

Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission

2023 Legislative Agenda and Success

Legislative Requests

1. **Support a recurring revenue source for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund** – This fund has been a critical resource for Topsail Island.
 - a. \$10M appropriated for both years of the budget for a total of \$20M non-recurring.
2. **Protect the revenue sources and ensure that adequate balances are available in the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund**
 - i. H600 2023 Technical Corrections bill which is now law contains a provision requiring more involvement from local governments with USACE memorandum of understanding projects.
 - ii. New rule proposed by DWR removes USACE rule exemption from the Shallow Draft Fund
 - iii. Provision removed from H192 2023 Wildlife Resources Changes which would have quarterly appropriated money from the Shallow Draft fund to Wildlife Resources. The grant process will continue to be used.
3. **Protect Reserve for Surf City Federal 50 Year Project** – The current state match has continued to be held in reserve until final costs have been determined for the Surf City project so that additional local costs can be covered.
4. **Work to pass state legislation to support environmental improvements**
 - a. To allow local governments to remove derelict vessels - Several local governments already have this statutory authority, and it has enabled them to remove vessels in a timely manner at a lower cost.
 - i. Sen. Lazzara and Rep. Smith both filed bills to address the derelict vessel issue. S465 Cities/Remove & Dispose of Abandoned Vessels is now law.
 - b. To eliminate the use of non-encapsulated polystyrene in our waterways
 - i. H600 which is now law which prohibits the use of non-encapsulated polystyrene effective 1/1/25
5. Continue to advocate for funding addressing island-wide resiliency projects
 - a. \$10,000,000 for Resilient Coastal Communities Program for 20 coastal counties
 - b. \$5,000,000 for Stormwater Retrofit Pilot Cost-Share Program administered by the Coastal Federation
 - c. \$500,000 non-recurring Coastal Federation debris and vessel removal
 - d. \$2,000,000 non-recurring Coastal Federation Living Shorelines