



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Estuary Restoration Act

- **Authorized under Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, and amended in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 5017**
- **Wilmington District partners with multiple non-Federal agencies**
- **Two existing grant projects under construction in North Carolina**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3, 7

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, as amended in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 5017.
2. **BACKGROUND:** The Act established an interagency council to promote a coordinated Federal approach to estuary restoration, develop effective partnerships with non-Federal sponsors, and provide financial and technical assistance for estuary habitat restoration projects. Federal agencies that participate in the program include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Restoration projects are constructed by non-Federal sponsors and cost-shared at 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal.
3. **NORTH CAROLINA ESTUARIES PROJECT:** This project is also referred to as “Restoring Coastal Estuarine Habitat in Four North Carolina Counties,” and includes four separate sites. The non-Federal sponsor is the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Sites are located in the Lockwoods Folly River, Masonboro-Myrtle Grove Sound, Stump Sound and White Oak River. A cooperative agreement was signed in 2013 and construction began in 2014. To date, two of four sites are completely constructed. Due to the need of warm water for construction, the Masonboro-Myrtle Grove Sound and Stump Sound sites are scheduled to be constructed over the summer of 2015. The total project will construct 9.3 acres of intertidal, shallow patch oyster reefs, and 1.24 acres of shoreline salt marsh habitat. The project also consists of 5 years of post-construction monitoring.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Estuary Restoration Act – Continued

4. **LITTLE CREEK OYSTER SANCTUARY:** The project is located in the lower Neuse River in the Pamlico Sound, where a total of 10 acres of oyster reefs will be constructed. The non-Federal sponsor is the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries. A cooperative agreement was executed in late 2014, and pending completed environmental coordination, the construction is scheduled to take place over the summer of 2015.