

*****PenderWatch & Conservancy Press Release*****

For Immediate Action

PenderWatch & Conservancy has developed plans to help stabilize marshland and establish oyster habitat along the Intracoastal Waterway in Pender County. The placement plans have been developed by PW director and marine scientist, Pat Donovan-Potts, and Troy Alphin, a marine scientist with UNCW. The plans have been approved by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Project Site

PenderWatch volunteers have filled 880 mesh bags with 30 pounds each of oyster shell. The bags will serve as a host reef for baby oysters and many other marine organisms while accomplishing marsh stabilization and restoration. The location is below the high tide line of the marsh facing the Intercoastal Waterway near the entrance to the Forest Sound Marina. See the attached directions to the Marina.

This location is permanently closed to shellfish harvest by North Carolina Marine Fisheries due to its proximity to the marina. Therefore, no one should harvest oysters that will grown on the reef.

8:00 am, Wednesday, August 6

We will load the shell bags, now on the slab behind Old Topsail HS, on the trailers for transport to the marina.

2:00 pm, Thursday, August 7

We will load the barge provided by PW director, Hal Fogleman, owner of Allied Marine Contractors, at the Forest Sound Marina. That time has been selected so as to be able to load the barge at high tide. All bags not loaded on the barge will stay on the trailer(s) to be loaded after the barge is unloaded Friday morning.

6:15 am, Friday, August 8

Assembly of the new reef. This early start has been set so as to take advantage of the falling tide which will be low at the job site at about 9:00 am.

7:30 am, Saturday, August 9

We will complete the placement this morning. The low tide at the site will be at about 9:45. We should be well finished before the water gets too deep at about 11:45.

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