



SHORELINES – April 2008

As presented to the *Island Review* Magazine

The Carteret County Coastal Mapping Portal **"www.protectthebeachmaps.com"**

When preparing the *Shorelines* article every month, we try to keep the propaganda factor to a minimum and stick just to the facts. However this month, you'll be glad to get a healthy dose of both with the announcement of Carteret County's on-line Coastal Mapping Portal at "[www . protect the beach maps . com](http://www.protectthebeachmaps.com)". This is a perfect tool if you're even mildly interested in data pertaining to shoreline positions, public access, turtle nests, artificial reefs, and anything and everything beach, but think the information is stuck somewhere on a desk and would be almost impossible to review in any sense of order.

The Mapping Portal is a web-based, geographic-information-system (GIS) enabling web-users like all of us to select, manipulate, and manage coastal data of our choosing. As mentioned above, information concerning beach nourishment, shoreline positions over time, parking & access locations, artificial reefs and shipwrecks, and even historical hurricane tracks can be accessed utilizing a familiar "folder drop-down" menu format. Computer display features such as zoom, pan, polygon select, rulers, and others are also available.

The Mapping Portal is the first of its kind in N.C. by gathering a wide array of historical coastal information, referencing the data to a common baseline, and creating a web-based geographic information platform for public use. There are other websites that provide access to "real-time" information, such as data transmitted from deep sea buoys or standing platforms, but www.protectthebeachmaps.com takes this general concept and applies it to archiving and displaying historical data.

The development of the Mapping Portal was almost two years in the making, and the website development team (Geodynamics, LLC) is locally owned and operated. Collectively, we placed a high priority on functionality and ensured the website is easy to use. The homepage includes a tutorial and glossary of useful terms that can be accessed even before entering the Mapping Portal. The screen grab accompanying this article is just a quick example of the data display and what types of information can be readily accessed. Enjoy and we hope this will become your "one-stop shop" for coastal data in Carteret County!

Carteret County's Coastal Mapping Portal - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.protectthebeachmaps.com/website/SPO/viewer

Carteret County's Coastal Mapping Portal

Obtain Data
Toggle
Zoom
Move
Misc
Select

HELP
Zoom In

0 0.1728 Miles

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Beach Access Points

Rec	Feature ID	Object ID	Place	Access Location	Location Info.	Access ID	Local Sponsor	Sign	Parking	Street Parking	Free Parking	Rate/Hour	Dune Walk	Overlook	Handicapped Dune	Handicapped Overlook	Ha
1	79	443	Emerald Isle	Park Drive	HWY 58 (3000 block in EI)	Eastern Regional Access - Site of the Old EI Pier (EI-		Yes	245	No	0	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nc

Refresh Map
 Auto Refresh

Internet | Protected Mode: Off 100%

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A "screen grab" of the new Coastal Mapping Portal at WWW . PROTECT THE BEACH MAPS . COM – a public geographic-information-system website. Emerald Isle's eastern regional access (site of the proposed Aquarium Pier) is located in the middle of the page. The "shorelines", "cultural sites" (e.g., shipwrecks), and "beach access" layers have been turned on. The "beach access" layer is active with information concerning particular accesses located at the bottom of the screen grab.