Field Session Options

Field Session #1: Hammocks Beach State Park's Jones Island | Swansboro, N.C.

Field trip participants will take a bus from the conference center to Hammocks Beach State Park in Swansboro and then a ferry ride over to Jones Island in the White Oak River. This island features a variety of living shoreline techniques, including salt marsh grass plantings, oyster shell bag sills and marsh toe revetments, and loose oyster shell patch reefs. Research on the stabilization of the shoreline over time and the development of marsh and oyster habitat post-installation will be discussed. A granite sill with landward salt marsh grass plantings can also be viewed at the Park's Visitor Center.

Field Session #2: Pivers Island, Sandbar Oyster Company Shellfish Lease, Rachel Carson National Estuarine Research Reserve | Beaufort/Morehead City, N.C.

Field trip participants will take a ferry along Taylor's Creek to several living shoreline sites in the Beaufort/Morehead City area. Participants will rotate between Pivers Island (home of the Duke University Marine Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Beaufort Lab), the Rachel Carson Reserve (part of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve), and Sandbar Oyster Company's shellfish lease located at the mouth of the Newport River. Living shoreline examples across a range of wave energy environments at these sites include salt marsh grass plantings, granite sills, loose oyster shell placement, oyster shell bag marsh toe revetments, and marsh toe revetment and sandflat oyster reef creation with OysterCatcher™. Research on the long-term performance of living shorelines, as well as factors to consider when installing living shorelines in high-energy environments will be discussed.

Field Session #3: Trinity Center and N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores | Bogue Banks, N.C.

Field trip participants will travel by bus to view a variety of living shoreline techniques at Trinity Center and the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores including granite and oyster shell bag sills and OysterCatcher™ marsh toe revetments. Researchers will discuss findings on fish utilization of living shorelines, as well as the performance of living shorelines during Hurricanes Irene, Arthur, Matthew, and Florence as compared to bulkheads.