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## **Photo Contest to Feature Coastal Landscapes**

**Ocean, N.C.** –The N.C. Coastal Federation and Emerald Isle Realty are calling all photographers to take their best shot and submit it to their 2009 digital photo contest. "Protecting Our Threatened Landscapes" is the theme of this year's contest. Photographers are invited to submit a digital photo of the place they most want to see protected along the North Carolina coast.

Todd Miller, the federation's executive director explained: "All around our coast are really special places that aren't adequately protected. We want people to focus on these areas to illustrate just how much more work there is to be done to adequately safeguard our coastal treasures."

Several cash prizes will be awarded, including \$500 for the first-place winner. Finalists may also have their photo published in the 2009 *State of the Coast Report*. The contest is open to photographers 18 and older, and the deadline for submitting photographs is April 15. For more information, rules and an entry form, please visit <u>www.nccoast.org</u>.

"There are so many beautiful places along the North Carolina coast – our beaches, rivers, sounds and wetlands are spectacular. But if we are to continue to enjoy these special places, and if our grandchildren are to enjoy them, we must find ways to protect them", said Julia Wax, owner of Emerald Isle Realty. "Our photo contest is a great way to draw attention to these unique treasures."

The N.C. Coastal Federation 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. Its headquarters and Central Regional Office are at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro. The federation also has a Northeast Regional Office in Manteo and a Southeast Regional Office in Wilmington. For more information call 252-393-8185 or visit the federation's website at <a href="https://www.nccoast.org">www.nccoast.org</a>