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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2008

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Public Hearing Next Week on Down East Permit

Ocean, N.C. – People will have an opportunity next week to hear what is being planned for a major subdivision and marina in eastern Carteret County and to voice their concerns about the potential environmental effects of a private sewer plant that developers are proposing for the subdivision.

The public hearing by the N.C. Division of Water Quality will be Tuesday, June 3, at East Carteret High School, starting at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to get the public's comments on a draft state sewer permit for Marina Village at Snug Harbor, a 62-lot subdivision and marina on Salters Creek near Stacy. The proposed subdivision two years ago sparked a grassroots movement for better development rules Down East.

Developers of the project in December applied for a state permit to build a private sewer plant to treat 100,000 gallons of sewage a day. The applicants intend to apply the treated sewage on land they own across U.S. 70 from the proposed subdivision.

The N.C. Coastal Federation and Down East Tomorrow, a local citizens group, asked the state to hold the public hearing because of the public interest in the project and the size of the proposed sewer plant.

"A plant that size could service several hundred houses and the applicant owns several thousand acres in the area," explained Frank Tursi, the federation's Cape Lookout Coastkeeper. "If he's got larger plans, this would be the time to lay them out."

The cumulative environmental effects of any future development that the sewer plant may spawn need to be considered before the permit is approved, Tursi said.

The creation of the Snug Harbor marina two years ago sparked general concern about future growth Down East. More than a thousand people attended public meetings on growth issues. Hundreds signed petitions urging the Carteret County Board of Commissioners to declare a building moratorium on high-density development until more protective rules were

enacted. The commissioners refused, opting instead for a weak “conservation” ordinance that had no public input and has done little to stem the tide of development.

“Wisely, the state has called a time out for this project,” Tursi said. “Instead of rushing to approve this permit and potentially change the character of Down East, state regulators decided to take the time to more fully evaluate all the possible effects and to listen to what people have to say. The meeting will also be an opportunity for the people of Down East to find out what’s going on.”

For more information, including the federation and Down East Tomorrow’s letter asking for the hearing, see the federation website at www.nccoast.org. The state will accept comment on the permit until June 17.

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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