

Division of Coastal Management Update



NCBIWA Spring Meeting
May 8, 2025
Heather Coats



**Mission: To protect, conserve, and manage
N.C.'s coastal resources through an
integrated program of planning, permitting,
education, and research.**



NC Coastal Area Management Act (1974)



- **Balance competing coastal pressures** through development permitting
- **Local/state partnership** to addresses coastal growth and related issues
- **Enhance public access** to beaches and coastal waters
- Created the **NC Coastal Management Program**: Coastal Resources Commission, Coastal Resources Advisory Council, and Division of Coastal Management (DEQ)

North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

Regulatory Section

- 4 District Offices; Local Permitting Officers

Policy and Planning Section

- Policy Development
- Land Use Planning
- Community Resilience
- Waterfront Access Grants
- Strategic Planning & Coordination

Coastal Reserve Program

- 10 Coastal Reserve Sites



NC Coastal Resources Commission

- **13 members** appointed by the Governor, General Assembly, CoI
- Membership includes **local gov't, fishing, forestry, wildlife, land development/coastal property owner, engineering/science, or at-large**
- Designates “**Areas of Environmental Concern**”
- Establishes policies and rules under the CAMA



Credit: NC DCM

NC Coastal Resources Advisory Council

- 20 members appointed by CRC
- Provide local information and insights from coastal communities to the CRAC, CRC and DCM
- Take information regarding the work of the CRAC and CRC back to their communities
- Provide technical expertise on issues relating to the CRC's work
- Develop recommendations on policy/rule initiatives at direction of CRC





CRC Science Panel Charge

- 1) Perform 5-year re-evaluation of IHA methods and boundaries, incorporating data collected since the 2018 study.
- 2) Evaluate end-point and linear regression methods for calculating oceanfront shoreline change rates.
- 3) Present draft report(s) to CRC, including proposed IHA boundaries and erosion rates, 2025.

POLICY & PLANNING SECTION



Public Beach and Waterfront Access Grants

2024-2025 Cycle

\$2.4 M in available funding (normal year ~\$1M)

Pre-application period ended April 25th

21 applications received totaling \$4.2 M

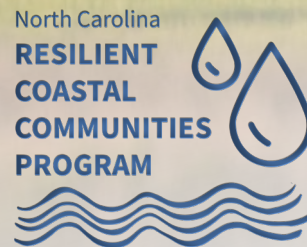
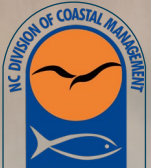
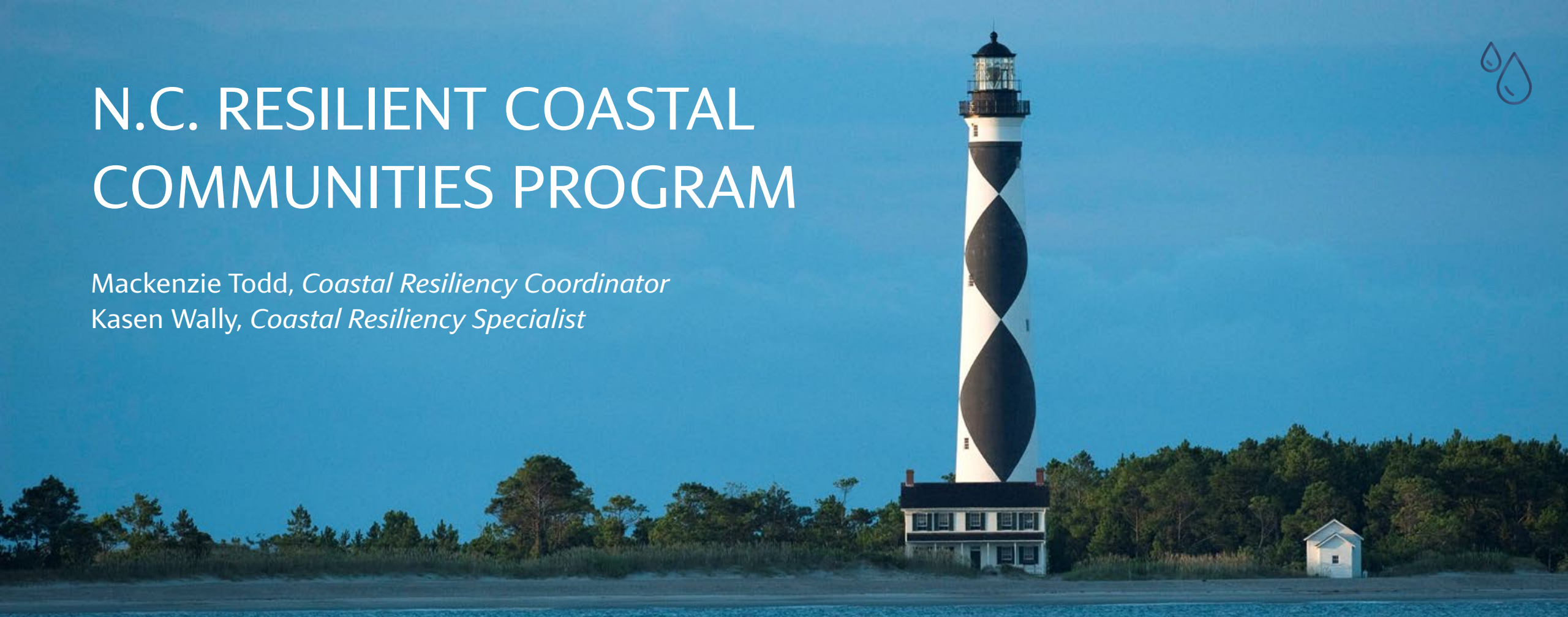
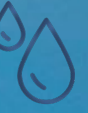
Undergoing review – selected applicants will be invited to submit a final application.

