

## 03040208-03

(*Little River/AIWW/Murrells Inlet*)

### General Description

The South Carolina portion of 03040208-03 is a *coastal frontage basin* located in Horry and Georgetown Counties and consists primarily of the *Little River* and the *Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW)* and their tributaries from Myrtle Beach northward to the North Carolina state line and the Little River Inlet, and streams draining directly into the *Atlantic Ocean* from the "Grand Strand" beaches southward to *Murrells Inlet*. The watershed occupies 70,883 acres of the Coastal Zone region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 50.4% urban land, 17.6% forested wetland, 12.8% forested land, 8.2% nonforested wetland, 5.6% water, 2.9% agricultural land, and 2.5% barren land.

The Little River is a tidal river and flows in both directions according to the tides. The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) flows across the North Carolina state line in the "Little River Neck" area and merges with the Little River to flow south toward North Myrtle Beach or flow out of the Little River Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean. The portion flowing to the ocean accepts drainage from Dunn Sound, Dunn Sound Creek, Sheephead Creek, and Horse Ford Creek on the South Carolina side. Bonaparte Creek (East River, Dead Backwater, Clauton Creek) flows into the Little River Inlet from the North Carolina side.

The Little River flows through Milliken Cove and accepts drainage from the Calabash River (originating in North Carolina) and Mullet Creek. The Little River merges with the AIWW to become one and the same until the Little River Neck area where the Little River ceases. The Little River Swamp drains into the AIWW near the City of North Myrtle Beach, as does Camp Branch Run and Prices Swamp Run. Prices Swamp and Long Branch enter the waterway near the Town of Briarcliffe Acres. Lewis Ocean Bay, Cane Patch Swamp, and Black Creek drain into the AIWW near the City of Myrtle Beach.

Nixon Creek, Salt Flat Creek, House Creek, Williams Creek, and Saltworks Creek drain to the Atlantic Ocean through Hog Inlet or Cherry Grove Inlet (SFH). Long Pond drains to the ocean at Briarcliffe Acres. Buck Island Swamp drains to the ocean through Singleton Swash. Bear Creek drains to the ocean in Myrtle Beach. Other swashes draining to the ocean include Canepatch Swash, Deephead Swash (Withers Swamp), Withers Swash, and Midway Swash near Springmaid Beach. Dogwood Lake (Big Swamp) and Floral Lake drain to the ocean near Surfside Beach. Main Creek accepts drainage from Whale Creek, Woodland Creek (Parsonage Creek) and Oaks Creek (Allston Creek) before draining to the ocean through Murrells Inlet (SFH).

There are a total of 91.5 stream miles, 148.8 acres of lake waters, and 2,365.7 acres of estuarine areas in this watershed, all classified SFH with the exception of the AIWW. The AIWW and its tributaries from the North Carolina state line to the crossing of S.C. Hwy 9 are classified SA, and southward from the S.C. Hwy 9 crossing are classified FW. Huntington Beach State Park is a natural resource in the watershed.

### Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
RT-08069	RT08	SFH	MOUTH OF DUNN SOUND CREEK NEAR SHELLFISH SITE 01-02
RO-07333	RO07	SFH	LITTLE RIVER AT MOUTH OF HORSE FORD CREEK
MD-276	INT	SFH	HOUSE CREEK AT 53 <sup>RD</sup> AVE OUT FROM BOAT LANDING (01-19)

MD-162	P/W	SA	LITTLE RIVER AT S END OF ISLAND DUE E OF TOWN
MD-125	S/INT	FW/SA	AIWW (LITTLE RIVER) ON SC 9 (US 17)
MD-091	S/W	FW	AIWW 4 MI N OF BRIDGE ON US 501
MD-085	S/INT	FW	AIWW AT POINT 3 MI N OF BRIDGE ON US 501
MD-087	P/W	FW	AIWW JUST N OF BRIDGE ON US 501
RT-09113	RT09	SFH	MAIN CREEK, 160 YDS UPSTREAM FROM SHELLFISH SITE 04-27
RT-07049	RT07	SFH	MAIN CREEK, 200 METERS SSE OF MOUTH OF FLAGG CREEK
MD-277	INT	SFH	PARSONAGE CREEK AT INLET PORT BASIN (04-17)

***Dunn Sound Creek (RT-08069)*** – Aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported.

***Little River*** – There are two SCDHEC monitoring sites along this section of the Little River. At the upstream site (***RO-07333***), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported. At the downstream site (***MD-162***), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported. Although dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage. As such they were considered to be natural in origin, not standards violations. There is a significant increasing trend in pH.

