

**TOPSAIL ISLAND SHORELINE PROTECTION COMMISSION  
CHARTER  
Revised April 29, 2024**

**PREAMBLE:** As a barrier island, Topsail Island has various challenges when it comes to the critical interface with the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. The oceanfront dune structure and other natural features protect the lives and property of the island residents and property owners. These features need to be protected and enhanced for the long-term sustainability of the island.

**MISSION:** To actively support and promote plans and programs to increase the Island's resiliency and education for a healthy environment, and to support and promote development and execution of the NC Beach and Inlet Management Plan.

**PURPOSE:**

- Stay abreast of and promote funding at the Federal, State, County, and local levels for beach nourishment and protection of our adjacent salt marsh and the water quality of public waters.
- Educate our property owners/managers/stakeholders regarding property insurance, beach nourishment, resiliency, navigation, environmental stewardship, the Beach Clean initiative, the salt marsh ecosystem, and the NC Beach and Inlet Management Plan.
- Stay informed of information concerning federal navigable waters around Topsail Island so they remain safe and usable.
- Encourage maintenance of dunes through sound vegetation management practices on our beaches.
- Promote the maintenance and restoration of nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles and other endangered species.
- Promote the routine maintenance of area historical and federal navigation channels and inlets, including the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), and the placement of appropriate corresponding dredge spoils on our beaches.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. Keep our stakeholders and the five participating boards up to date on information including any strategies in use for beach nourishment and flood resiliency, and to stay abreast of the latest information and science surrounding these tenants.
2. Keep our stakeholders and the five participating boards up to date regarding North Carolina's Beach and Inlet Management Plan and its impact on our area. This includes rules as established by the Division of Coastal Management
3. Encourage our stakeholders and interested parties to support state and federal legislation favorable to beach nourishment and beach nourishment funding.
4. Keep our stakeholders informed of information concerning federal navigable waters around Topsail Island so they remain safe and usable.
5. Retain professional services, when/if required, to act on behalf of the Commission to secure federal and state funding for navigation maintenance and nourishment projects.
6. Promote restoration and maintenance of habitat essential to the survival of sea turtles and other endangered species island wide.
7. Promote the Beach Clean initiative through community outreach and the [tispc.org](http://tispc.org) website.
8. Promote resilient restoration and protection of the salt marsh ecosystem with particular emphasis on water quality of public waters.
9. Keep abreast of island-wide property insurance rates and promote fairness in future rate adjustments.
10. Other activities as directed by the three towns and two counties.

## **TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Prepare annual state and federal goals for our advocates and post on the [tispc.org](http://tispc.org) website.

2. Prepare past year accomplishments and post on the tispc.org website.
3. Prepare an operating budget for the Commission each year and obtain each town's approval.
4. Actively advocate for dedicated long-term sources of revenue at the state and county level to supplement town and federal funds.
5. Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that appropriate quality dredging of spoils from New River, New Topsail Inlet, and the AICW are placed on Topsail Island beaches.
6. Support local, state, and national shore and beach conferences/symposiums.

**ORGANIZATION:**

The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) voting members.

- Each island Town's governing board (North Topsail Beach, Surf City, and Topsail Beach) shall appoint three representatives to serve as voting members on the Commission. It will be the Town's prerogative to advise the Chairman of a substitute voting member for any given meeting.
- Each County's governing board (Onslow and Pender) may appoint one elected or other official to serve as a voting member on the Commission.
- The Chairman of the Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission will be elected each January from the membership. The Chairman will conduct the meetings and will be the official spokesperson for the Commission.
- The Vice Chairman of the Commission will be elected each January from the membership. The Vice Chairman will act in the absence of the chairman.
- Each Town Manager and County Manager will serve as a liaison to the Commission.
- Committees may be formed at the discretion of the Commission to address specific project issues and concerns.

**COMPENSATION:**

Commission members shall not be compensated for the performance of their duties as members of the Commission. They will be reimbursed for travel and out of pocket expenses when assigned to represent the Commission at official functions.

**QUORUM:**

A quorum of the Commission is required to conduct any official business at a regular or special meeting. At least six (6) members present at a regular or special meeting will constitute a quorum. All official business will be governed by majority vote.

**MEETINGS:**

Commission shall establish frequency of meetings. Meetings may be held using video conferencing tools that meet North Carolina open meeting regulations.

**WEBSITE:**

The official website of the Commission is <https://tispc.org/> The website will be kept up to date with the current agenda, goals, accomplishments, minutes, reports, and the Beach Clean initiative. The website will serve as the official depository of commission documents which will use cloud storage through designated Town support.

**CHARTER APPROVAL:**

Amendments to the charter of the commission must be approved by a majority vote of each of the five (5) participating governing boards (Onslow County, Pender County, North Topsail Beach, Surf City, and Topsail Beach)