

*The  
Crystal  
Coast*

NORTH  
CAROLINA'S  
GEM™

— BOATING, FISHING —  
AND  
**WATERWAYS  
GUIDE**



*The  
Crystal  
Coast*

NORTH  
CAROLINA'S  
GEM™



# Index

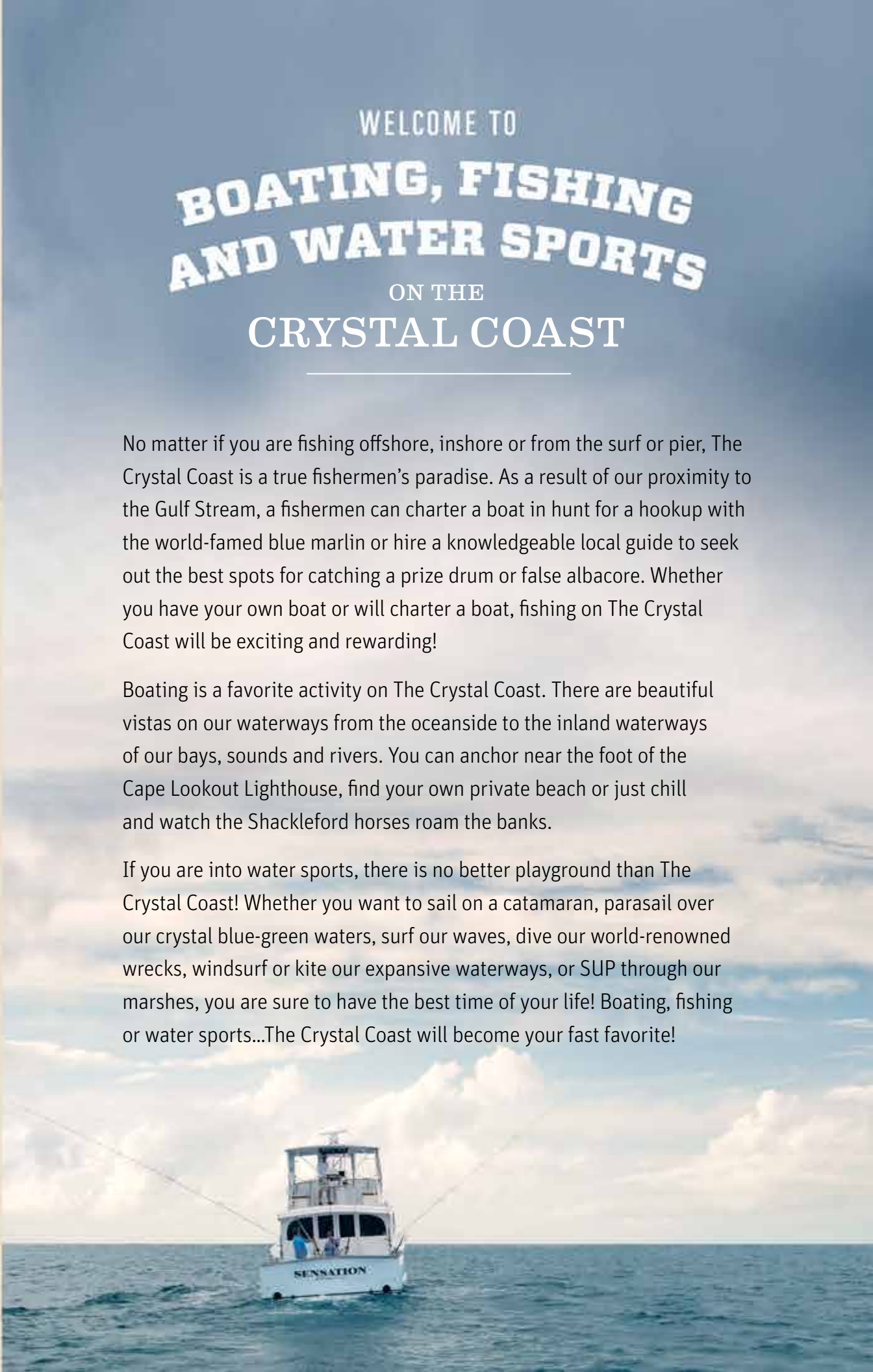
Offshore Fishing	4
Charter & Head Boats	6
Fishing Tournaments	8
Inshore Fishing	10
Inshore Fishing Q&A	12
Fly Fishing	16
Surf Fishing	15
Fishing Piers	20
Driving on the Beach	22
Boating	24
Marinas	26
Boating Need to Know Info	28
Launch Your Boat	30
Ferry Services	32
Water Sports	34
Diving	36
Stand-up Paddleboarding	38
Kayaking	40
Kiteboarding	42
Windsurfing	42
Parasailing	44
Sailing	46
Surfing	48
Crab, Shrimp & Clam	50
References	52