***House Creek (MD-276)*** – Aquatic life uses are not supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions and occurrences of zinc in excess of the aquatic life acute criterion. In addition, there is a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration and a significant increasing trend in turbidity. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in total nitrogen concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria.

***Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway*** – There are four SCDHEC monitoring sites along this section of the AIWW and recreational uses are fully supported at **all sites**. This section of the AIWW is influenced by tidal pressures from both the Little River and the Winyah Bay ends, so flushing and mixing are limited, causing a bathtub effect whereby the water moves back and forth, but takes a long time to actually move out of the waterway. At the northernmost station (***MD-125***), aquatic life use is fully supported; however, there are decreasing trends in dissolved oxygen concentration and increasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration. Although dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage and were considered natural, not standards violations. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in turbidity suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Moving along the AIWW southerly toward Georgetown (***MD-091***), aquatic life uses are fully supported. Although pH excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage and were considered natural, not standards violations.

Further along the waterway (***MD-085***), aquatic life uses are fully supported. Although dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage and were considered natural, not standards violations. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity and total phosphorus concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. At the southernmost site (***MD-087***), aquatic life uses are fully supported. Although pH excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing

and significant marsh drainage and were considered natural, not standards violations. A significant increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.

**Main Creek** – There are two SCDHEC monitoring sites along Main Creek. At the upstream site (**RT-09113**), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported. At the downstream site (**RT-07049**), aquatic life and recreational uses are also fully supported. Although there were dissolved oxygen excursions, these were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage. As such they were considered to be natural in origin, and are not considered to be standards violations.

**Parsonage Creek (MD-277)** – Aquatic life uses are fully supported. Although there were dissolved oxygen excursions, these were typical of values seen in tidally influenced systems with limited flushing and significant marsh drainage. As such they were considered to be natural in origin, and are not considered to be standards violations. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in total nitrogen concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are fully supported.

*A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the **Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway** and the **Atlantic Ocean** within this watershed (see advisory p.246).*

## Shellfish Monitoring Stations

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Description</u>
01-01	LITTLE RIVER JETTY
01-02	MOUTH OF DUNN SOUND CREEK
01-05	BIG BEND UP DUNN SOUND CREEK
01-06	BRIDGE TO WAITES ISLAND
01-07	HOG INLET
01-17	42ND AVENUE - CHERRY GROVE
01-17A	53RD AVENUE BRIDGE ON CANAL
01-18	DUNN SOUND AT HOG INLET
01-19	53RD AVENUE AT MAIN CREEK
02-01	WHITE POINT SWASH
02-02	SINGLETON SWASH
02-03	CANEPATCH SWASH
03-01	WITHERS SWASH
03-02	MIDWAY SWASH - PEBBLE BEACH
04-01	MAIN CREEK AT ATLANTIC AVENUE BRIDGE
04-02	MAIN CREEK AT MICKEY SPILLANE'S HOME
04-03A	MAIN CREEK SOUTHEAST SIDE OF PROHIBITED AREA NEAR CAPTAIN DICK'S MARINA
04-03B	AIWW - MARKER #9 (D3-02)
04-04A	GARDEN CITY CANAL DUE E OF ENTRANCE TO FLAGG CREEK
04-04B	NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF MARLIN QUAY CLOSURE ZONE – MAIN CREEK
04-04C	WESTERN BOUNDARY OF MARLIN QUAY CLOSURE ZONE – MAIN CREEK
04-06	ALLSTON CREEK AT WESTON FLAT
04-07	ALLSTON CREEK POG - HUGHES LANDING
04-08	PARSONAGE CREEK AT NANCE'S DOCK
04-08A	OYSTER (CARR) LANDING AT HUNTINGTON BEACH STATION PARK
04-16	PARSONAGE CREEK AT CHICKEN FARM DITCH
04-17A	SOUTHWEST CORNER OF VOYAGER VIEW MARINA PROHIBITED ZONE IN PARSONAGE CREEK
04-18	NORTH BOUNDARY OF CLAMBANK FLATS POG
04-23	MAIN CREEK AT OYSTER COVER
04-24	OAKS CREEK AT FIRST CURVE

04-25	MAIN CREEK AT FLAGG CREEK
04-26	GARDEN CITY CANAL AT THE "OLD BOAT WRECK"
04-27	MAIN CREEK, OPPOSITE ENTRANCE TO MT. GILEAD CANAL
04-28	OAKS CREEK, APPROX. 150 METERS FROM THE HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK CAUSEWAY
04-29	OYSTER COVE, SOUTH BRANCH
04-30	OYSTER COVE, NORTH BRANCH
04-31	WOODLAND CREEK, 100 METERS EAST OF MAINLAND
04-32	OAKS CREEK AT BRIGHAM HOLE

Station locations from the Shellfish Annual Report for Sections 1-4 can be found at

<http://www.scdhec.gov/FoodSafety/ShellfishMonitoring/Map> and

[http://www.scdhec.gov/foodsafety/docs/SFMA\\_05.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/foodsafety/docs/SFMA_05.pdf) Information from the Shellfish Annual Report for Sections 1-4 can be found at

<http://www.scdhec.gov/FoodSafety/ShellfishMonitoring/MonitoringStationReports>.

