

## **Save Our Sand: The Inlet Solution**

### **SB110, Permit Terminal Groins**

- North Carolina is blessed with 320 miles of oceanfront coastline and 19 ocean inlets that are both a public trust and an economic resource.
- Inlets can be nature at its most mercurial. They can remain almost unchanged for decades, then shift dramatically in a year or two.
- Shifting inlets have resulted in enormous losses of public beach access, property, business and infrastructure, costing counties and towns all along North Carolina's coast tens of millions of dollars in reconstruction cost and lost tax revenue.
- Leaders of inlet communities up and down the coast of North Carolina need a long-term solution to help manage beaches at inlets. A 2010 study by the Coastal Resources Commission determined that "terminal groins, in combination with beach nourishment, can be effective at controlling erosion at the end of barrier islands."
- The coastal communities adjacent to inlets need the Legislature to pass a law allowing the CAMA major permit process to determine whether terminal groins are appropriate for an inlet on a case-by-case basis.
- The legislation does **not** appropriate or promise any state funds for the construction and/or maintenance of a terminal groin. No teacher jobs will be lost by this bill.
- The legislation contains numerous safeguards, including environmental and engineering studies, as well as a thorough public process that gives all stakeholders the opportunity to be heard and provide input. The State can require any terminal groin that does not work as intended to be removed.
- Every coastal state in the U.S. except North Carolina and Oregon allow for some manner of protection from the problem of shifting inlets. The Corps of Engineers and other coastal states regularly use terminal groins as an effective sand management tool.
- Beaches adjacent to inlets in North Carolina at Ft. Macon and Pea Island are already successfully protected by terminal groins, as they have been for decades.
- Terminal groins are not seawalls or coastal armoring. Terminal groins are not jetties. The sole purpose of a terminal groin is retention of sand that is placed on the beach at inlets.
- A properly designed terminal structure is usually unobtrusive and permeable, creating a template where the land and beach used to be, allowing it to again be filled with sand.
- By stabilizing the shoreline, a terminal structure can enhance public access in most circumstances, while preventing property destruction and saving millions of dollars in beach reconstruction costs.