

## Weekly News Summary for Sunday, September 21, 2025.

What a glorious weather for the 2025 Day at the Docks. Full sunshine and a light wind increasing slightly during the day brought many folks to Hatteras village to celebrate Hatteras Island Watermen.

Many, many volunteers showed up to staff the children's fishing contest and the concrete marlin contest, to serve up food, to talk about organizations, and pass out awards.

Here are some results from the competitions:

The Chowder Cookoff staged by the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation drew large crowd who tasted and voted for the favorites. First Place was Dinky's Waterfront Restaurant in Hatteras village. Second Place was Inn on Pamlico Sound and Café Pamlico on the waterfront in Buxton. And, third place went to Toucana Grill in Hatteras village. For the children's fishing contest, 144 children signed up to fish. Numerous cane fishing poles with bobbers were used along with contestants own poles. Registration was from 12 to 1 in the afternoon. Contestants fished for an hour. Children and adult helpers crowded the Hatteras Harbor docks.

Leading the way were overall winners. Quinn Van Druten received the Heaviest Pinfish trophy for a four-ounce Pinfish. Maddie Davis caught the longest fish, a 30-inch Stingray. Awards were presented to 20 children from ages three thorough 12 years old.

The seafood thrown down drew standing room only to watch Chefs from Froggy Dog and Toucana Grill face off for the second year. The surprise fish was jumping mullet.

The contest ended in a tie, again. Commercial waterman Todd Ballance selected Toucana Grill for its traditional preparation of the mullet.

In the education area, nine different agencies offered information and giveaways for those who stopped by tables. The tent buzzed with voices. Participating were North Carolina Sea Grant, NC Works, Graveyard of the Atlantic Mseum, North Carolina Oyster Trail, North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, North Carolina Coastal Federation and National Park Service.

North Carolina Waterman United offered an opportunity to help pay for the funeral for Captain John Smith, a waterman who died while fishing his nets on Thursday just outside Hatteras Inlet.

Under the big tent, all about oysters and the North Carolina oyster trail were explained by a panel. North Carolina Senator Bobby Hanig talked with folks about how to influence the General Assembly using "Shrimpgate" as a model. In the concrete Marlin contest, in the 11 and under category Emma and Stella won that contest. In the women's category, Sarah and Amber won.

The Hatteras Village Civic Association sponsors the event celebrating the village's watermen who recharged the village's economy after Hurricane Isabel 22 years ago.

The day concluded with the Blessing of the Fleet and words from Pastor Amanda Hedden and a listing of those who passed over the bar in the last year.

**Another house went in the Atlantic Ocean.** On Tuesday evening, large breaking waves wiped out a Buxton house built in 1974 for the Clarke family. It stayed in the family until its surrender to the Atlantic Ocean.

The National Park Service and the contractor rushed to pick up and contain debris, which operation was successful. This was the first collapsed house in Buxton in over two decades.

**The second meeting** of North Carolina Coastal Counties Fisheries Coalition was held Tuesday, September 16 in Morehead City.

The Coalition was formed after Dare County Commissioner Chair Robert L. Woodard sent a July 3 letter proposing such a group to the board chairs of 19 coastal counties.

During the meeting two guest speakers provided presentations: Cornell Purvis, former Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and Jess Hawkins, former Chief of Fisheries Management with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

The coalition also prioritized the key issues impacting fisheries that they hope to address, including education, water quality decline, fishing/crabbing limits, trip limits, predation management, consumer marketing and increasing the

transparency of data from the Marine Fisheries Commission. All attendees were invited to share public comment before the close of the meeting.

**The business news** this week focuses on the performance of the real estate market through August of this year. Looking at the long-term trends, not much has changed over the past few months, reports Radio Hatteras Business correspondent Tom Hranicka.

All of the major patterns that we have been seeing were basically unchanged in August.

The most significant news is that 30 year fixed rate mortgage interest rates dropped to 6.56 percent at the end of August, and the Federal Reserve made another rate drop on Wednesday, September 17th.

The number of homes for sale continues along an upward trend line with the number holding fairly steady in the 170 to 180 range.

The number of houses sold during August was basically in line with the monthly numbers that have been reported since June of last year.

The median sale price of residential properties has shown a very slight upward long-term trend with August reporting \$565,000.

The undeveloped lot market continues to be relatively constrained.

In other news related to the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through July were up about 4.5 percent while occupancy tax receipts were down almost 2.0 percent reflecting weakness in the vacation rental market.

**Scam calls reported.** Dare County Sheriff reports that scam calls are going around and falsely using the names of deputies or claiming to represent the Dare County Sheriff's Office.

These calls may appear with "No Caller ID" from the following phone numbers: (252)260-0733 and (252) 216-2320. Please be advised:

Do not provide any personal or financial information.

Hang up immediately.

Block the number.

The Dare County Sheriff's Office and its employees will never ask for payment, money in person, over the phone or text, related to missed court dates, tickets etc.

Any such request is a scam.

If you are unsure or have questions, contact the Sheriff's office directly at (252)475-5980.

**Governor Josh Stein** announced the retirement of Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins, effective Oct. 1, 2025.

After more than 35 years of dedicated service to the Department and the people of North Carolina, NCDOT is grateful for his leadership, integrity and commitment to making transportation better for everyone across the state.

Beginning October 1, Daniel Johnson will take over as Secretary of Transportation. Johnson has over eight years of experience with the Department and has most recently served as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel. He has played a crucial role in strategic planning, contract and personnel oversight for the Department.

**Going on right now is NCDOT's volunteer Fall Litter Sweep. It lasts until September 27.**

The statewide cleanup, held each spring and fall, brings together neighbors, civic groups and businesses to remove litter from North Carolina roadsides.

Gloves, safety vests and bags are available at local county maintenance offices. For Hatteras Island, call James Harrison at 252-426-4183.

NCDOT maintenance crews will also dedicate one week to collecting litter and trash bags filled by volunteers.

**Upcoming this week**

Flu Vaccines for those 16 through 64 years of age and Wellness Screenings are offered by Outer Banks Health on Wednesday, September 24 from 10 to 1 at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building.

**Stay safe out there. Before going to the beach, check out conditions on Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean. This is Radio Hatteras.**