## NPDES Program

### *Active NPDES Facilities*

<i>RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>NPDES# TYPE</i>
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY GSW&SA/VEREEN WWTP	SC0041696 MAJOR DOMESTIC
CAROLINA BAYS GSW&SA/VEREEN WWTP	SC0041696 MAJOR DOMESTIC
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY CITY OF N. MYRTLE BEACH/OCEAN DRIVE	SC0022152 MAJOR DOMESTIC
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH/CRESCENT BEACH	SC0022161 MAJOR DOMESTIC
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY GSW&SA/MYRTLE BEACH SURFACE WTP	SCG646011 MINOR DOMESTIC
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY MYRTLE BEACH FARMS CO., INC./BENTON MINE	SCG730075 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
AIWW TRIBUTARY PALMETTO LAND PARTNERS LLC/BAREFOOT PIT	SCG730351 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY P MINING CO./P-MINING PIT #1	SCG730081 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY P MINING CO./P-MINING PIT #2	SCG730272 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY VEREEN CONCRETE/SAND RIDGE MINE	SCG730576 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
WITHERS SWASH AUX CORP./MYRTLE BEACH PLANT	SC0047953 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
AIWW TRIBUTARY HINSON FAMILY LTD/APACHE TRACT II MINE	SCG731089 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
AIWW TRIBUTARY SOUTHERN ASPHALT INC./APACHE MINE	SCG731264 MINOR INDUSTRIAL

***Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)***

<b><i>RECEIVING STREAM</i></b>	<b><i>NPDES#</i></b>
<b><i>MUNICIPALITY</i></b>	<b><i>MS4 PHASE</i></b>
<b><i>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</i></b>	<b><i>MS4 SIZE</i></b>
<b><i>IMPLEMENTING PARTY</i></b>	
AIWW UNINCORPORATED AREAS GEORGETOWN COUNTY GEORGETOWN COUNTY	SCR034301 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH HORRY COUNTY	SCR035101 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW CITY OF BRIARCLIFFE ACRES CITY OF BRIARCLIFFE ACRES HORRY COUNTY	SCR035102 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH	SCR035105 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	SCR035106 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW CITY OF SURFSIDE BEACH CITY OF SURFSIDE BEACH CITY OF SURFSIDE BEACH	SCR035107 PHASE II SMALL MS4
AIWW HORRY COUNTY HORRY COUNTY HORRY COUNTY	SCR035104 PHASE II SMALL MS4

**Nonpoint Source Management Program**

***Land Disposal Activities***

**Landfill Facilities**

<b><i>LANDFILL NAME</i></b>	<b><i>PERMIT #</i></b>
<b><i>FACILITY TYPE</i></b>	<b><i>STATUS</i></b>
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH DUMP MUNICIPAL	----- CLOSED
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH INDUSTRIAL	----- CLOSED
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH TRANSFER STA. MUNICIPAL	261003-6001 ACTIVE
CITY OF N. MYRTLE BEACH TRANSFER STA. MUNICIPAL	261004-6001 ACTIVE

VENTURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIAL	342433-5201 ACTIVE
P MINING COMPOSTING COMPOSTING	262650-3001 ACTIVE
VEREEN COMPOSTING SITE COMPOSTING	262484-3001 INACTIVE
DIRTY WORK INC. COMPOSTING	222671-3001 INACTIVE

### ***Mining Activities***

<b><i>MINING COMPANY MINE NAME</i></b>	<b><i>PERMIT # MINERAL</i></b>
P MINING CO. P MINING PIT #1	0776-51 LIMESTONE
P MINING CO. P MINING PIT #2	1157-51 LIMESTONE
VEREEN CONCRETE CO., INC. SAND RIDGE MINE	0928-51 SAND
PALMETTO LAND PARTNERS LLC BAREFOOT PIT	1407-51 LIMESTONE/COQUINA SAND
MYRTLE BEACH FARMS CO., INC. 79TH AVE. NORTH BORROW PIT	0362-51 SAND/CLAY
SOUTHERN ASPHALT INC. APACHE MINE	1993-51 SAND
HINSON FAMILY LTD PARTNERSHIP APACHE TRACT II MINE	1926-51 SAND/TOP SOIL

### **Water Quantity**

Portions of this watershed fall within the Waccamaw Capacity Use Area and large groundwater uses must be reported (see Capacity Use Program p.22).

