

North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve

www.nccoastalreserve.net

A cooperative program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
the NC Division of Coastal Management





What is an Estuary?

- **Where land, rivers, the ocean and the atmosphere intersect**
- **Brackish water**
- **80% - 95% of commercial seafood species spend some part of its life cycle here**
- **There are 2 million acres of estuaries in North Carolina**



**What habitats
are found in
the
North Carolina
National
Estuarine
Research
Reserve?**



Salt Marsh

- **Salt Marsh Cordgrass**
(*Spartina alterniflora*)
- **Is the basis for the**
estuarine food web



Mud Flat

- **Changes with the tides**
- **Great habitat for snails and worms**
- **Can be really salty from the evaporating salt water**



Maritime Forest

•Unique natural areas that have a variety of different trees:

•Live Oak

•Loblolly Pine

•Southern and Red Cedars

•Rapidly disappearing due to coastal development



**What areas are
protected within
the
North Carolina
National
Estuarine
Research
Reserve?**



North Carolina's Division of Coastal Management

- The program includes the four NC National Estuarine Research Reserve sites:
 - Currituck Banks
 - Rachel Carson
 - Masonboro Island
 - Zeke's Island
- And six NC Coastal Reserve Sites:
 - Kitty Hawk Woods
 - Emily and Richardson Preyer Buckridge
 - Buxton Woods
 - Permuda Island
 - Bald Head Woods
 - Bird Island





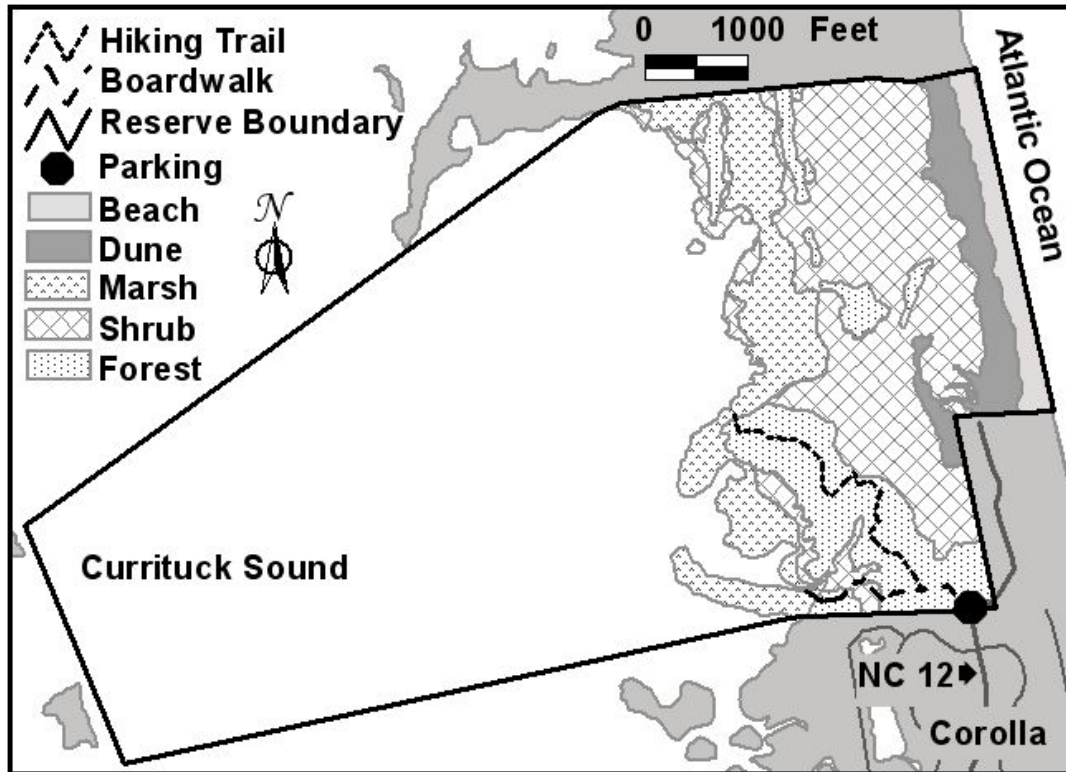
**North Carolina Coastal Reserves
including the
National Estuarine Research Reserves**



