



Sandbagging Project Underway

Wysco Contractors of Morehead City started work on a sandbagging project at Holden Beach last week. They will build a seawall using at least 300 sandbags in an effort to save an erosion-threatened section of Ocean Boulevard East. Each sandbag is filled with about three tons of sand. In the photo above, Louie Rose looks on as a sandbag is filled. At right, Eddie Clancy pipes water and sand up the beach to fill the sandbags. Millard Ford, who is in charge of the operation, said the project should take a couple of weeks to finish. The N.C. Department of Transportation is paying \$36,620 for the project.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

Coastal Resources Commission Postpones Decisions On Nursery Areas

BY DOUG RUTTER

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission last week postponed decisions on a pair of proposals relating to waters where baby fish, shrimp and other marine specimens spend their first growing seasons.

It will be at least January before the commission considers whether its standards for primary nursery areas along the coast should apply to the same types of waters inland.

And it will be the end of March before a vote can be taken on whether to allow dredge boats in coastal nursery areas, according to Jeanette Johnson, spokesperson with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

A proposal to change the definition of a primary nursery area was one of the biggest issues considered when the CRC met last Thursday and Friday in Manteo, said Ms. Johnson.

Under the current definition, rules for nurseries only apply to those designated by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. The new definition also would cover inland primary nursery areas which are designated by the

Bald Head Island officials are working on a set of rules aimed at protecting their maritime forest. An ordinance should be ready in January.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

A public hearing on the proposal will be scheduled for the commission's March meeting. Also at that time, CRC members will discuss the impact and standards that would apply to inland primary nursery areas.

Action on another proposal to relating to primary nursery areas also was delayed last week, according to Ms. Johnson.

Following a public hearing, commissioners said they wanted more information before deciding whether or not their rules should apply to inland nursery areas. A decision could be made as soon as January.

Forest Protection

Coastal Management staff will continue working with local governments to protect maritime forests, in lieu of an earlier proposal for the commission to adopt specific development regulations for those areas.

Nine maritime forests were nominated for special state protection in June, including Middle Island, Bluff Island and part of Bald Head Island in Brunswick County.

Instead of adopting protective rules, the coastal commission instructed the Division of Coastal Management to work with local government officials to protect the areas from becoming overdeveloped.

After hearing a report last week, commission members agreed to continue on that track for at least another two months. "It's gone real well, and I think they were

extremely pleased with the progress that's been made," Ms. Johnson said.

For example, Bald Head Island officials are working on a set of rules aimed at protecting their maritime forest. An ordinance should be ready in January.

More than 400 acres of forest on the island were nominated for protection in June. Maritime forests serve as plant and animal habitats, and officials say many acres have been lost to development in recent years.

Fees Increased

In another matter last week, the commission approved increases in some permit fees and raised civil penalties for people who violate conditions of their permits.

The fee for a general CAMA permit was increased from nothing to \$25, while the cost of a major CAMA permit went from \$100 to \$400. The minimum civil penalty was increased from \$100 to \$250. Ms. Johnson said the changes will take effect March 1, 1991.

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