ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

- History of the ACE Basin Project
- Introduction to the NERR program
- MPA status
During the Dedication Ceremony, Governor Campbell noted that this project illustrated that state and private groups could “successfully work together, sharing their talents and resources to protect and restore valuable wetland habitat.”
Sampson Island
2696 acres, 1987
ACE Basin Task Force Strategy

- ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge
- Education
- Bear Island Wildlife Management Area
- ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Wise Resource Management
- Traditional Uses
- Public Access
- Conservation Easements
- Private Land Initiative
- Private Landowners
ACE Basin Project Accomplishments

- 43,000 acres in State protection status
- 11,815 in ACE Basin NWR
- 90,000 acres under conservation easements
- 34,000 acres protected by foundations or management agreements
ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

- History of the ACE Basin Project
- Introduction to the NERR program
- Evolving role of the Reserve
National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)

- network of protected areas established to improve the health of the nation's estuaries and coastal habitats.
Federal-State Partnership

• NOAA responsibilities
  – administer the program
  – establish standards for
    • designating reserves
    • operating reserves
  – initiate projects that benefit the entire System
  – integrate information from individual reserves to support decision-making at the national level
Federal-State Partnership

- State responsibilities
  - develop coordinated research and education programs
  - foster stewardship of coastal watersheds
    - local communities and regional groups
  - ensure integrity of the Reserve for long-term research and education
Program Areas

• Land Protection
• Research
• Education
  – K-12
  – Coastal Training Program
  – General
MPA Status = Eligible

• Real cost
  – A diverse group of constituents would need to be engaged on the subject

• Real benefit?
  – “The reasons set forth for why a state should voluntarily participate in the national system of MPAs are inadequate and unpersuasive”.

  *CSO comments on draft framework*
MPA Status = Member?

– well communicated science-based rationale
– broad durable framework for implementing MPAs
  • Marine spatial planning?
  • Executive Order vs. Legislative authority
– resources
Questions?