2025-2026 Cycle starts February 2026



N.C. RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

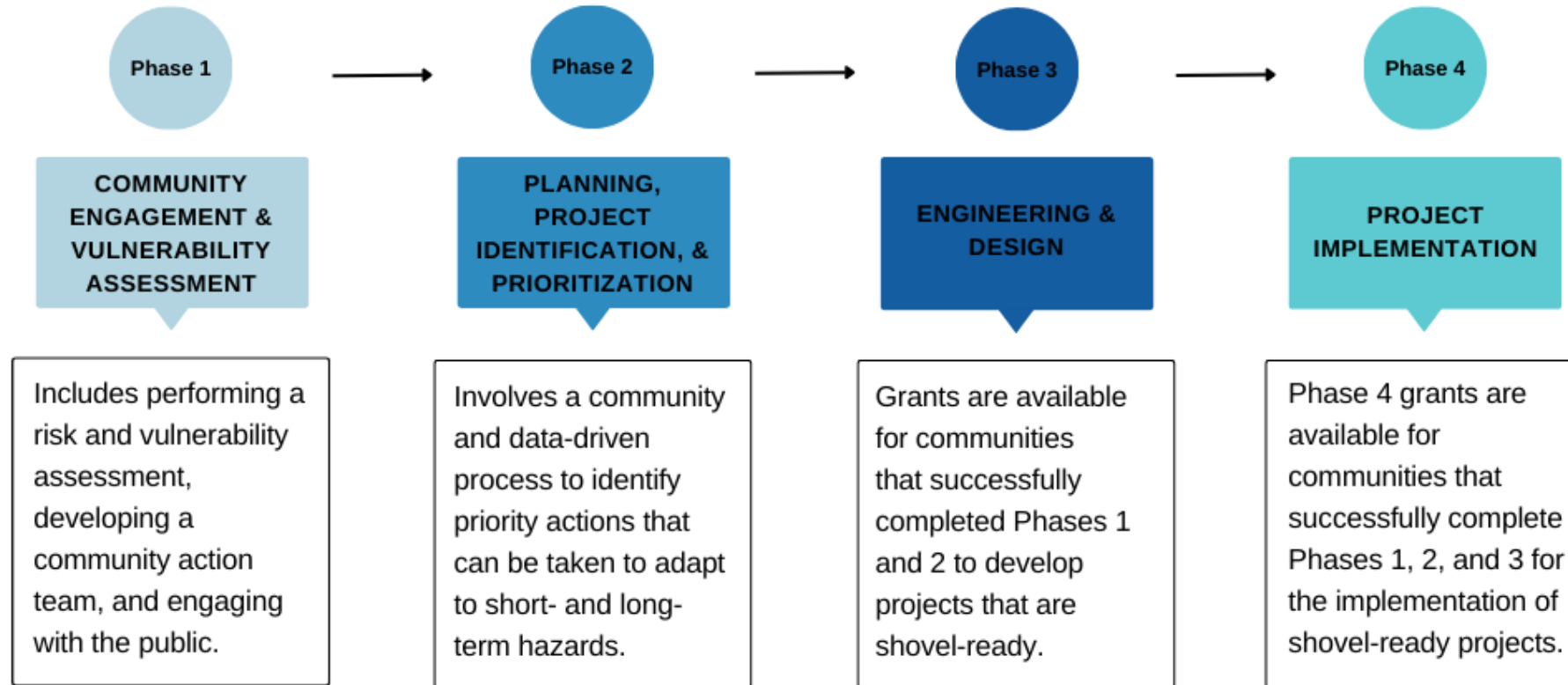
Mackenzie Todd, *Coastal Resiliency Coordinator*
Kasen Wally, *Coastal Resiliency Specialist*

