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# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Rally in Raleigh for Clean Coastal Water

**Ocean, NC** – The N.C. Coastal Federation is sponsoring a rally on the Legislative Mall in Raleigh June 4 to support new state rules to control polluted runoff that are under attack from powerful special interests.

“These rules may be the most important coastal environmental regulations since passage of the Coastal Area Management Act in the 1970s,” noted Frank Tursi, the federation’s Cape Lookout Coastkeeper. “They offer hope that we can finally control stormwater, which has a devastating effect on coastal waters. But powerful moneyed interests are lining up against them. It’s time for regular people to tell legislators that they care about our coast.”

The N.C. Environmental Management Commission (EMC) passed new rules earlier this year to replace existing coastal stormwater rules that state regulators acknowledged in 2005 had failed to protect water quality. More than 100,000 acres of shellfishing waters, which are among the most sensitive in the state, have been polluted with bacteria found in runoff since EMC passed the existing rules in 1987. Runoff also triggers swimming advisories on N.C. beaches every year.

The stronger rules are scheduled to take effect Aug. 1 unless the N.C. General Assembly intervenes. Lobbyists for home builders, Realtors, developers and other special interests have been working to get the rules killed or delayed. Twelve legislators have already introduced a bill to kill the rules. They include Rep. Pryor Gibson, a builder from Anson County; Rep. Marilyn Avila of Wake County; Rep. Curtis Blackwood of Union County; Rep. Bill Daughtridge of Nash County; Rep. Phillip Frye of Avery County; Rep. Jim Gulley of Mecklenburg County; Rep. Linda Johnson of Cabarrus County; and Rep. Ric Killian of Mecklenburg County.

“Some of these lobbyists are among the most powerful and well-financed in the state,” Tursi said. “We can’t hope to match them dollar-for-dollar, but we can fill the mall in Raleigh with ordinary people who care about what happens to our coastal waters.”

Participants will meet at the federation tent on the mall behind the Legislative Building on Jones Street. They will be joined by coastal residents who will arrive on chartered buses from Wilmington, Manteo and Morehead City. All will be briefed about the new rules and then will have an opportunity to speak to their legislators.

After a seafood lunch on the mall, the federation will release its annual *State of the Coast Report*, which this year focuses on stormwater, and recognize the exemplary environmental stewardship of people all over the state who have won this year's Pelican Awards.

The federation's website, [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org), contains more about the rally and plenty of factual information about the stormwater rules, including a Myth Buster Chart that corrects many of the inaccuracies that opponents have used to fight the rules. Call the federation at 252-393-8185 to reserve a lunch ticket, which costs \$5.

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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](http://www.nccoast.org)*