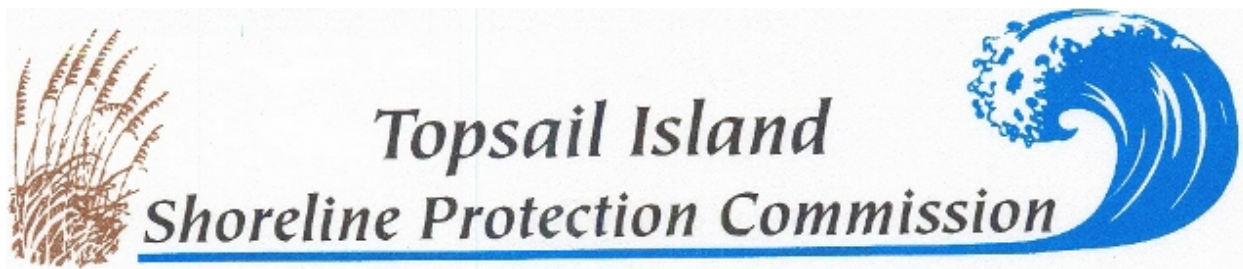


2018 Advocate Program Guide

January, 2018

North Carolina Legislature

- Island Wide - Protect funding and explore the expand use of the Shallow Draft Inlet Fund
 - The Shallow Draft Inlet Fund moves sand out of inlets where shoaling occurs just like snowplows and salt brine remove snow from highways.
 - Surf City - a possible source for Surf City.
- Island Wide - Help find permanent sources of funding for the authorized NC Coastal Storm Mitigation Fund that will allow beach nourishment for municipalities such as Surf City that do not qualify for Shallow Draft Funds as well as provide an additional funding source for other Topsail Island towns.
 - Educate NC Legislators on the importance of coastal storm mitigation in relation to protecting property values and shorelines.
- Island Wide - Work on passage of property insurance legislation to reduce and control the high property and flood insurance rates for Topsail property owners.
 - Educate NC Legislators and the NC Insurance Commissioner that the proposed drastic increases in homeowners insurance in coastal areas is unwarranted since risk for this type of protection is no greater than any other area of the state.
 - Coordinate with the NC Homebuilders Association to educate the NC Congressional Delegation about downstream effects on the loss of Community Rating System (CRS) discounts for flood insurance and hence higher rates.
- Island Wide - Assist with needed legislation and funding for hardened structures.
 - North Topsail Beach – Funding for terminal groin.
 - Topsail Beach – Funding for the investigation of the possible use at New Topsail Inlet of a harden structure to reduce the rate of shoaling in the inlet.
- Island Wide – Encourage the NC Division of Coastal Management to develop a management plan for sound-side flooding as the rise in sea level will adversely affect salt marsh environments, utility infrastructure, and roads along with property damage to low-lying structures.
- Island Wide – Notify TISPC of any legislation that could impact Topsail Island activities on the ocean, inlet and sound.
 - Topsail Beach – Provide insight regarding dune protection regulations
 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2016 - Encourage the Coastal Resources Commission to amend the sediment criteria rule to exempt sediment from cape shoal systems.
 - Without this amendment, fine-grain sand particles less than 0.21 inches could be used from cape shoals for beach nourishment with the likelihood of only short-term beach preservation.
 - May need to provide comment on this legislation once we understand details.



2018 Advocate Program Guide

United States Congress

- North Topsail Beach – Continue to facilitate the changes to CRBA mapping as Congressional bills move through sub-committee hearings.
- Topsail Beach – Seek support from our Congressional Delegation as well as other coastal states, congressional delegations for legislation that would allow the use of sand from inlet CRBA areas for beach nourishment.
- Island Wide – Obtain federal funding and/or removal of 7-year sunset clause from approved federal beach nourishment projects (Surf City/North Topsail Beach & Topsail Beach).
 - Our federal advocate has made our case to the USACE Administration Officials in Washington and the good cost benefit ratio in putting our federal projects forward. Our projects were ranked in the top five in the Southeastern district. Secondly, one in five new construction starts by USACE has been designation for coastal storm mitigation, thus there is some optimism that one or both of our island federal projects will be funded in 2018 so continued work on this goal should be emphasized.
- Island Wide – We need total NC congressional delegations committed to supporting programs for coastal management – We believe we are responsible for a national park; as we have visitors from all states using our coast. It is important that both NC Senators and NC Representatives are seen supporting NC coastal programs.
- Island Wide – Investigate and promote the idea that the shallow draft inlets, the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway and beach shorelines are major infrastructure components of our national transportation system and storm mitigation barrier that should be maintained when legislation is written for the National Infrastructure Restoration bill.
- Assist with education of NC congressional delegation of impact of current Community Rating System (CRS) is having on flood insurance cost and possible impact in other areas.
- Island Wide: Notify TISPC of any legislation that could impact Topsail Island activities on the ocean, inlet and sound.