



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

August 14, 2010

They paved paradise, put up a parking lot.

–Joni Mitchell

Oh, the Environment!

This week NoPort Southport received a report from Dr. Michael Mallin, Research Professor at the Center for Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, on the *Potential Environmental Problems from Building the Proposed North Carolina International Terminal*. These are some of his conclusions:

- Replacing 400 acres of natural habitat with buildings and paved areas would inhibit groundwater recharge, produce contaminated stormwater runoff, and destroy extensive woodlands and wetlands and their function of pollution control and animal habitat.
- Removal of 86 acres of salt marsh and armoring the natural shoreline with 4,600 ft. of hardened dock would remove riparian habitat and lead to erosion of natural areas of shoreline on both sides of the terminal dock.
- Dredging for the channel would destroy shallow water estuarine habitat, create copious amounts of turbidity and suspended solids, impact the intake canal for the nuclear power plant, increase fecal bacterial pollution resulting in more shellfish bed closures, alter upstream salinities, and increase erosion of the beaches at Bald Head Island.
- The massive increase in large ship traffic would increase local air pollution and water pollution, increase local noise pollution, potentially introduce non-native species in ballast water, and lead to increased mortality of endangered sturgeon.
- Road construction and use would lead to loss of animal habitat (including that of endangered species), fragmentation of plant and animal habitat, introduction of non-native species, disruption of hydrology, and pollution of streams, ponds and marshes.

Dr. Mallin's study was funded by a small grant from the Anderson-Rogers Foundation. We are grateful to him for an extraordinarily comprehensive report given the funds available. Get it at www.noportsouthport.org/mambo/images/stories/PDFfiles/UNCW80910.pdf

The North Carolina State Ports Authority has spent six million dollars on studies for the North Carolina International Terminal, but none of that was for analysis of environmental effects. But they have just awarded a million-dollar contract for public relations. Millions for defense of the project, but not one penny for tribute to the environment.

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