



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

May 17, 2010

Nothing dollarable is safe.

–John Muir

Who Cares about the Environment?

The Anderson-Rogers Foundation has awarded NoPort Southport NC, Inc., a grant of \$5000 for an independent study of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed container port in Southport and the related channel dredging.

Dr. Michael Mallin, Research Professor in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina–Wilmington will conduct the study. Dr. Mallin is past president of the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society, an Aldo Leopold Environmental Leadership Fellow and Research Coordinator for the Lower Cape Fear River Program, the Wilmington Watersheds Program and the New Hanover County Tidal Creeks Program.

This study will focus on the consequences to wildlife and ecosystems in the Cape Fear region from the proposed container port. The Nature Conservancy has labeled this coastal region as a “biodiversity hotspot,” which provides essential nursery grounds and habitat for commercial and recreational fish populations, many species of native and migrating birds, and some plants that grow nowhere else on earth.

We hope to supplement this grant with other grants and apply them to the project. This is an important study, because no one else is doing it. The container terminal and the associated dredging promises environmental devastation on a massive scale, yet the North Carolina State Ports Authority, while spending \$6 million on engineering and planning, has spent nothing at all on environmental analysis beyond determining that the terminal site is free of contamination. Yet Tom Eagar, CEO, of the North Carolina State Ports Authority, has pronounced that “This is on the list as probably one of the more environmentally friendly projects on the East Coast.”

But the US Fish and Wildlife Service says: “The project, when considered in its entirety, is very likely to result in substantial permanent loss of environmental value. ... “ The Service regards this project as having the potential for the broadest geographic impacts of any project ever proposed for North Carolina.

The Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers is as delinquent as the State Ports Authority. In the course of spending nearly a hundred thousand dollars on the recent reconnaissance study, they could only produce a cursory list of environmental issues supplied by other agencies. And by us.

You could look it up. Go to www.noportsouthport.org and inspect the Corps of Engineers report, the State Ports Authority reports, and our work.

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