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## Outer Banks Watermen Working To Save Last Ocracoke Island Fish House

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There's only one fish house left on Ocracoke Island, and a group there is trying to raise nearly a half million dollars to keep it open.

The Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association wants to raise the money by June first to secure ownership of the fish house. The previous owner has given the group a year to pay off the property. Group organizer Robin Payne says the retail market at the front of the house has been thriving.

Without the house on the island, the watermen would be forced to go much farther to off-load their catch. Payne says the watermen will fry up their catch tomorrow during a fundraiser to raise awareness about their efforts.

The money would pay for renovations and upgrades for the house, and would allow the group to buy a new truck. Right now, watermen are borrowing a truck.

The state has appointed a committee to study the loss of waterfront in North Carolina and the fish house issue.

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