



## Coastal Training Program Hosts Marine Planning Processes Workshop

Understanding how to use coastal resources while minimizing negative impacts on the environment is a tricky task. With over 40 % of the world's ocean heavily affected by human activity the process of marine planning is a dynamic tool to ensure the sustainable use and preservation of our coastlines. To educate coastal management professionals on the Marine Planning Process, the Coastal Training Program co-hosted a workshop with the Duke University Nicholas School Executive Education program in January. A special thanks to the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, who provided additional funding for the workshop.

The workshop, originally developed by the Battelle Memorial Institute with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, teaches coastal management professionals how to balance the competing demands on coastal areas that are used by multiple stakeholder groups. To gain practical experience, participants were led on a voyage through the marine planning process to make a plan for the fictional Esperenza Island. Like many coastal communities, each area around the Esperenza Island had different marine resources and stakeholder groups that overlapped with neighboring communities.

As participants assumed the identity of planners from the different communities around the island, they learned about the characteristics of their residents and coastal region. Each community had stakeholders involved in fishing, development, recreation, conservation, or transportation that used many of the region's coastal resources. Groups decided how to meet the needs of the stakeholders within their community while cooperating with neighboring communities as new uses such as eco-tourism or renewable energy emerge. Participants also gained experience in applying adaptive management, solving problems that may throw a wrench in the island's marine plan.



*Participants learn about the stakeholders and issues in their coastal community of the fictional Esperenza Island.*

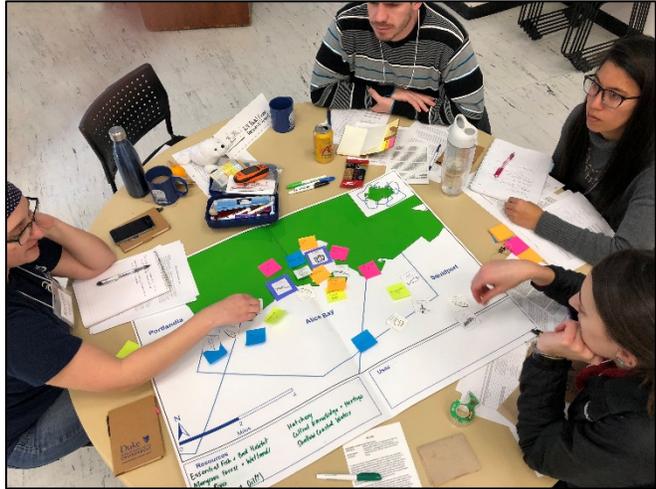
Many of the participants were planners and managers of coastal communities and this workshop added new tools to their toolbox. Chad Davis, a Community Planner, recently moved to Eastern North Carolina to work with the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments. "Having lived and worked most of my life in the mountains, I was eager to learn about marine

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ecosystems and the best practices for managing those ecosystems,” Davis said. “This workshop introduced a planning process that is slightly different than what I have used in the past, and I will incorporate this process in future planning endeavors.”

The Marine Planning Process Workshop not only offered a great setting to learn new material, but also to engage and network with other coastal management professionals. “Having good relationships with partner agencies is essential in creating effective marine plans,” said Whitney Jenkins, the Coastal Training Program Coordinator. “Participants came from many agencies and Universities for this workshop, allowing participants to develop relationships with professionals not only in Eastern North Carolina, but throughout the United States.”

Interested in more workshops hosted by the [Coastal Training Program](#)? Keep an eye out on the [Events Calendar](#) or join our [mailing list](#)!



*Participants map the marine resources and uses of the coastal area in their region of Esperanza Island.*