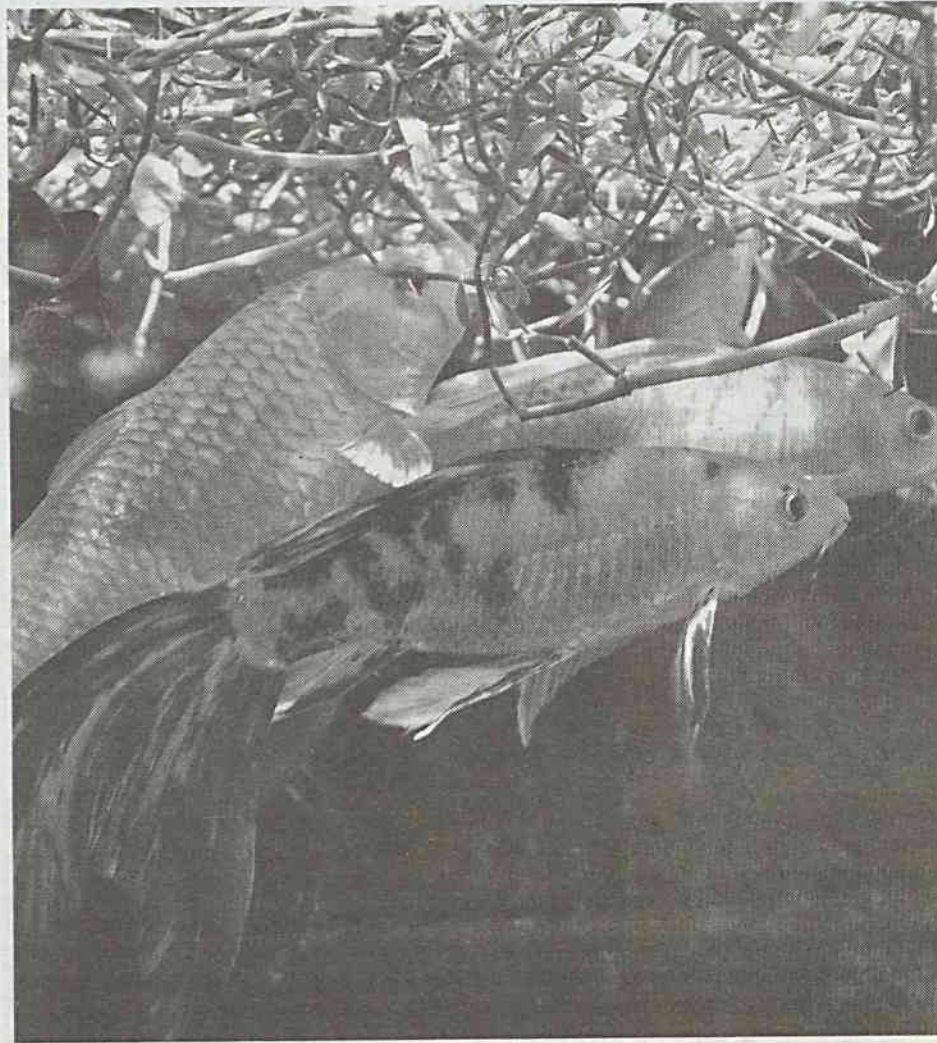


## Photo Competition



If you like to take photos, picture this -- your pastime could win you \$500 in the 2009 North Carolina Aquariums' Underwater Photo Contest. And you don't even have to get wet.

The Aquatic Life at the North Carolina Aquariums category is reserved for photos of animals and exhibits at the three state Aquariums -- at Fort Fisher, at Pine Knoll Shores and on Roanoke Island.

Divers can compete in two other categories, Underwater Animal Close-ups or Underwater Open, with photos taken in waters off the coast of North Carolina or within the state's freshwater systems.

Amateur and non-professional photographers can enter up to three photo-

graphs in each category. Photos must be submitted online at [www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com) by midnight, Dec. 31, 2009.

Cash prizes are awarded in each of the three categories -- first place, \$500; second place, \$200; third place, \$100; honorable mention \$50.

The North Carolina Aquariums Division, under the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, hosts the annual competition to highlight the state's aquatic biodiversity. The Aquariums share the mission, "inspiring appreciation and conservation of North Carolina's aquatic environments."

See [www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com) for complete contest rules and application details.

## October County Commissioners' Meeting

By Dennis Tomaso

The regular Carteret County Board of Commissioners' meeting in October was held at the Beaufort Administration Building. Commissioner Pete Allen was absent.

The Outer Banks Scenic Byway -- which begins in Dare County, includes Hyde County and ends Down East in Carteret County -- received national designation and was named to the distinctive and diverse collection of America's byways. Former Commissioner Tom Steepy presented the award to the Commissioners. Ms. Capps from the Carteret County Salvation Army requested the commissioners do some bell ringing at the Wal-Mart site during the upcoming campaign. The actual Kettle campaign starts November 23.

Carol Mattocks and Lisa Hooks provided an update on the Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention. This coalition, started in 1994, includes Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow and Pamlico counties. Its emphasis has been on underage drinking and misuse of prescription drugs. The Coastal Coalition is part of the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA). You can obtain more information on <http://cadca.org>.

The commissioners approved a number of budget amendment requests from Dr. Dan Novey. The amendment amounts were \$33,850 for East Carteret High School, \$6,800 for Bogue Sound Elementary and \$20,173 for West Carteret High School.

Commissioners also approved amendments to the County Noise Ordinance to assist police in enforcement. These were recommended by Sheriff Asa Buck. A major change was to include discretion in enforcement for the hours outside the current period of 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

The county was advised that it now would have to take responsibility for Child Support Enforcement. This was taken out of the state budget and given to the county without much notice. A number of commissioners raised concerns on costs and implementation. The plan is for this activity to fall under the county Department of Social Services.

There was discussion led by Dee Meshaw on two different bonds being considered by the county. They include School Quality Construction Bonds and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. There are no bonds being considered for new construction.

John Langdon, county manager, expressed some concern over the negative comments circulating regarding the potential consolidation of EMS services in the county. He stated that there was considerable misinformation and incorrect information. He assured everyone that there would be sufficient public input before any decisions are made. He stated that the intent was to become more efficient while still providing excellent care for the county.

Commissioner Faircloth read a resolution supporting the fishing industry and raised concerns over current proposed legislation. It was stated that the proposed legislation would have a damaging impact on red snapper fishing. The resolution requested that the legislation be postponed until further study is conducted.

A number of commissioners expressed their appreciation for all veterans in remembrance of the upcoming Veterans Day. They also reminded everyone that there will be a parade beginning at 11:00 a.m., on November 7, in Morehead City.

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