriving its energy when cold and warm air masses interact, not as part of the positive feedback loop identified with tropical storms as warm, moist air rises causing continual heat exchange. Unlike tropical storms, extratropical storms can have one or more fronts connected to them, and can occur over land or ocean. Extratropical cyclones can have winds ranging to levels associated with a tropical depression, or as strong as a hurricane and examples include blizzards and nor'easters, which often form in winter and fall months off the mid-Atlantic and drift slowly along the north Atlantic seaboard and eventually east. If it drifts back west towards land, it is called a retrograded nor'easter.

Subtropical Storm - occurs if waters under an extratropical cyclone are warm, followed by thunderstorms that gradually build inside the storm. The storm core may subsequently and gradually go from cold to warm, and the storm will be called subtropical.

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Dr. Christine Monks Joining DownEast Medical August 1st



DownEast Medical Associates, P.A. is pleased to announce the association of Dr. Christine Monks, a Board Certified Internal Medicine physician. Dr. Monks earned her Medical Degree at the New York Medical College and completed her Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at the North Shore University Hospital. Dr. Monks' experience includes being a Clinical Instructor in Medicine at Cornell University Medical College, the New York University and the Hofstra University School of Medicine along with her direct patient care responsibilities in Internal Medicine. Most recently she has served as full time faculty in the Department of Medicine at the North Shore University Hospital in Great Neck, New York. Carteret County is indeed fortunate to have Dr. Monks joining our medical community. She is very excited about her move to the area, her association with the DownEast Medical physicians and staff and the relocation of her family to the Crystal Coast.

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