



Coastal Management in South Carolina

Fact Sheet

Coastal Program Time Line



- 1972**
Federal Coastal Zone Management Act passed, which allows for the establishment of state coastal management programs under individual state laws in each coastal state.
- 1974**
Baseline estuary studies are conducted in the major SC estuary systems by the then SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and the SC Water Resources Commission.
- 1977**
South Carolina's Coastal Zone Management legislation, the Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act, passed by the General Assembly establishing the S.C. Coastal Council.
- Interim permitting regulations written for the eight coastal counties to protect and manage tidelands (salt marsh) and coastal waters.
- Salt marsh critical area permitting program begins.
- First S.C. Coastal Council meeting held.
- 1978**
Tidelands critical area permitting regulations approved by General Assembly.
- 1979**
South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program and Plan Document approved by General Assembly to be administered and enforced by the S.C. Coastal Council.
- The South Carolina Coastal Management Program gains final approval from the U.S. Department of Commerce under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act.
- 1980**
The federal consistency certification program begins. This program ensures all federal actions and projects are consistent with the S.C. Coastal Management Plan. The initial focus is on US Army Corps of Engineers dredging projects.
- Approval of plan for Savannah River spoil disposal, which required for the first time that material dredged from the river be contained rather than dumped in South Carolina marshes.
- 1981**
First Special Area Management Plan, (SAMP), prepared for the Shem Creek area, Mount Pleasant. SAMPs provide a process for developing special permitting and planning goals and standards to address the unique issues in a defined geographic area.
- 1982**
Hilton Head SAMP completed to address development concerns.
- 1983**
Storm Water Management Guidelines implemented to require new developments to utilize best management practices to protect coastal water quality and shellfish resources.
- 1984**
Robert Carter v. SCCC. Carter wanted to fill 5 to 6 acres of high marsh on Edisto Island for a business parking lot and SCCC denied the application. The Circuit Court ruled it a taking and the SC Supreme Court reversed. This was an important marsh protection case.
- Isle of Palms renourishment project completed (estimated cost: \$1 million).
- 1985**
Charleston Peninsula and Folly Beach SAMPs completed.
- 1986**
State v. Graham Reeves and the South Carolina Coastal Council. Permit to impound (dike) 660 acres of salt marsh overturned on the grounds that approval constituted an unlawful blockage of navigable streams and the conversion of public trust tidelands to private use.
- 1986 (continued)**
25-member Blue Ribbon Panel formed to review shoreline management authority of SC Coastal Council.
- 1987**
Blue Ribbon Panel on the future of the state's beaches submits report.
- Myrtle Beach renourishment project completed (total cost: \$4.75 million).
- Lower Savannah SAMP completed.
- 1988**
Beachfront Management Act enacted by the General Assembly, establishing a State policy of retreat from erosional shorelines. Regulatory jurisdiction was established along the crest of the primary sand dune, and setback lines established based on where the shoreline would be if erosion continued for 40 years. Additionally, a prohibition on new seawalls and revetments was established.

1989

Hurricane Hugo makes landfall near Sullivan's Island. Damage from the storm has been estimated to exceed \$7 billion. (South Carolina State Climatology Office)

1990

The Beachfront Management Act is amended to allow construction of new buildings seaward of the baselines and prohibit reconstruction of destroyed seawalls.

Hilton Head renourishment project completed (total cost: \$9.7 million).

Federal Coastal Zone Management Act reauthorized by Congress. New initiatives include a coastal non-point source pollution control program and additional funding mechanisms.

1991

Charleston Harbor SAMP begins.

South Carolina Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Act enacted with administration and enforcement in the eight coastal counties by the SC Coastal Council.

Hunting Island renourishment completed (estimated cost: \$2.87 million).

1992

Coastal Council receives Excellence in Coastal Zone Management award from NOAA in recognition of "leadership in managing coastal and marine resources."

South Carolina Beachfront Management Plan approved.

North Inlet-Winyah Bay and ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) designated.

The NERRs, which were established in the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, are reserved lands that serve as "field laboratories" for research in sensitive estuarine environments.

Ashley River SAMP establishes view corridors adjacent to scenic properties along the river.

Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council. U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Beachfront Management Act, as applied to two lots on the Isle of Palms, would constitute a total deprivation of their economic value, and therefore, a taking requiring just compensation.

1993

Folly Beach renourishment project completed (total cost: \$7.18 million).

Major Coastal Management Program refinements are formally adopted by the SC Coastal Council and the General Assembly. Program improvements addressed wetland master planning, dock master plans, and storm water management requirements, as well as the development and enforcement of SAMPs, and provided a new process for appeals of Federal Consistency decisions.

State Restructuring Act passed by General Assembly.

1994

SC Coastal Council abolished and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management becomes a part of SCDHEC.

Coastal Zone Management Appellate Panel created by the State Restructuring Act to hear appeals of contested critical area permitting cases.

1995

Edisto Beach renourishment project completed. (estimated cost: \$1.5 million).

1996

Wetland mitigation banking guidelines developed and published in Developer's Guide to Freshwater Wetlands.

1997

Grand Strand and Hilton Head renourishments take place. (estimated cost: \$65 million).

1998

South Carolina Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Handbook developed by OCRM.

Pawleys Island renourishment completed. (estimated cost: \$1.3 million).

1999

Beaufort SAMP begins in partnership with Beaufort County.

2000

Charleston Harbor Project (CHP) concluded with adoption and publication of the CHP Special Area Management Plan and the Citizen's Guide to the Charleston Harbor Project.

2001

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers case decided. Decision by U.S. Supreme Court takes isolated freshwater wetlands out of Corps jurisdiction.

Tony Porter et al. v. SCDHEC, case pending, action filed in 2001. Case challenges the agency's ability to require wetland information be provided through its certification process. Among issues pending before the state Supreme Court include whether the agency could consider the presence or extent of isolated freshwater wetlands during stormwater permit review.

2002

Beaufort SAMP completed.

Cooper River SAMP begins.

Murrells Inlet SAMP begins.

Filbin Creek Restoration project begins.

Council on Coastal Futures established.