<b><i>WATER USER STREAM</i></b>	<b><i>REGULATED CAPACITY (MGD) PUMPING CAPACITY (MGD)</i></b>
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH	42.1
AIWW	52.8

### **Growth Potential**

There is a high potential for residential/resort and commercial growth in this watershed, which contains the Cities of North Myrtle and Myrtle Beach as well as the Towns of Atlantic Beach, and Surfside Beach. This "Grand Strand" area is expected to experience a significant increase in population as the popular tourist destination lures year-round residents. Water infrastructure is located throughout the watershed, and sewerage is available in the northern tip as well as in many of the residential/resort developments on the Waccamaw Neck. All developed areas on the Waccamaw Neck will have sewer services in the near future. The former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base has undergone significant

redevelopment as a mixed use district known as the Market Common. It is likely that it will become a central hub of growth in the region. The City of North Myrtle Beach has an interconnection with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority/Wetlands projects to handle additional wastewater flows in the North Myrtle Beach area, which should encourage additional growth. The Robert Edge Parkway, which crosses the AIWW and joins into Main Street in North Myrtle Beach, will relieve some of the congestion on U.S. Hwy 501. The proposed Preferred Alternative route of I-73 (Southern Corridor) would cross this watershed and could bring some growth to the area, especially around interchanges.

## **Watershed Protection and Restoration**

### ***Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)***

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for oxygen demanding substances has been developed for the main stem of the *Waccamaw River* and the *Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW)* in watersheds 02040206-09, 03040206-10, and 03040208-030. The TMDL addresses 12 separate monitoring stations on the State's 1998 303(d) list of impaired waters. The TMDL, based on a maximum 0.1 mg/l deficit allowed in waters that do not meet applicable dissolved oxygen standards due to natural conditions, will result in a decrease of approximately 63% in the permitted oxygen demanding load discharged to the system. The decreased loadings are being implemented through the NPDES permitting system with new, more restrictive limits becoming final at the conclusion of appropriate compliance schedules.

TMDLs were developed for SCDHEC and approved by the USEPA for eight water quality monitoring sites in the Murrell's Inlet system for fecal coliform impairments. Relationships between in-stream fecal coliform levels and precipitation, and the lack of major point sources of fecal coliform pollution within the watershed, indicate that storm water runoff from nonpoint sources are the primary contributors to fecal coliform contamination in the impaired waterbodies. Studies conducted by Kelsey et al. (2003) indicate that this fecal coliform contamination is derived primarily from animal, not human, sources. Reduction in loading of fecal coliform bacteria will be required in *Main Creek* (Shellfish monitoring sites: 04-01, 04-01A, 04-27 and 04-02) of 80.4% or 76.5%; *Parsonage Creek/Allston Creek* (shellfish monitoring sites: 04-08, 04-16, and 04-06) of 81.4%; and *Garden City Canal* (shellfish monitoring site: 04-26) of 71.4% for these water bodies to meet the shellfish harvesting standard.

### ***Special Projects***

#### **Beach Monitoring Workgroup Results**

The Department ceased collection of water samples in the surf zone in 1980 due to resource limitations. There were no ocean discharges of treated wastewater and other sources of ocean pollution were limited. Prior to 1980, data did not show violations of the water quality standards in the surf zone related to stormwater discharge. A Beach Monitoring workgroup, consisting of Department personnel and coastal municipal and county leaders, was initiated in response to concerns of stormwater inputs in South Carolina's surf zone. The consensus of the workgroup was that a voluntary baseline surf water quality project should be conducted to evaluate whether South Carolina needs to implement an ocean beach bacteria sampling program. The results of the study indicated that stormwater inflows via swashes and drain pipes are responsible for the observed high levels of bacteria in surf during wet weather. Recommendations from the workgroup include: ***Do not swim or allow children to play in swashes or stormwater; in areas with swashes or stormwater outfalls, do not swim in the ocean during rainfall; educate and advise the public about the health risks of swimming; maintain a State/local partnership to***

*regularly monitor surf in areas with beach stormwater discharges during swimming season; reduce bacteria inputs to surface waters from residences and parks; and prevent and control sources of pathogens to beaches from stormwater discharges and nonpoint sources.*

The findings of the workgroup support the posting of permanent signs at specific beach swashes and storm drain outfalls. A voluntary surf water quality monitoring program, with SCDHEC oversight, supported by local coastal municipalities and counties continues.

