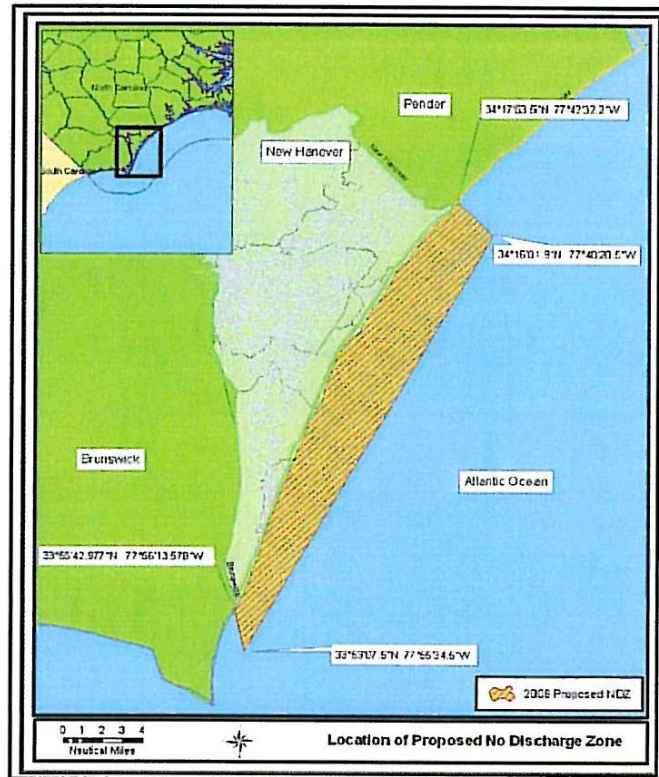


Waters along the Entire Length of New Hanover County Designated as “No Discharge Zone”



On February 22, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice designating New Hanover County Coastal Waters as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). City Council passed a resolution on March 3, 2009 to join with Wrightsville Beach and New Hanover County to apply to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Division of Water Quality to petition EPA for this designation. Bacteria-source tracking efforts in Banks Channel indicate that human fecal bacteria are present at levels above those considered safe for human contact by DENR and EPA. Research points to boats as a likely significant source of the fecal material. A NDZ is defined as a body of water in which the discharge of vessel sewage, both treated and untreated, is prohibited. Improved conditions resulting from the NDZ would help protect public health and help prevent beach closures which are ultimately detrimental to tourism.

The NDZ extends three nautical miles into the Atlantic Ocean along the entire length of New Hanover County, including Futch Creek, Pages Creek, Bradley Creek, Hewlett's Creek, Howe Creek, Whiskey Creek, Snow's Cut, as well as unnamed tributaries and all unnamed tidal creeks tributary to those waters. The alternative to discharging from boats into the waterways is to use one of the pump-out facilities at local marinas. There are 9 marinas within New Hanover County and two other marinas that are located within 7 nautical miles of this proposed NDZ area. The full Federal Register notice can be viewed here:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-3372.htm>