



SHORELINES – May 2008

As presented to the *Island Review* Magazine

- 2008 "State of the Beach" Report Released -

Just a few weeks ago, we released our "2008 State of the Beach Report". The assessment report is an eight-page color summary highlighting major sources of beach gains and losses along our County's and central North Carolina's only developed barrier island for both the 2007 calendar year and from a more longer-range, historical perspective. As you may remember, the 2008 report follows an inaugural effort in 2007, and is also now available electronically at

<http://www.protectthebeach.com/images/stateofthebeach2008.pdf>.

The report again utilizes crisp graphics and easy-to-comprehend text boxes to create an engaging and informational read as the chairman of the County's Beach Commission, William "Buck" Fugate explained in a press release;

"It's always good to pause and reflect on the processes affecting our beaches and what the community has done in the past year to sustain the recreational, environmental, and economic viability of the sandy shorelines of Bogue Banks. The State of the Beach report encapsulates these activities. We had a terrific response to last year's inaugural report and with a couple of nourishment projects constructed last year, dynamic shoreline changes at our inlets, and legal action against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers all transpiring in 2007; the report has a lot to offer. We also have a new initiative that has been a year and a half in the making that we're pleased to announce too."

The "new initiative" chairman Fugate mentioned above is the new internet-based coastal mapping portal at www.protectthebeachmaps.com, which was highlighted in last month's *Island Review* (April 2008). The mapping portal runs on a web-based geographic information system platform and allows users to select and manipulate data of their choosing, such as shoreline positions, parking & access, beach nourishment reaches, turtle nests, etc.



BOGUE BANKS 2008 State of the Beach Report



Fig. 1 – Site vicinity map of the North Carolina coast with a detailed illustration of the ~25-mile long island of Bogue Banks, located in Carteret County and bordered by Beaufort and Bogue Inlets, located east and west of the island, respectively.

The 2008 State of the Beach Report summarizes and quantifies the events of 2007 that had the largest signature on beach erosion and accretion, and other coastal management issues influencing the ~25-mile long island of Bogue Banks (Fig. 1). With respect to "sand deficits," despite a relatively quiescent 2007 hurricane season, dredging practices at the Morehead City Harbor Federal Navigation Project continue to have a significant, adverse impact on Bogue Banks. This annual report is prepared by the Carteret County Shore Protection Office and County Beach Commission, which function in a format similar to a "Town Council – Town Manager" style of government – a relatively new and unique coastal management approach implemented in North Carolina.



Over 10,000 copies of the report were printed and distributed throughout the County at local venues. We hope you have time review the entire assessment report, and please don't be shy with your thoughts – let us know your reaction so we can refine and improve next year's effort.