

LEGAL TIDES

From the North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center • Winter 2017

Charting the Future

What's next for North Carolina Sea Grant's coastal law and policy efforts and the N.C. Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center?

BY **JACK THIGPEN**, EXTENSION DIRECTOR, NORTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT

In August, Lisa Schiavinato, North Carolina Sea Grant law, policy and community development specialist, moved to California. She took up a position as extension director for California Sea Grant.

While at North Carolina Sea Grant, Lisa worked with coastal communities, state and federal agencies, and academic institutions on projects and issues fundamental to coastal health and culture. Her efforts built strong connections with our coastal, state and university partners.

She also was the co-director of the N.C. Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, where she worked on a variety of projects affecting North Carolina's oceanfront and estuarine shorelines. Lisa provided leadership in many areas: offshore wind, public access, the customary right to use North Carolina's dry sand beaches, and social vulnerability.

She also provided outreach to coastal towns, such as Nags Head, on legal and policy barriers to adapting to changing weather and climate conditions. *Legal Tides* readers are aware of the thoughtful perspectives she shared through this newsletter.



Lisa Schiavinato, second from right in the front row, received a send-off from North Carolina colleagues before heading to California Sea Grant.

Though we were sad to see her go, we are glad to have a new colleague on the West Coast. Lisa's departure leaves a temporary gap in our outreach capabilities.

We now are re-evaluating the role of our law and policy specialist, as well as that of the center, in forming and analyzing North Carolina's coastal and marine policy. The goal of this position and the center has been to understand the needs of coastal communities, businesses and people, and to bring the most current and useful data available to decision makers and leaders.

For our coastal law and policy efforts, critical topics and methods of information delivery are subject to change. To stay current and focused on the future, we are

seeking the wisdom of outreach partners and key individuals in many groups to whom we provide services. The collective ideas and wisdom of these people will guide our decisions about the ideal skill set of our next law and policy specialist, as well as inform any potential changes for the center.

Over the next few months, we will visit our partners to develop an updated plan for North Carolina Sea Grant law and policy programming. We appreciate your input. I invite you to contact me at 919-515-3012 or jack_thigpen@ncsu.edu to share your ideas.

I welcome the chance to talk with you about the potential future direction of coastal law efforts for North Carolina Sea Grant.

Save the Date: North Carolina's Coastal Conference Set for April



North Carolina Sea Grant again will host North Carolina's Coastal Conference. The event will be held **April 4 and 5**, at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

"Many communities from central North Carolina to the coast found their resilience tested in 2016," notes Susan White, executive director of North Carolina Sea Grant and the Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina system. "They continue to need information and resources to respond to, recover from and anticipate both urgent and long-term coastal challenges."

Drawing upon the success of a similar conference in 2015, the sessions will include a range of critical issues, including weather, storms and climate; community and ecosystem health; fisheries and aquaculture; and planning and economics.

Experts from the fields of economics, transportation, energy, environment, industry and health will lead interdisciplinary sessions designed to bring together diverse perspectives. The program includes a networking reception on April 4 at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences' Nature Research Center in Raleigh.

The conference goal is to energize new and continued partnerships that can actively work toward solutions to benefit coastal communities, economies and ecosystems. "We are looking forward to our team and funded researchers joining in discussions with partners from across the state — including leaders from local, state and federal government; business and industry; community organizations; and educators," White adds.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for the conference. "We see sponsorships as critical to helping us cover the costs for student participation. Students are our future leaders and need to be part of these discussions," White notes. Contact White at snwhite3@ncsu.edu or 919-515-2455 for sponsorship information.

Regular conference registration is \$185, and \$50 for full-time students. Sea Grant anticipates providing continuing education credits for teachers and professionals.

Follow our plans on social media: #NCCoastConf. For more details, go to ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/nc-coastal-conference.

Join North Carolina Sea Grant at Coastal-Related Events

In the early part of 2017, North Carolina Sea Grant will be involved in several efforts to enhance economic development along the state's coast and coastal plain.

The **North Carolina Aquaculture Development Conference** is set for **Feb. 10 and 11**, in New Bern. Participants also can go on self-guided tours on Feb. 9 and attend an aquaponics workshop on Feb. 8. Visit www.ncaquaculture.org to register.

On Feb. 11, Sea Grant, one of the conference partners, will host a free shellfish aquaculture workshop in Morehead City.

The sixth annual **North Carolina Catch Summit** will focus on the economics of local seafood.

Cohosted by Outer Banks Catch, the event will be held **March 13 and 14**, at Jennette's Pier in Nags Head. The sessions also will feature Carteret Catch, Brunswick Catch and Ocracoke Fresh, as well as other partners, including those from the fishing communities, chefs and market owners.

"We expect participants will leave with new skills, action plans, and fresh or renewed contacts," notes Ann Simpson, executive director of N.C. Catch.

