



*North Carolina's watermen and the coastal communities they support are being threatened.*

*The Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association believes that sustainability is only possible when environmental groups, communities and units of government work together.*

*Help us work towards that goal.*

- *Send us an email with your name and address so we may update our files.*
- *New members – join here*
- *Express your support – Please contact our federal, state and marine officials to say you support the current diversity of commercial fishing in NC, the coastal communities they support and that a fair and balanced approach to protected species conservation is necessary. (Correspondence should be referenced with “Beasley Center Lawsuit”*
- *The 2010 Survey will be posted April 1 2010.*

On February 23, 2010 the Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center filed a lawsuit against NC Division of Marine Fisheries and NC Marine Fisheries Commission.

The claim is that any interaction with sea turtles is a violation of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit does not call for any possibility for all parties to work together.

Ocracoke Watermen believe that their continued efforts to fish responsibly help with species research and protection while still feeding families is a balanced approach.

The Beasley lawsuit claims that only commercial fishermen and the nets that some use are responsible for turtle interactions. There is no mention of the bigger picture that affects all species - weather, water temperature, pollution, cycles of species, food availability, and salinity levels.

OWWA supports a balanced approach - one that seeks to enhance the natural environment, wildlife and still support communities and the families that live there.

Read OWWA's Letter to supporters for more detailed information

Read Beasley Lawsuit

Contact list of federal, state and marine officials.

*Thank You*