

# “Ocracoke: Creating a Sustainable Community”

## Saltwater Connections Meeting #5

### Resource Team’s Community Assessment Report

Thursday March 1, 2012 2:00 - 4:00PM

Ocracoke Community Center - Ocracoke, NC

#### **About the Workshops**

North Carolina’s historic coastal communities are facing many challenges – politically, economically, environmentally and socially. What can we do to achieve sustainability? We have many assets and cultural strength within the community – and we want to keep it that way. By coming together and visioning our future we can adopt a plan that fits our needs and our vision. The Creating Sustainable Communities Workshops are here to guide us through the process.

We will look at the interdependent relationship between local economics, education, environment and community – all of which when planned well, result in sustainability. The product of these workshops is an action plan.

#### **Past workshops:**

- January 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 – Becky Anderson of Handmade in America spoke on how the western part of the state approached “Creating a Sustainable Economy”.
- March 31, 2011 - Current projects and programs of various island organizations were identified, review of the many assets on Ocracoke, discussion on our vision for a future that will benefit all Ocracoke residents and discuss ways to address the barriers and challenges to that shared vision.
- May 3, 2011 – Meeting goals were to track progress since March 31 meeting, add to the organizational inventory, assist with summer schedule for Duke Researcher Courtney Pickett.
- November 14 and 15, 2011 - The purpose of the **Resource Team Pot Luck** and **Workshop** was to bring together all of the issues, concerns and needs expressed in the past community workshops and meetings. Recommendations were made by the Resource Team then compiled by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance for presentation on March 1, 2012.

#### **Review of Initiative**

Saltwater Connections is a coastal NC initiative focused on ensuring livable and sustainable communities. Individual communities will be looking into the revitalization process, take part in an asset mapping process under the Outer Banks Scenic Byway project, and work together to promote our local fishing industry. Communities along the coast will also begin to interact with one another, not only to strengthen the region economically but more importantly to reinforce the historic similarities and bonds.

Funding for this initiative is available through Core Sound Waterfowl Museum by a grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center.

*Sponsored by: NC Rural Center, The Conservation Fund, Z. Smith Reynolds, and Duke University.*