20 0 20 Kilometers

20 0 20 Miles

Map Cast in Decimal Degrees;
Prepared by NCNERR.
Draft: 16 August 2000



Currituck Banks

960 acres

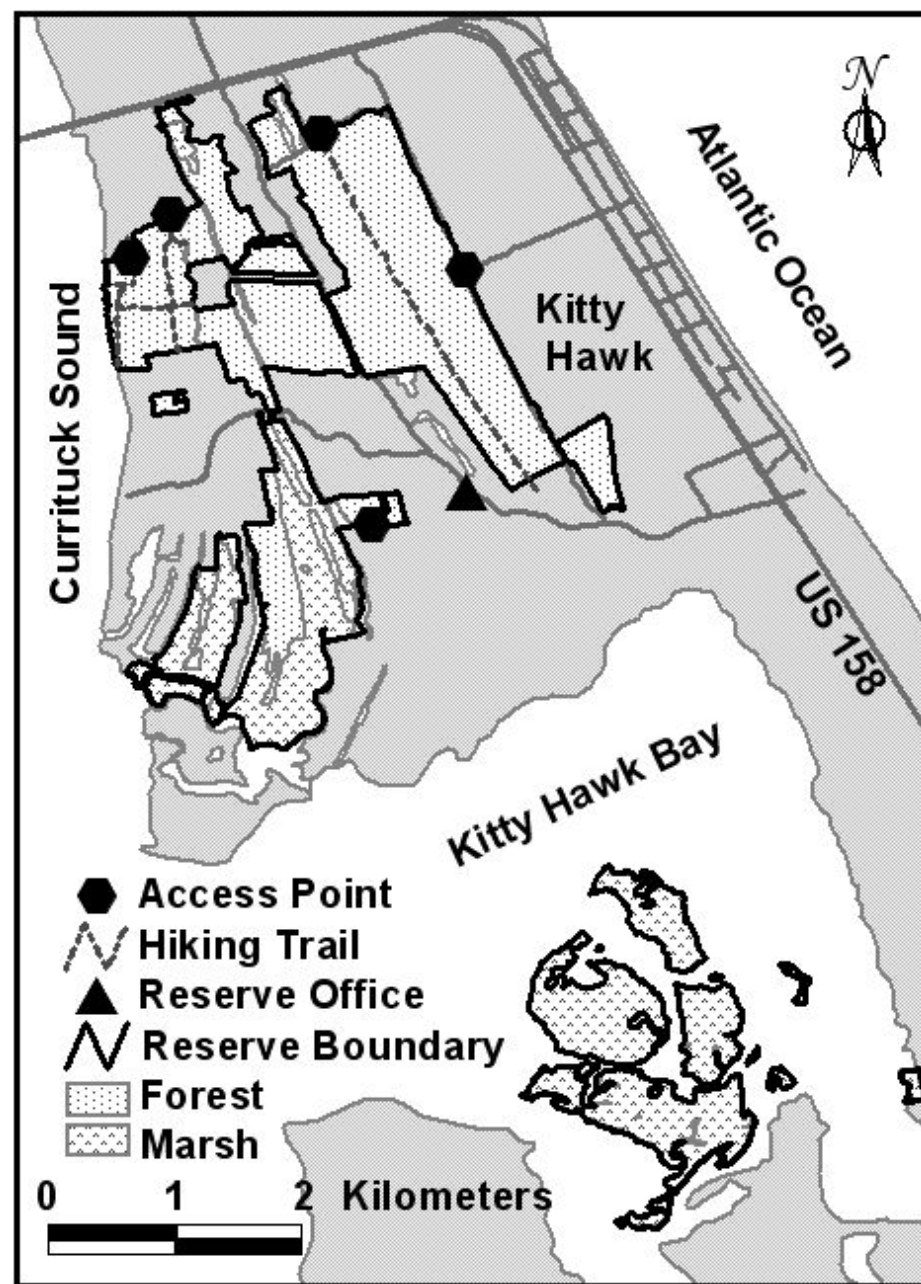
Currituck
County

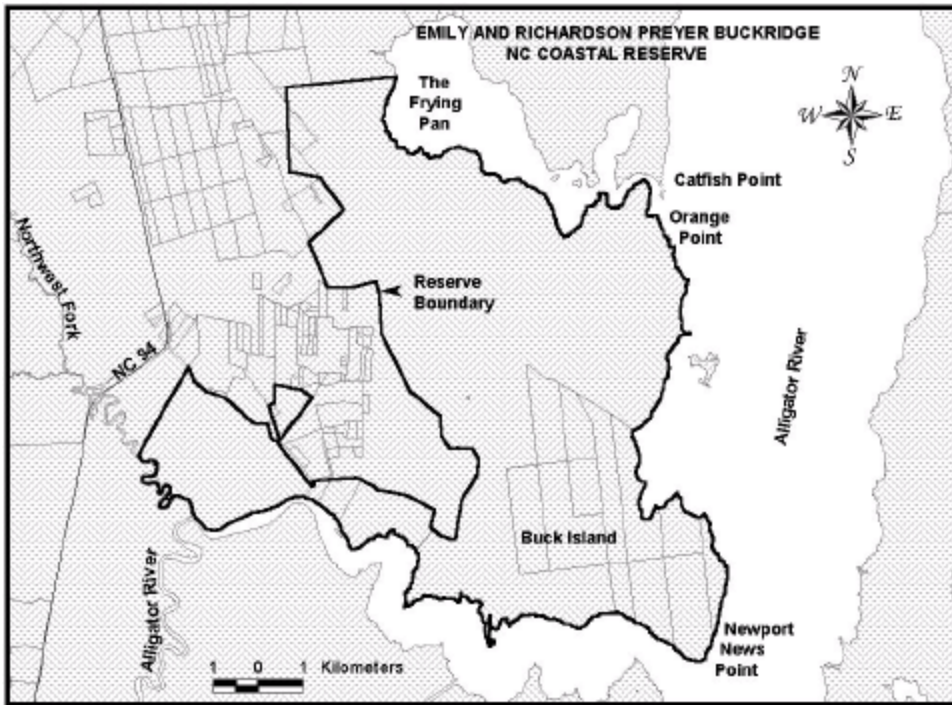


Kitty Hawk Woods

1,877 acres

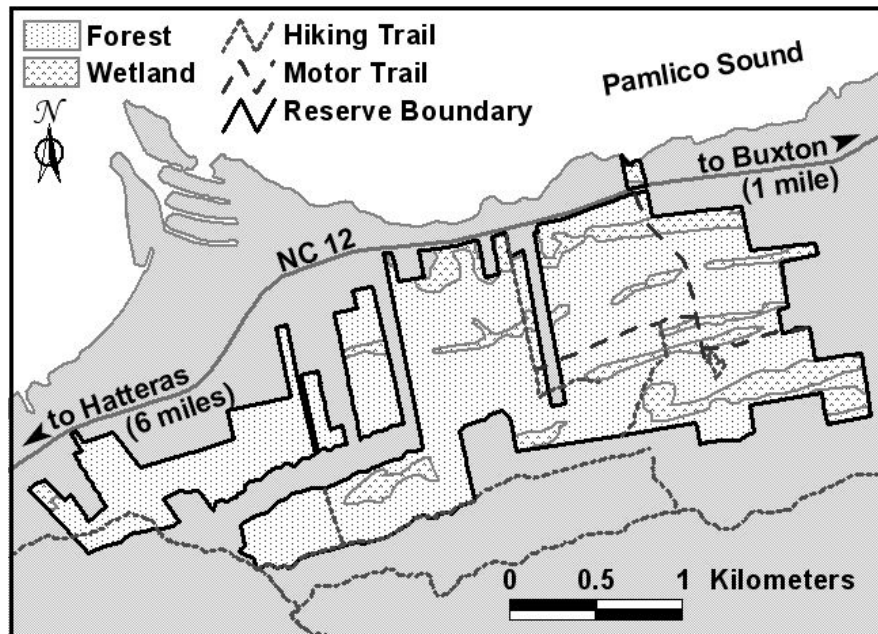
Dare County





