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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Distinguished Geologist Stan Riggs to Speak on Sea Level Rise

Kill Devil Hills, N.C. — Dr. Stanley Riggs, a professor emeritus at East Carolina University and a distinguished research geologist, will be the featured speaker at a free seminar on climate change and sea level rise on North Carolina's coast on Wednesday, April 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the First Flight High School auditorium in Kill Devil Hills.

The thin barrier islands of the Outer Banks are especially susceptible to sea level rise, which is expected to accelerate as a result of the world's warming climate. Because of the low profile of the mainland in northeast North Carolina, the effects of sea level rise are also expected to be felt far inland.

Dr. Riggs will present his conclusions about the potential toll of sea level rise, based on his four decades of research. He will discuss specific management issues, such as beach nourishment, sand bag regulations, proposed legislation for terminal groins in N.C. inlets, the replacement of the Oregon Inlet Bridge, and the maintenance of N.C. 12 through weak island segments, including Pea Island, lower Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island. His message is that it's crucial to make wise decisions about protecting such infrastructure to protect the local economy and preserve natural coastal resources.

A long-time faculty member at East Carolina University, Dr. Riggs specializes in coastal and marine geology and has more than 40 years of research experience, much of it focused on modern coastal systems. His study area extends from inland river, lake and pocosin environments to estuarine and barrier island systems and seaward across the continental shelf. He has conducted numerous long-term research programs, including a detailed study of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. He has also worked throughout the US Atlantic Coast and in many of the world's coastal regions.

The workshop is part of the N.C. Coastal Federation's new adult forum environmental education series and is free and open to the public.

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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