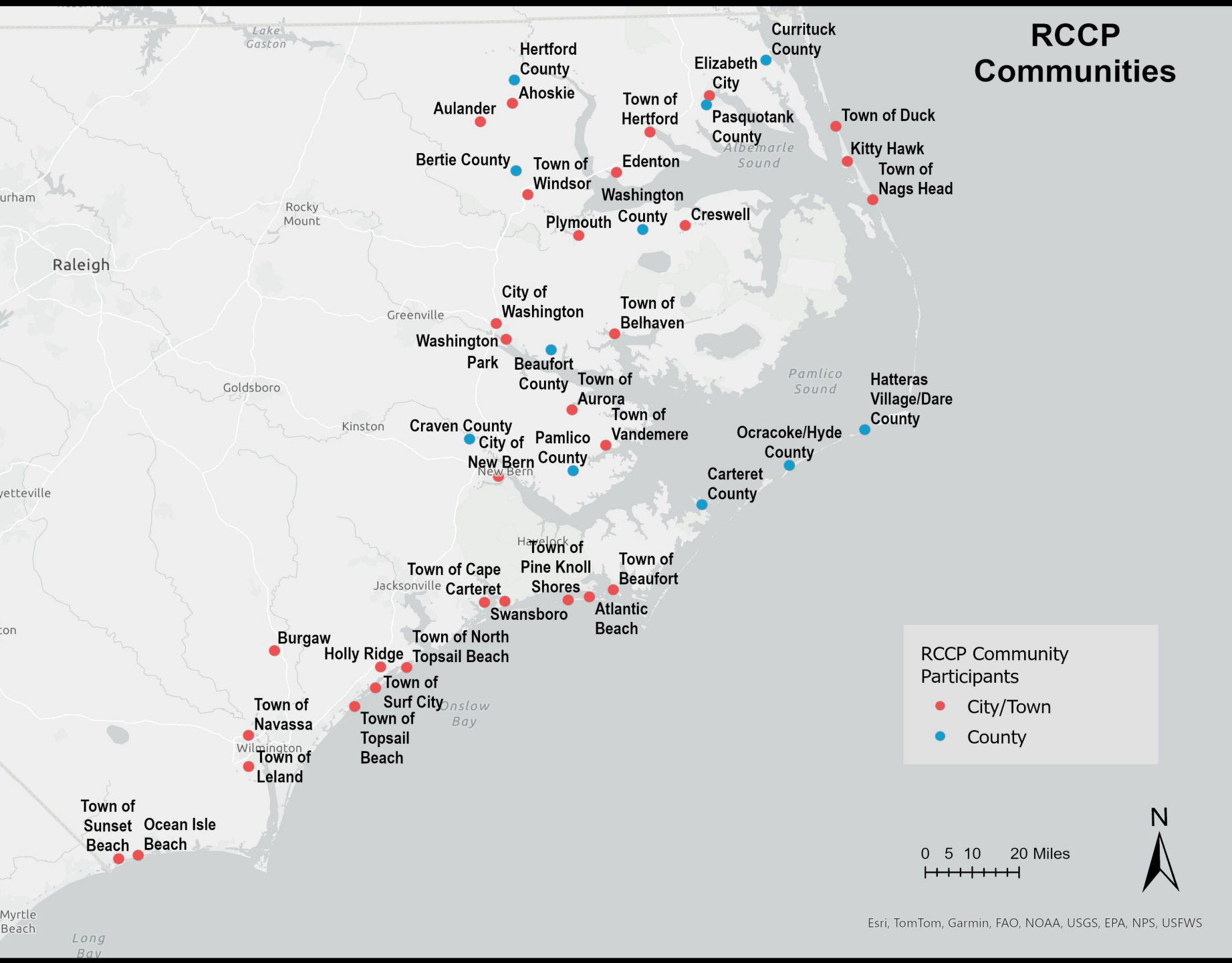


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Program Phases





41 Participating Communities

