

NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program North Carolina Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of North Carolina, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.

1... ABC One-Hour Cleaners Jacksonville	
2... Charles Macon Lagoon and Drum Storage Cordova	
3... Dockery Property Cordova	
4... FCX, Inc. Washington*	
5... Geigy Chemical Corp. Aberdeen	
6... General Electric Co./Shepherd Farm East Flat Rock	
7... Koppers Co., Inc. Morrisville	
8... National Starch and Chemical Corp. Salisbury	
9... New Hanover County Airport Burn Pit Wilmington	
10... Old ATC Refinery Wilmington*	
11... Potter's Septic Tank Service Pits Maco	
12... USMC Camp Lejeune Onslow County	
13... USMC Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station Havelock	

NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with an asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN NORTH CAROLINA...

NOAA trust species in North Carolina include commercially important invertebrates such as blue crab, brown shrimp, pink shrimp, and white shrimp. Marine and estuarine species of fish include Atlantic menhaden, spotted sea trout (important game fish), summer flounder, and Southern flounder. Several species of turtles protected under the Endangered Species Act are present in North Carolina's waters, such as the green sea turtle, Kemp's ridley, and loggerhead sea turtle. Marine mammals include the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, and the harbor seal.

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures, and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of North Carolina and NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost-effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

MILITARY SITES IN NORTH CAROLINA...

North Carolina is dotted with 276 military installations and formerly used defense areas. Currently, 35 installations are addressed under Superfund (CERCLA) or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. The nature of defense-related activities involves chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent in the environment. In North Carolina, military-related contaminants of concern include VOCs, PCBs, PAHs, heavy metals, pesticides, and solvents. In 1989, the NOAA CRC program conducted a Coastal Hazardous Material Site Review for the USMC Camp Lejeune site contaminated with pesticides and PCBs. NOAA is currently involved in investigations and cleanup for this site as well as Cherry Point Marine Corps Base. NOAA's input is needed now to ensure cleanups that are protective of coastal natural resources as well as human health. NOAA offers technical expertise and a neutral perspective valued by both the military and the local public.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN NORTH CAROLINA...

The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore natural resources throughout North Carolina. The estuaries and coastal rivers and wetlands are of special concern to NOAA since they provide nursery and adult habitat for many NOAA trust species. In addition to the sport and commercially harvested species, there are endangered sea turtles and several species of marine mammals that are present in coastal areas of the state. The New, Neuse and Roanoke Rivers are of special concern to NOAA since they discharge into estuarine and coastal waters and have received hazardous waste from industrial and military activities. Additionally, the FCX, Inc. site's highly toxic contaminants may be reaching North Carolina's and NOAA trust resources through surface runoff and groundwater discharges into wetland habitat in Kennedy Creek and the Pamlico River. The upper Pamlico River provides spawning and nursery habitat for a variety of commercially important fish species.

FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in North Carolina, please contact:

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