

NC Division of Coastal Management

NC Dept. of Environmental Quality

Division of Coastal Management

Legislation Update

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August 26, 2026



Session Law 20264-41 (Budget Bill)



Enacted on July 7, 2026

- Beach and Inlet Management Plan
- Coastal Reserve Program
- Resilient Coastal Communities Program

Beach and Inlet Management Plan Amendment



Budget Bill

- 10 years old
- Allocated \$373,884
- DCM has started discussions on project timelines and is coordinating with DWR and DEMLR
- DCM is finalizing the Request for Proposals and will issue soon
 - Awarded party will engage nongovernmental organizations

Coastal Reserve Program



Budget Bill

- Expands CRC's authority
- Adds CRC as an additional custodian of the Reserve program that are designated state nature preserves
- Provides \$200,000 for site management

Note: Coastal Reserve Rules are presently in the Periodic Review process and will propose an adoption timeline at your October meeting

Resilient Coastal Communities Program



Budget Bill

- Converts two time-limited RCCP positions into permanent, state-funded roles

Note: Since its launch, RCCP has supported 60 coastal communities, identified more than 300 resilience projects, and advanced engineering, design, and implementation efforts that reduce flood risk and strengthen community resilience.



Session Law 2025-48 (Ratified on June 26, 2025)



Clarifying Estuarine Waters AEC under CAMA

Amends the definition of estuarine waters under CAMA by excluding man-made ditches, canals, ponds, and similar features from Areas of Environmental Concern (AECs). This legislation removes such features from CAMA and Dredge and Fill permitting jurisdiction, thereby exempting development activities in these areas from CRC oversight.

DCM's proposed amendments to address this Session Law were approved at your June 2026 meeting and the fiscal analysis will be presented for your approval



Session Law 2025-48 (Ratified on June 26, 2025)



Upland Basin Permitting Reform

- Introduced significant changes to the permitting process for upland basin marinas including the authorization to excavate coastal wetlands for upland basin construction
- Eliminates of the 30-foot vegetated buffer along newly created marina basin shorelines. However, the buffer requirement remains in place for non-basin shorelines.
- Reduces the permitting review time from 75 days to 60 days.

DCM staff will provide potential rule amendments to address this Session Law