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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Awards the NC Coastal Federation \$300,000 Grant to Protect Coast

Ocean, NC – The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has awarded a \$300,000 grant to the North Carolina Coastal Federation to continue its work protecting the coast in the coming year. The funds will be used for operating support and to help continue Federation programs, including shoreline, wetland and oyster restoration projects; the Coastkeeper Program; and the education program. The Foundation made its first grant to the Coastal Federation in 1985.

“The Foundation is pleased to continue support of the Coastal Federation. We have a long history with the Federation and we’re proud of their work that spans the state’s coast. Each year they engage more people in projects and decision-making, resulting in a healthier coastal environment,” stated Judge Tom Ross, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Executive Director.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In that year, the brother and two sisters of Z. Smith Reynolds, R. J. Reynolds, Jr., Mary Reynolds Babcock, and Nancy Susan Reynolds Bagley, provided that their inheritance from his estate would go to the establishment of a trust for the benefit of the people of North Carolina. One of the initial trustees of the Foundation was Z. Smith Reynolds’ uncle, William Neal Reynolds, who at his death in 1951 created a trust that now provides a portion of the Foundation’s annual income.

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In its history, the Foundation, as the beneficiary of the income from the Zachary Smith Reynolds Trust and the W. N. Reynolds Trust, has now made grants totaling more than \$375 million to recipients in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. The Foundation currently gives special attention to certain focus areas: community economic development; the environment; democracy and civic engagement; pre-collegiate education; and social justice and equity.

Coastal Federation executive director Todd Miller explained the importance of the recent gift: "The Foundation recognizes the importance of providing support for the day-to-day operations of the organization. It is not an overstatement to say that the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has been a catalyst for the Federation's growth over the years," Miller stated. "Anyone who cares for our North Carolina coast will appreciate the Foundation's dedicated generosity. We truly appreciate their continued support of our work."

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's largest nonprofit organization that is focused on the restoration and protection of the coast's natural resources. Its headquarters are in Ocean, NC and it has field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information about the Coastal Federation visit its website at www.nccoast.org, call 252-393-8185 or visit its headquarters at 3609 Highway 24 in Ocean Monday through Friday.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation: "Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast"

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) is the state's largest nonprofit organization working to restore and protect the coast. NCCF headquarters are located at 3609 Highway 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The headquarters include NCCF's main offices, the Cape Lookout Coastkeeper office, a gift shop, Nature Library, Weber Seashell Exhibit, Learning Center, and adjoining nature trail. The NCCF also operates field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org