



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### **HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO COASTAL STORMWATER RULES**

**RALEIGH** – The N.C. Division of Water Quality has scheduled four public hearings to gather comments on proposed changes to stormwater rules that protect sensitive coastal waters.

The division recommended amending the state coastal stormwater requirements after the agency's study concluded that current rules were not providing effective protection for aquatic resources, including shellfish harvesting and recreation. The proposed amendments would bring the state stormwater program in all 20 coastal counties in line with the Phase II stormwater requirements mandated for Brunswick, Onslow and New Hanover counties.

“These proposals increase protections for waters draining to commercial nursery, harvesting and recreational areas and offer a consistent approach for these high quality waters and wetlands along the coast,” said Tom Reeder, supervisor for the Division of Water Quality's Wetlands and Stormwater Unit.

The hearings will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

- Sept. 18, Beaufort Community College, Building #8 Auditorium, 5337 Highway 264 East, Washington.
- Sept. 20, College of the Albemarle (the old Manteo Middle School Auditorium), Roanoke Island Campus, 205 Highway 64 South – Business, Manteo.
- Sept. 25, Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City.
- Oct. 2, Coastline Convention Center, 501 Nutt Street, Wilmington.

Registration for those who wish to present oral comments at the hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The hearing officer may limit time if necessary to assure that all those who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so. Those with comments greater than three minutes in duration are asked to bring three copies of the comments to be included in the hearing record.

Written comments on the proposed amendments will be accepted until Oct. 15. Written comments may be sent to Reeder at 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617 or by e-mail to [tom.reeder@ncmail.net](mailto:tom.reeder@ncmail.net).

The hearing record, including all comments received by the closing date, will be presented to the state Environmental Management Commission for consideration of the proposed amendments.

To view the public notice, including the proposed rule amendments, visit the division's Web site at: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/pubinfo/DWQPubInfoCalendar.htm>.

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