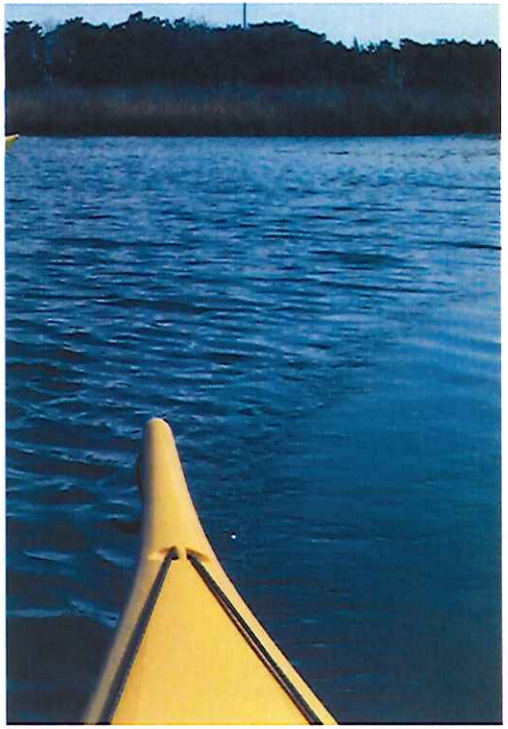
Topsail Beach Paddle Trails

Introductory
Public
Information
Meeting



Outline

* Overview
  * Benefits
  * NC Paddle Trail system
* Proposed Maps
  * Access Points
* Signage
* Interpretive Models
  * Fixed, on site
  * Electronic Based
* Maintenance and support
  * Friends group
  * Put in maintenance
* Next steps

Overview

* Project initiated by folks on Topsail Beach
* Contacted mutual acquaintances in land management agencies
* Developed grant with NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program – Won grant
  * Non-monetary grant
  * Technical assistance only
  * Multiple partners on grant
* Now in preliminary design phase
  * Project providing DIS experience for students at UNCW
  * Project will serve as case study in EVS 525 (interpretation)

Economic Benefits

* Kayaking is one of the fastest growing forms of outdoor receation
* 2008 NCSU study found
  * The ~1,800 respondents spent nearly $1 million in 2007 on paddle trips outside their local areas
  * ~2,000 respondents spent nearly $300K on paddle trips within their local areas
* Ohio study found canoe and kayakers spent an average of $55 on food and lodging per trip.
* Research along the North Forest Canoe Trail found that non-local paddlers spent an average of $46/day