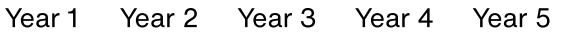
2026 CHPP Implementation



Applying the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment approach to assess the status and trends of coastal habitats

- Establish internal working group to establish goals of an ecosystem assessment and state ecosystem report card.
- Conduct workshop with stakeholders, scientists and managers to select ecosystem indicators and establish appropriate thresholds.
- Calculate scores and create a state report card that is easily accessible to a wide audience.
- Communicate status and trends of coastal ecosystems to stakeholders, decisionmakers, and the public.

Strategic Habitat Area validation and implementation

- Explore feasibility of using DMF independent sampling data to validate SHAs for Albemarle Sound and Pamlico Sound regions
- Develop issue paper that presents validation of Strategic Habitat Areas statewide and propose designation options to the MFC
- Establish internal working group to develop management options for Strategic Habitat Areas.
- Conduct a workshop with state partners to further establish potential management strategies.
- Complete a SHA management issue paper and present management options to the appropriate commissions and external partners.

Submerged aquatic vegetation protection and restoration

- Prioritize progress on the recommended actions from the 2021 CHPP amendment to improve water quality for SAV, especially by collaborating to facilitate the passage and implementation of a water clarity standard to protect SAV.
- Initiate formal MFC rulemaking process to develop a CHPP habitat-based rule framework
- Work group to explore barriers to on-the-ground SAV restoration and identify research needs

Thin layer placement (TLP)

- Create a state-wide multi-agency workgroup to progress TLP to facilitate establishment of best practices for TLP specific to North Carolina.
- Evaluate the status and trends of wetlands across coastal North Carolina, incorporating high-resolution land cover data obtained through the 2021 CHPP.
- Leverage existing tools and data sources to identify candidate areas that may benefit most from TLP.