March 13 will feature several field trips, while March 14 will have

presentations and panel discussions. Speakers will include Sea Grant extension specialists, who continue to work with all the catch groups.

Details are at nccatch.org.

For more coastal- and water-related events, go to ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/calendar.

To receive *Legal Tides*, comment on articles, or suggest topics, contact Jack Thigpen at jack_thigpen@ncsu.edu or 919-515-3012. Or write to *Legal Tides*, North Carolina Sea Grant, NC State University, Box 8605, Raleigh, NC 27695-8605. Let Jack know if you want to receive *Legal Tides* electronically, or by regular mail.

Coastal Economics and the Blue Economy

BY **DIANA HACKENBURG**, SCIENCE WRITER/EDITOR, NORTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT

North Carolina's ocean and coastal resources are vital to the state's economy, especially its coastal counties. According to a new assessment by Jane Harrison, North Carolina Sea Grant coastal economics specialist, and researchers at Duke University's Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, the ocean economy contributes 6.5 percent of gross domestic product and supports almost 13 percent of employment in the state's 20 coastal counties.

Many of the activities that contribute to this economy rely on the health of the underlying natural capital asset base — fish stocks, beach and coastal water quality, natural habitats — and also can harm these resources. Balancing these activities with the long-term capacity of the natural resources on which they depend is the basic principle of a blue economy.

The blue economy concept creates a lens by which economists can better

understand and visualize the connections between economic activities and ecological systems. Potential implications include the development of policy, management and investment strategies to grow the blue economy.

"The largest sector of North Carolina's ocean economy is tourism and recreation, which depends on protecting the natural amenities that draw in visitors," Harrison says. "Using the blue economy model, we could design policies and programs that help advance ecotourism like coastal restoration projects and workforce training."

This initial assessment of North Carolina's ocean economy was made possible by a minigrant from Sea Grant. Harrison's co-authors at Duke University's Nicholas Institute included Amy Pickle, director of its State Policy Program; Tibor Vegh, a policy associate in the environmental economics program; and

John Virdin, director of its Ocean and Coastal Policy Program.

Harrison also is developing the first issue of Sea Grant's Blue Economy information series. Both the information series and assessment will be available through the blue economy portal, ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/blueeconomy.

Originally from Ohio, Harrison joined North Carolina Sea Grant as a coastal economist in the summer of 2015. Previously with Wisconsin Sea Grant, her work there involved freshwater-resource economics.

Harrison's recent research in North Carolina has focused on the blue economy, growing the marine aquaculture career pipeline and a socioeconomic analysis of the Atlantic menhaden commercial fishery.

If you would like to receive the Blue Economy information series or more information on North Carolina's blue economy, contact Harrison at jane_harrison@ncsu.edu.



Roger Winstead/NC State University



Roger Winstead/NC State University

Register for Shape of the Coast, Feb. 10 in Chapel Hill

Sign up for the *Shape of the Coast*, a series of sessions that will focus on coastal law and policy in North Carolina.

The talks are scheduled for 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **Feb. 10** at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Law Festival of Legal Learning. The coastal session is co-sponsored by North Carolina Sea Grant; the N.C. Coastal Resources Law, Planning and Policy Center, or NCRLPPC; and UNC School of Law.

Lisa Schiavinato, California Sea Grant extension director; Palmer Hilton, UNC School of Law student; and Jane Harrison, North Carolina Sea Grant coastal economics specialist, will discuss public beach access and oyster aquaculture.

Schiavinato, former North Carolina Sea Grant coastal law specialist, will

focus on the conflicts between oceanfront property owners and beachgoers in coastal states, including North Carolina and California.

Harrison and Hilton, a former NCRLPPC fellow, will offer an overview on the state of the oyster aquaculture industry in North Carolina, including an update on regulatory efforts that could facilitate oyster farming in state waters.

"There are a multitude of regulations and policies that growers must understand to start their businesses," Harrison explains.

The other topics and speakers are:

- "Insurance Update" by Donald T. Hornstein, Aubrey L. Brooks Professor of Law, UNC School of Law;
- "What's Ahead for N.C. Coastal Policy?" from the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission; and
- "Federal and State Coastal Case Law Update" by Meredith Jo Alcoke,

Ward and Smith, P.A., and Todd S. Roessler, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP.

Attorneys can receive four hours of CLE credit. Media wishing to attend should contact Katie Mosher at 919-515-9069 or katie_mosher@ncsu.edu.

To register, visit www.law.unc.edu/cle/festival. In the left menu, select **Program**. Choose the Shape of the Coast course for each of the first four sessions (01 through 04) on Friday, Feb. 10. Then hit the **Register Now** button.

On the next page, enter your first and last name. Select **Continue** to proceed to the **Add My Information** page. In the drop-down menu for **Event Fee**, choose your preferred payment option for Shape of the Coast with or without CLEs — \$150 or \$100, respectively. Students can attend these sessions and the entire conference for \$50.