**Emily and Richardson
Preyer Buckridge
26,000 acres
Tyrrell County**

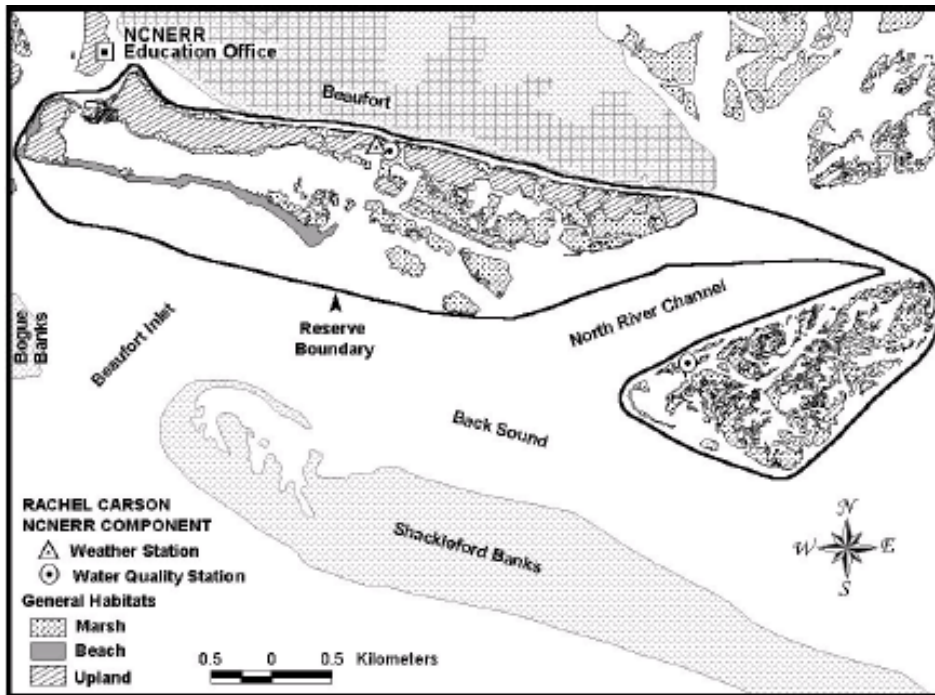




Buxton Woods

970 acres

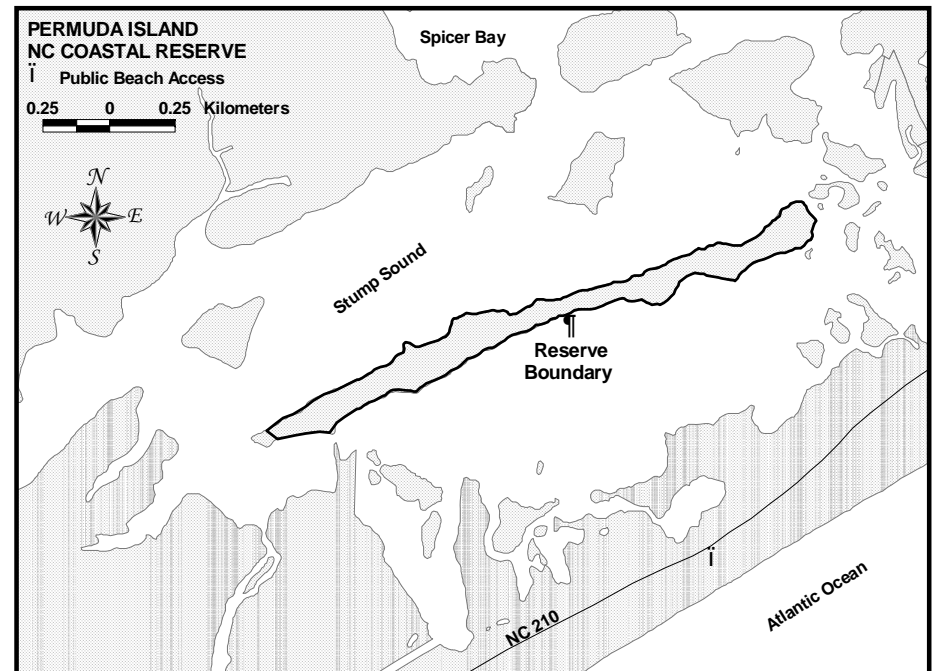
Dare County



Rachel Carson
2,675 acres
Carteret County

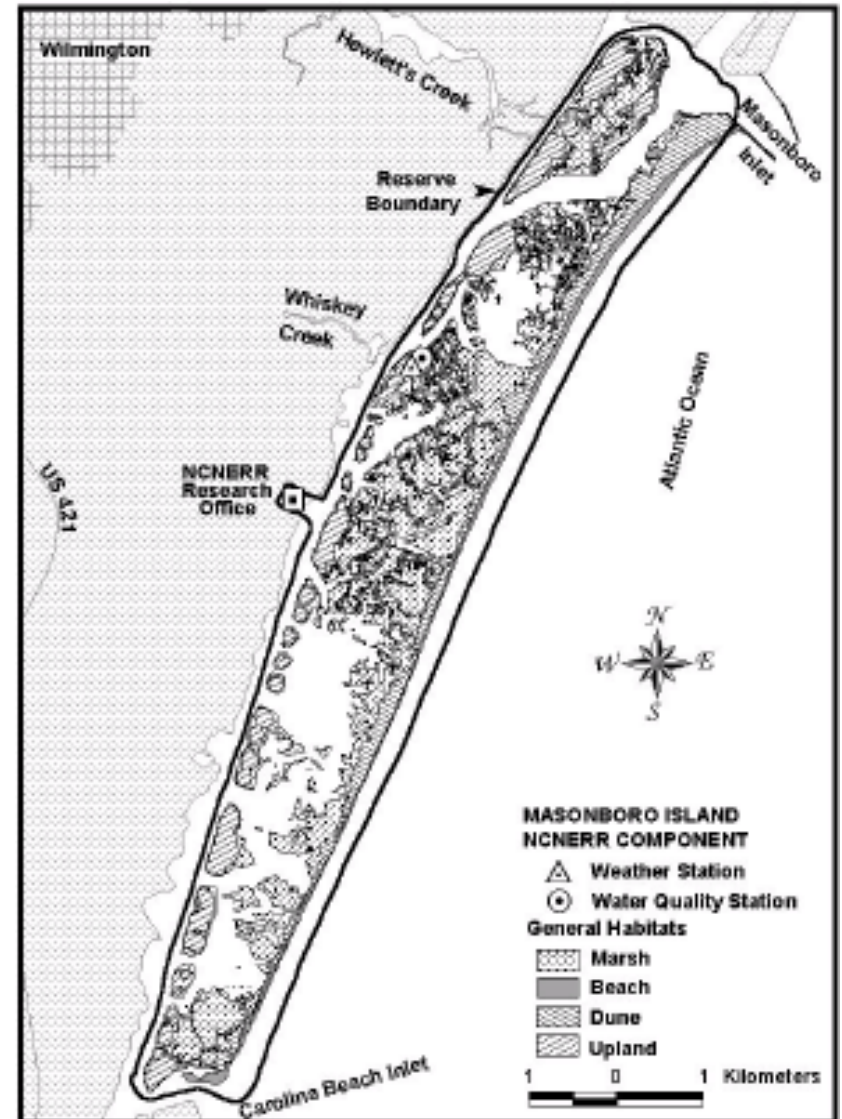


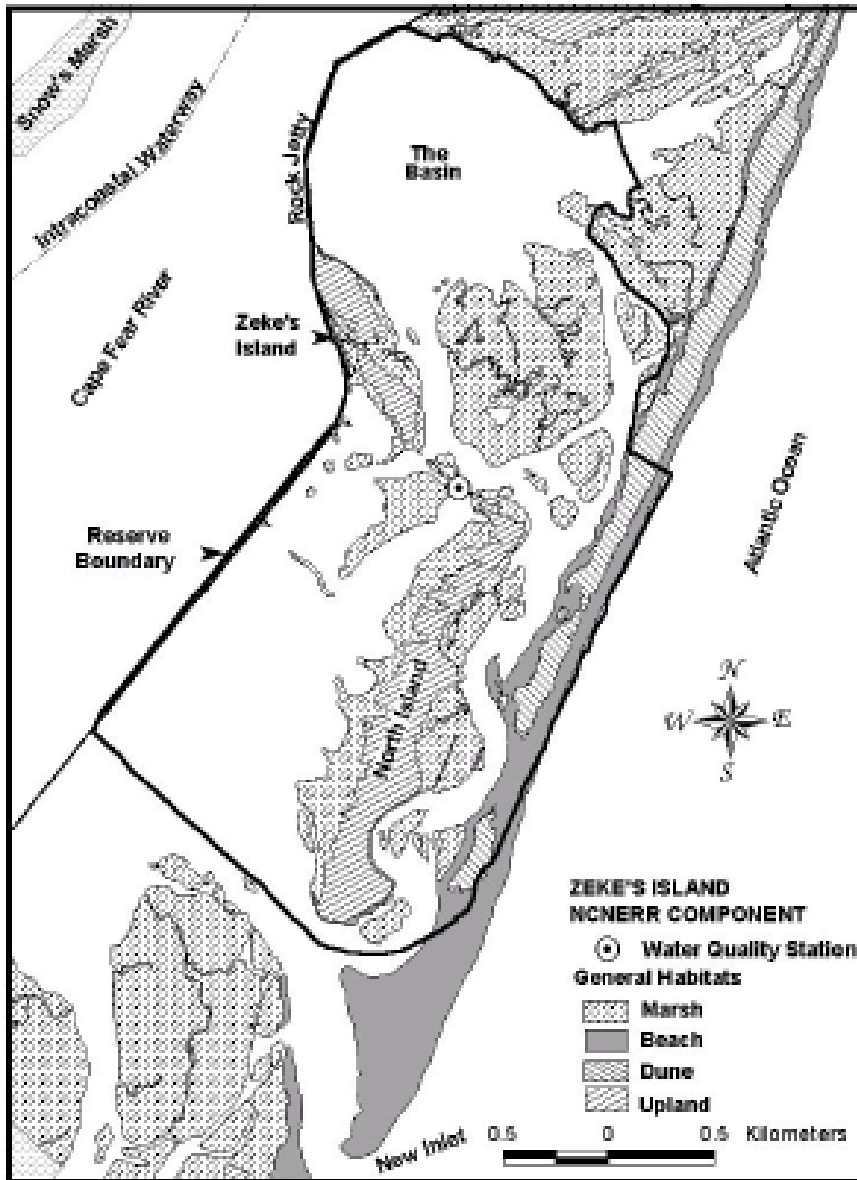
