



Free shipping and returns on eligible items.

BOLD WATCHES FROM LACOSTE



Google™ Custom Search



Todd Bendor City and Regional Planning
KEYWORDS: city and regional planning

MORE

- [Reflector editorial cartoons](#)
- [N.C. Editorial: Advertising tax will harm](#)
- [Letter: Remedies for crime rate](#)
- [Letter: No tears for textbooks](#)
- [Letter: Prioritize, fund public schools](#)
- [Dionne: Listen to the Pope](#)
- [Editorial: Sheriff updates advisable](#)

BenDor: Saltwater intrusion a threat

Monday, June 15, 2015

[2 Comments](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)[Print](#)[E-Mail](#)[Reddit](#)[More](#)[Like](#)

0

[Tweet](#)

6

North Carolina's Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula is one of the state's true natural treasures with its richness in wildlife and plant diversity. From tundra swans to black bears to marshes and wetland forests it is an area full of unique landscapes and habitats. The natural resources of the peninsula are also one of the leading economic drivers of the region as well. Timber companies, agricultural operations, commercial fishing, and outdoor recreation businesses are all significant components of the peninsula's economy. In addition, the natural resources in this part of the state are intertwined into the very fabric of the region's culture, identity, and way of life.

Due to changes already underway throughout the coastal plain and the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula these valuable natural resources and the ecosystem services and economic benefits they provide are being transformed. The movement of saltwater from the ocean onto the coastal plain — "saltwater intrusion" — is happening now and has the potential to significantly alter coastal regions over the long-term. With salt water intrusion comes a host of problems that counties, cities, and communities across the peninsula will need to plan for and manage in coming years.

The adverse impacts caused by saltwater intrusion have the potential to affect drinking water supplies, produce recurrent flooding in low-lying areas, and damage natural resources. Many of the areas on the peninsula likely to be impacted by saltwater intrusion contain species of trees and plants that cannot survive in soils with elevated salt levels. As these species die off, many of the critical services they provide — spawning habitat for fish, filtration of pollutants, and storm surge control — will disappear as well.

In addition to the environmental effects, the increase in saltwater intrusion has long-term consequences for the economy of the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula as well. The timber industry and farming operations are among the largest landholders in this region of the state and could see timber and crop yields lowered as the soil is changed by saltwater intrusion. Another industry that would be negatively impacted is the fisheries industry, which is an important source of employment to many on the peninsula.

These changes have the potential to transform not only natural ecosystems, but disrupt and alter the economic and cultural way of life for the coastal region. As such, gaining a better understanding of the impacts of saltwater intrusion and how to make informed decisions as to how best to manage these changes is an issue of great consequence for North Carolina's coastal plain.

A team of researchers from four universities, Duke University, East Carolina University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, are working in partnership on a research study that will allow for an increased understanding of the impacts of saltwater intrusion.

The research project will focus specifically on the impacts to the Albemarle-Pamlico peninsula. Through an evaluation of the complex interactions between climate, movement of water, land use, and ecological processes the researchers will be able to predict those areas that will encounter higher levels of saltwater intrusion and, therefore, be most adversely impacted.

Electronic Edition

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

- Access to premium content on [Reflector.com](#)
- Receive the daily E-edition
- Free Archives
- Comment on stories

[Subscribe Now](#)[Login](#)

REST ASSURED

We've got everything you need for success on the road

- Comfy Pillowtop Beds
- FREE Protein-Rich Breakfast
- FREE Ultra Fast High-Speed WiFi

[BOOK NOW](#)

E3 in 60 seconds: What's hot at LA's video game conference

Press Association



More videos:



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Submit BYH

Read Them All

Bless Your Heart - click or call (252) 329-9564

During the upcoming months there will be opportunities for local government leaders, industry representatives, environmental advocates and the general public to contribute to this project. Ensuring that a diverse and well-represented group of stakeholders are at the table is of critical importance to outcome of the research results. Consequently, we are working diligently to ensure that we are properly engaging and listening to multiple perspectives as we study the changes underway to the peninsula.

This partnership between university researchers and on the ground experts will lead to the development of a tool kit for both the public and private sector that will help guide management and planning decisions along the coast. The results of this partnership will assist in preserving and protecting the richness and distinctiveness of this region for generations to come.

Todd BenDor, Ph.D., is an associate professor of city and regional planning at UNC-Chapel Hill and a faculty fellow at the UNC Institute for the Environment.

[2 Comments](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

NEXT STORY: [JUNE 13 DARTS & LAURELS](#)

ALSO OF INTEREST



[June 17 Community News](#)



[Paramedics called to 2nd shark attack minutes after 1st](#)



[Keith: A fond farewell](#)



[A furniture plan that works](#)

SCENE AROUND



SCENE AROUND:
Umbrella Market, June 17, 2015

- SCENE AROUND: Jackie R 14, 2015
- SCENE AROUND: Sunday 2015
- SCENE AROUND: Simpson June 13, 2015
- SCENE AROUND: FCHS G
- SCENE AROUND: SCHS G
- SCENE AROUND: D.H. Co 2015

[More Slideshows](#)

Tweets

[Follow](#)

- The Daily Reflector** @reflectornews 1h Greenville Kmart closing reflector.com/news/greenvill... via @reflectornews
- Holly West** @hollywest 2h .@PCSECHS is on track to open in August! Setup of the modular units finished yesterday. bit.ly/1fkjKum pic.twitter.com/sqa0FzFdHj
- Retweeted by The Daily Reflector

[Tweet to @reflectornews](#)

Newsmax

- [1. Brian Williams Apologizes, Moves to MSNBC](#)
- [2. Obama: I Knew Slain Pastor, 'It's Heartbreaking'](#)
- [3. Woman to Replace Hamilton on New \\$10 Bill](#)
- [4. New Probiotic Fat Burner Takes GNC by Storm](#)
- [5. Tip: How to Retire Comfortably on \\$2,000](#)
- [6. Eat This and You May Never Have to Diet Again](#)
- [7. This Simple Trick Washes Away Years From Your Face](#)
- [8. Army Wife Shocks Husband With Her New Figure](#)

[What's This?](#)

Comments

THIS IS WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Submitted by artsy on June 14, 2015 - 8:29am.

- (1) You're paying for this. Think about this when tuition goes up, or your taxes are raised for "education".
- (2) If you see the words "diversity", "richness" and "unique habitat" in close proximity, you will soon lose access to said area.
- (3) If you see "we are properly engaging and listening to multiple perspectives as we study the changes underway to the peninsula," there is an effort well underway to promulgate certain rules, and that horse has long left the barn.
- (4) It's an estuary. It's supposed to be salty.
- (5) It's actually too fresh now due to all the rain. Is this because of "climate change", or was it drought and wildfires that we are expecting. Or is it floods some years, drought other years, and wildfires every 3 years and more hurricanes unless there are fewer hurricanes.
- (6) I thought Obama lowered the sea levels.
- (7) There is not anything any study will do to change the weather. However, bureaucrats can wreak havoc anytime, anywhere.

AND ANOTHER EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Submitted by l95 on June 14, 2015 - 3:52am.

That's not happening.

Add comment

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments

TODAY'S POLL

How often do you shop at Kmart

- Regularly
- Occassionally
- Rarely
- Never