- 11 counties
- 30 municipalities



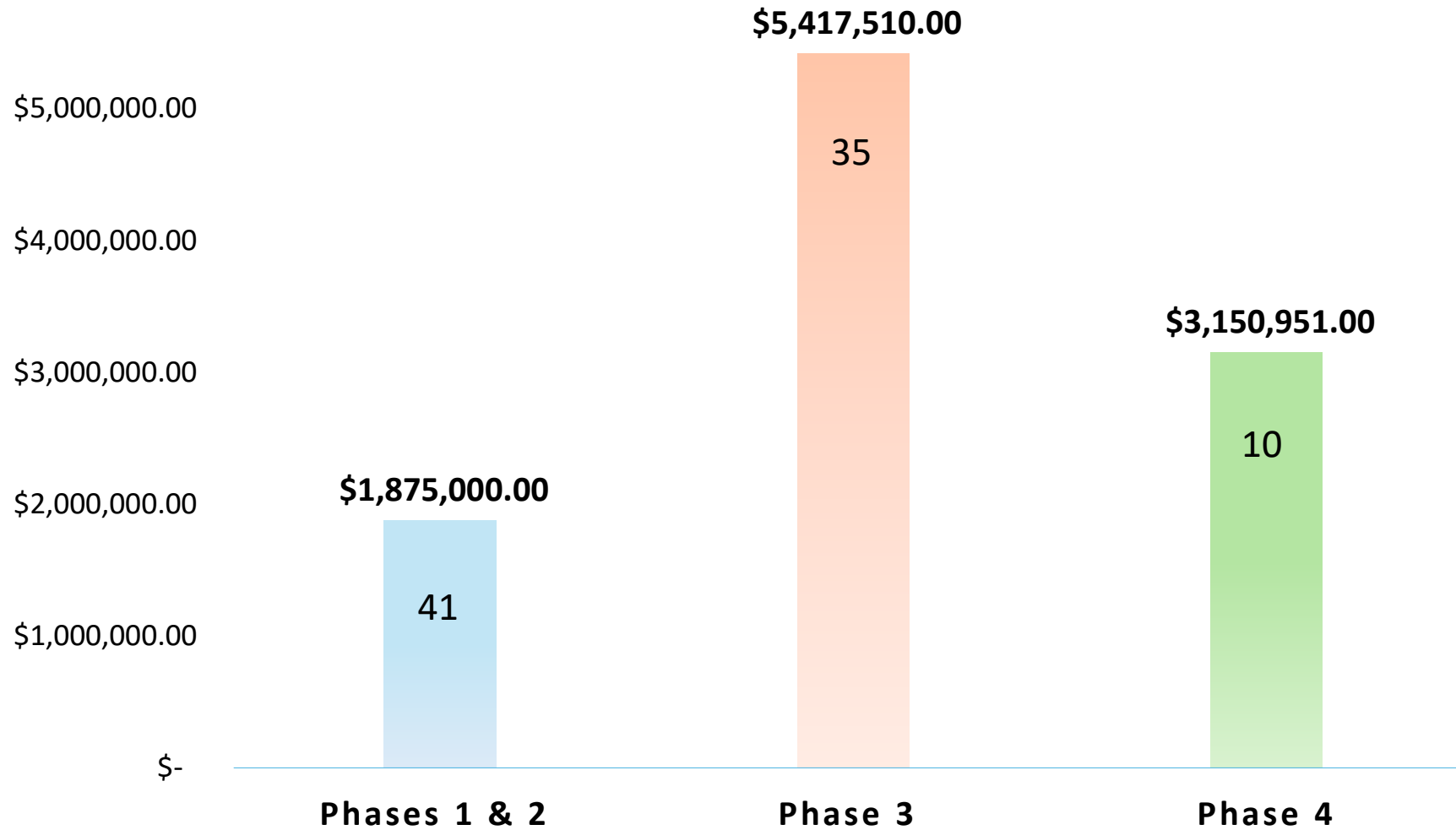
RCCP Funding – Appropriations and Grants

