



2006 Report Card For the NC Coast

Beaches

C Over 50% of NC beachfront is forever preserved as park land. The rest has varying needs. Dependable funding for maintaining recreational beaches by adding sand into the system is one. **Healthy beaches matter, with tourism NC's #1 industry.**

Inlets

C As federal funding for dredging inlets faded, **state & local** governments have paid to keep many federal inlets **safely navigable**. Dredged sand was beneficially used on some beaches. **Funding for recurring upkeep is vital to public safety!**

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

D This water interstate highway has been grossly under-funded for over a decade. A **lifeline** for recreational & commercial boating is also the cheapest & most environmentally safe method to move **freight**. **Corps skill keeps it open, barely.**

Public Access to Beaches

A A combination of reliable state grants & eager local governments has caused an **increase** to **600±** accesses & **6500±** parking spaces in beach towns alone. **Existing** beach nourishment funding rules create opportunity for **even more** public access!

Public Access to Coastal Waters

D The privatization & sale of marinas, ramps & piers makes public access to coastal waters harder than ever. Funding for new ramps & to save existing marinas & piers is needed before it's too late. **Public funding should = public access, by law!**

Overall: Barely Average Surely we can do better!

C We would have gotten an **F** were it not for the **hard work** of many folks in **Washington** and **Raleigh**, and of organizations like **NCBIWA**. But there is still much work to do! A **dependable, dedicated funding source**, for both state & federal shares of coastal infrastructure maintenance, is critical to the future of our coast. The Joint Initiative of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy & the Pew Oceans Commission agree with us. **We must find ways to improve!**

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The One Effective Voice For the North Carolina Coast™

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