Permuda Island
50 acres
Onslow County





Masonboro Island
5,097 acres
New Hanover County



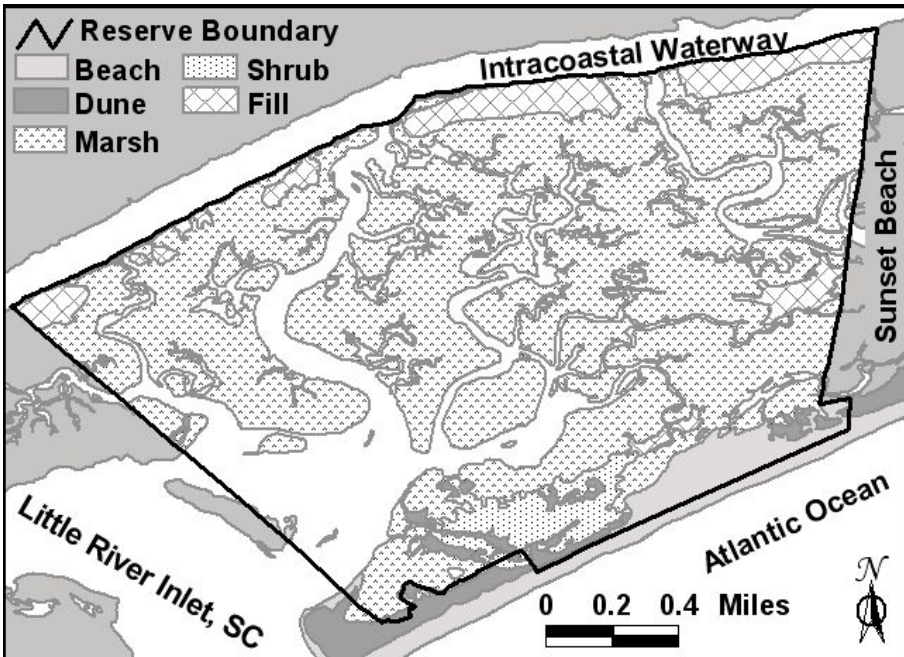


Zeke's Island
1,165 acres
New Hanover,
Brunswick Counties



Bald Head Woods
174 acres
Brunswick County





Bird Island
1,400 acres
Brunswick

Enjoy!

- No fires or camping
- Dogs must be on a leash
- Enjoy swimming, hiking, bird watching, and shelling





**Who manages
the
North Carolina
National
Estuarine
Research
Reserve?**

RESEARCH STAFF

**Dr. John Fear, Research
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**Byron Toothman, Research
Biologist**

**Heather Wells, Research
Biologist**



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Paula Gillikin, Rachel Carson Site Manger

Woody Webster, Buckridge Site Manager

Hope Sutton, Southern Sites Manager

Vacant, Northern Sites Manager



Support the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve!

Join CERF – Carolina Estuarine Reserve Foundation!



www.cerf.us