Years 2019 – 2025

NCGA (SL 2019-224)	\$ 1,350,000
NFWF ECRF	\$ 1,060,000
NFWF NCRF (3)	\$ 5,604,240
HUD	\$ 500,000
NOAA/CZMA Funding	\$ 60,000
NCGA (SL 2021-180)	\$ 1,450,000
NCGA (SL 2023-134)	+ <u>\$10,000,000</u>
	\$20,024,240



RCCP Awards by Phase





RCCP Updates (2025-2026)

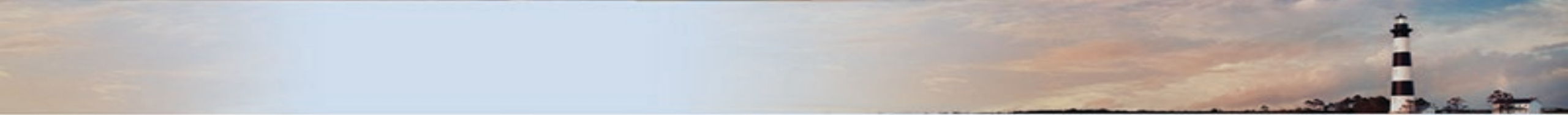
Round 3 Applications (Phases 1–4):

- **Phases 1 & 2:**
 - 24 community applications (10 for CAMA LUP resiliency)
 - 19 contractor applications (10 new firms)
- **Phase 3:**
 - 16 applications, \$3.52M requested
- **Phase 4:**
 - 3 applications, \$2.32M requested
- **Funding Available:**
 - \$1.68M for Phases 1 & 2
 - \$6M for Phases 3 & 4

Additional Updates:

- Applying for **NFWF NCRF** funding for future Phase 1 & 2 rounds
- **Dr. Miyuki Hino** (UNC: CH) is conducting an external program evaluation
- Hired a **new Coastal Resilience Specialist** (working with Kasen Wally)





REGULATORY SECTION



Areas of Environmental Concern (AECs)

Estuarine and Ocean System

- Public trust areas, estuarine waters, coastal wetlands, and coastal (non-ocean) shorelines

