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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Down East Meeting: Our Waters at Risk

Ocean, N.C. – Residents of eastern Carteret County can learn about the health of local rivers and creeks at a community meeting Thursday, May 8, at Smyrna Elementary School.

Sponsored by the N.C. Coastal Federation, the “Our Waters at Risk” meeting is the first of two that the group will hold in Carteret County. The other is planned for May 20 at Western Park Community Center in Cedar Point. Both are free and open to the public and begin at 7:00 p.m.

At the Smyrna meeting, Dr. Joe Ramus, a professor emeritus at the Duke University Marine Lab near Beaufort, and Shannon Jenkins with the N.C. Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section will describe what polluted runoff can do to coastal waters and the effects it has had on North River, Core Sound and other waters Down East.

Todd Kelly of the Carteret County Water and Soil Conservation District will describe a new program that helps homeowners pay for methods to control stormwater around their homes. Margie Misenheimer, a Gloucester resident and a teacher at Smyrna school, will explain how people can get involved in community projects to control stormwater.

Frank Tursi, the federation’s Cape Lookout Coastkeeper, will demystify the state’s new rules to control polluted runoff in the coastal counties, debunk some of the myths surrounding the rules and describe ways people can show their support for clean coastal waters.

“The meeting is a great opportunity for the people of Down East to learn about polluted runoff and what it might be doing to the creeks in their backyards,” Tursi said. “They’ll also have a chance to learn the truth about the new stormwater rules and how they can support cleaning up our coastal waters.”

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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 only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. 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, ShoreKeeper 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