### **Development Implementation of a S.C. Coast-A-Syst**

The S.C. Coast-A-Syst project targets homeowners living along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) and Socastee Creek (watershed 03040206-09) and the AIWW and Little River (watershed 03040208-03). Like much of the coast, these areas are experiencing rapid development and increased populations, while also harboring fragile water resources for recreation and marine ecology. High fecal coliform bacteria counts, water quality non-supportive of aquatic life because of low dissolved oxygen, and pH excursions exist in local waterbodies.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and Clemson University developed a program called South Carolina Coast-A-Syst. This product, modeled after the Home\*A\*Syst and Farm-A-Syst programs, is used to teach watershed residents and waterbody users responsible practices for protecting water quality, with the ultimate goal to reduce bacteria and nutrient input into nearby waterbodies from urban/suburban activities and land development. Research was conducted through surveys to determine what BMPs were appropriate for coastal South Carolina, where education about nonpoint source was lacking, and how best to reach homeowners in providing continued education. Education of coastal residents included identification of practices, which detrimentally affect water quality, reasons why those practices do so, and instructions in better water quality management practices.

Sea Grant Extension and Clemson Extension published a S.C. Coast-A-Syst packet, which includes self-assessments and fact sheets on homeowner practices. Sea Grant Extension trained Extension agents, Master Gardeners, and homeowner associations to administer this homestead self-assessment program distribute the program and materials through homeowner associations and other public groups, provide support for the program through the Horry County Extension Service, and provide electronic distribution of the program via the world wide web.

### **Determining the Role of Estuarine Swashes on Water Quality Impairments along the Grand Strand of South Carolina**

The NOAA-NERRS (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration-National Estuarine Research Reserve) Science Collaborative began in September 2010 seeking to address how land use attributes and stormwater management practices and conveyance within swash watersheds affect nutrient and organic matter loading to swashes, their internal transformations, and subsequent export to the coastal ocean. The ultimate goal of the project is to make landuse and stormwater management decisions that improve and protect coastal water quality, particularly with respect to hypoxia along the Grand Strand. Investigators worked with intended end users of the study to develop a categorization scheme for all 14 swashes within the study area. Two swashes, Dogwood and Wiithers, were selected for intensive investigation that included sampling three upstream sites and a down stream location at the mouth of each swash over a period of two years. The final report for this study is under development. Additional information is

available at:

[http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/media/2012/11152012WithersTour/Swash\\_Two\\_Pager\\_v2.pdf](http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/training/media/2012/11152012WithersTour/Swash_Two_Pager_v2.pdf).

### **Hypoxia in the Nearshore Coastal Waters of South Carolina along the Grand Strand**

In the summer of 2004, a hypoxic event in the nearshore area of Long Bay led to the formation of a workgroup of researchers and resource managers called Long Bay Working Group. A multi-disciplinary approach has been established to gain additional insight into future hypoxic conditions by continuing nearshore water quality monitoring (salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen) and expanding this monitoring to include <sup>222</sup>Rn (a tracer of groundwater inputs) and chlorophyll, CDOM, and turbidity; examining the biological response (productivity) during times of enhanced nutrient input and low dissolved oxygen levels; and analyzing prior and newly collected data to better understand the interconnection between offshore and onshore driving forces. A preliminary assessment of the impact of low oxygen on the marine life of Long Bay is being conducted by monitoring larval recruitment onto ceramic plates suspended from the piers. The study is ongoing with more information available at: <http://www.coastal.edu/eql/projects/hypoxia.html>.

### **Murrells Inlet Watershed Based Plan**

In 2012, the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, with the Horry and Georgetown County Stormwater Departments, Murrells Inlet 2020 and Coastal Carolina University as cooperating partners, were awarded a 319 Grant to develop a comprehensive Watershed Based Plan for Murrells Inlet Estuary. A diverse group of stakeholders were involved in producing the plan, which focuses on reducing fecal coliform loads and reserving the shellfish use of the Estuary. The plan is available for review at <http://www.wrcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Murrells-Inlet-Watershed-Plan-Part-A.pdf>.

### **Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan BMP Implementation Projects**

In 2014, the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, with the Horry and Georgetown County Stormwater Departments and Murrells Inlet 2020 as cooperating partners, were awarded a 319 Grant to implement water quality improvement projects identified in the Watershed Based Plan. Proposed structural BMPs include floating treatment wetlands, bacterial media filter strips, an infiltration bioswale and a constructed wetland. Installation of these BMPs is scheduled to begin in late 2015.