Ocean Hazard Areas

- Ocean Erovable Area, Inlet Hazard Areas
Unvegetated Beach Area, SPIMA

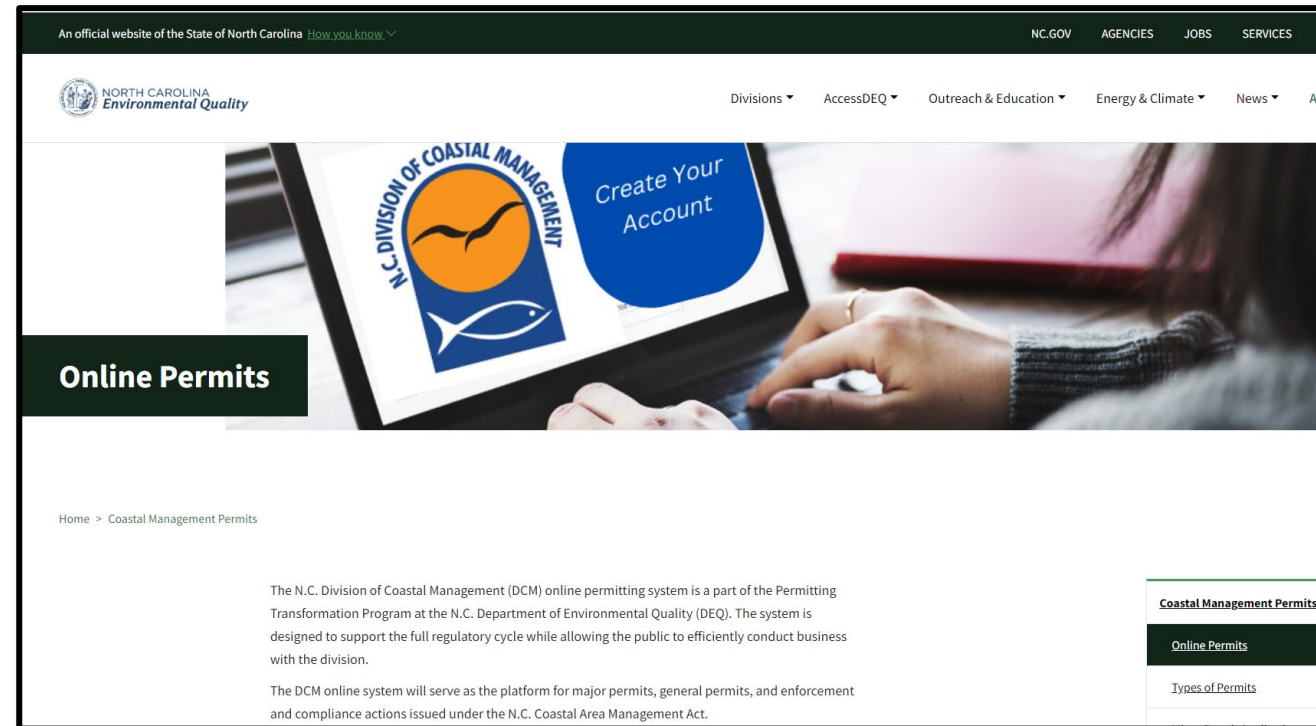
Public Water Supplies

Natural & Cultural Resource Areas



Permitting

- Consistent trend of ~3,000 permit decisions annually
 - GPs, Majors, modifications, transfers, renewals
- Permitting Transformation Program (e-permitting) implementation going well
- Staffing—filled Asst. Major Permit Coordinator (Infrastructure) position and 3 field rep positions, 1 FR vacancy remaining in Wilmington



SL 2024-45 & SL 2024-53



- New guidance for repairs and replacement of docks, piers, and walkways- some activities are now exempt from permit requirements
- Aquaculture now exempt from the definition of “development”- does not require a CAMA permit- *may still require Dredge & Fill permit, 401 cert, USACE permit*
- Legislation amended CAMA to authorize replacement of certain erosion control structures, but required NOAA approval (still pending)

Dredging & Beach Nourishment



BEACHES

- N. Topsail Beach
- Surf City
- Bald Head Island
- Ocean Isle Beach

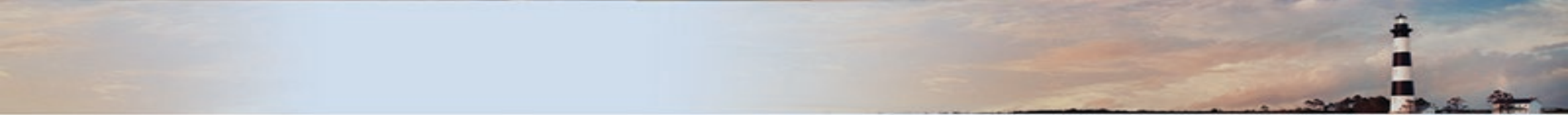
NAVIGATION w/BU

- Lockwood Folly Inlet
- New River Inlet
- Brown's Inlet

INLETS

- Oregon Inlet
- OI non-fed channels





COASTAL RESERVE









North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

