

May 4, 2008

Mark and Rhoda StJohn
P.O. Box 118
Cherryville, NC 28021

N.C. Division of Coastal Management
400 Commerce Ave.
Morehead City, NC 28557

Re: Westmouth Canal Boat Slips
Harkers Island, Carteret County, North Carolina

We are responding to a Major CAMA Permit Application for a multiple boat slip and boat ramp in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood is comprised of single family residences dispersed with large tracts of marsh land and canals. Adding a major facility such as this will have a great impact on our community.

One of our concerns is that the use of the canal north of the project will be blocked or impeded. Although those who used this portion of the canal regularly have moved or have passed away, it is our intension to continue using the canal for small boats. There have been numerous attempts to block our usage of the canal by dumping debris such as tires and strap metal into the canal at the northern most point of this project plus running mooring lines across the width of the canal from the existing facilities thus blocking or impeding through traffic. What debris we were unable to remove has significantly increased filling in of the canal north of the proposed project. Thus history has proved our justification to be wary of any activity on this property and question the actual intent and ultimate designs regarding the use of the canal as related to this property.

While on the subject of the canal, we would like to point out that any boat traveling to open water from the point of this project has a very long way to go. A facility such as this will affect the whole neighborhood south and east of the project by greatly increasing boat traffic through much of the area, thus increasing erosion and filling of the interconnected canals. Have the owners of these properties along the canal been directly contacted? I would also point out, if it is the intension of the proposed facility to be used by V bow boats of any significant size, dredging of the canal at numerous points out bound from the project will likely be necessary for these boats to use this facility.

As I pointed out, this is basically a residential area. The existing boat ramp facility was rarely used thus not a problem in the past. However, adding a multiple boat slip facility will greatly increase the traffic through our neighborhood. Have all the homeowners been adequately informed? In our opinion, we were not! And what about parking? Trucks with trailers occupy a great deal of space. It also requires a significant amount of time to load and unload boats. Congestion around boat ramps is a problem in numerous locations around Carteret County. Have provisions been made for the property to handle the

utilization and parking for the number of residents this facility has planned without blocking or parking in the public road way? Unless the project is planning and is permitted to fill in a significant amount of marsh land to accommodate loading and unloading traffic plus parking, it appears unlikely the existing "dry" area is adequate. Blocking or parking on the road by users of this facility cannot be tolerated!

One final point which should not be trivialized by the planers and commission, have provisions been made to maintain toilet facilities for the people using this facility? This is a family neighborhood and it is unlikely with a facility this large that all the users will travel even a few blocks to use their home or other facilities. Our families should not be exposed to open usage of this property as a bathroom.

Mark StJohn
Rhoda StJohn

cc: Sidney Bazemore
cc: J. W. Forman, Jr., P.E.
cc: Tommy Bourdeau