## WELCOME TO BOATING, FISHING AND WATER SPORTS ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

No matter if you are fishing offshore, inshore or from the surf or pier, The Crystal Coast is a true fishermen’s paradise. As a result of our proximity to the Gulf Stream, a fishermen can charter a boat in hunt for a hookup with the world-famed blue marlin or hire a knowledgeable local guide to seek out the best spots for catching a prize drum or false albacore. Whether you have your own boat or will charter a boat, fishing on The Crystal Coast will be exciting and rewarding!

Boating is a favorite activity on The Crystal Coast. There are beautiful vistas on our waterways from the oceanside to the inland waterways of our bays, sounds and rivers. You can anchor near the foot of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse, find your own private beach or just chill and watch the Shackleford horses roam the banks.

If you are into water sports, there is no better playground than The Crystal Coast! Whether you want to sail on a catamaran, parasail over our crystal blue-green waters, surf our waves, dive our world-renowned wrecks, windsurf or kite our expansive waterways, or SUP through our marshes, you are sure to have the best time of your life! Boating, fishing or water sports...The Crystal Coast will become your fast favorite!





# THE THRILL OF OFFSHORE FISHING

## ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

The proximity to the Gulf Stream is why you won't find more productive waters than on Bogue Banks. You will find that it is home to many exciting and outstanding sport fishing species including blue and white marlin, sailfish, dolphin, blackfin and yellowfin tuna, giant bluefin tuna, wahoo and king mackerel.

Whether you are a seasoned offshore angler or want to experience the thrill of a lifetime hooking up with a blue marlin, The Crystal Coast offers one of the largest charter fleets on the East Coast. Experienced captains and eager mates will be happy to guide you through the incredible natural wonder of the Gulf Stream fishery. Learn to see what the captain and mates see...learn the art of bait rigs and trolling techniques...learn what it takes to reel in the memory of a lifetime! Whether it is a guys' weekend at The Crystal Coast or your family wants to get a taste of a real sportfishing adventure, our fleet of charter boats is ready to entertain and delight you with an incredible and memorable fishing experience.

If you prefer the likes of bottom fishing, Bogue Banks has a whole host of tasty fish including snapper, sea bass, tilefish, triggerfish and grouper. We have several large head boats that offer day and night fishing and, if you are game, shark fishing!

For those of you that prefer light tackle fishing, The Crystal Coast offers a wide variety of sounds, rivers and creeks plentiful with red drum, gray and speckled trout, flounder, spot and sheephead.



# CHARTER & HEAD BOATS



Everyone knows that the Bogue Banks of North Carolina make a great place to fish for school-to medium-size yellowfin tuna. Forty- to 80-pound yellowfin make up the bread and butter of the charter fleets during the long, hot summers, but it's the influx of giant bluefin each winter that gets the blood boiling even in the cold.

## Beagle Fishing Charters

### Capt. Bill Dillon

520 Evans Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-670-1080  
beaglecharters.com

### Bill Collector

1905 Club House Drive  
Morehead City, NC  
252-247-5617  
billcollectorcharter.com

## Blue Water Sportfishing

### Capt. Gray Hall

POB 264  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252-504-0651  
fishbluewater.com

## Bluewater Lady Sportfishing

405 Evans Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
252-725-5935  
bluewaterladycharters.com

## Cape Lookout Charters

### Capt. Dave Dietzler

677 Evans Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-241-0210  
capelookoutcharters.com

### Capt. Joe Shute

601 H Atlantic Beach Causeway  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-240-2744  
captjoes.com

## Capt. Rob Edwards

Atlantis Charters  
Beaufort, NC  
252-728-6244  
atlantischarters.net

## Capt. Rob Pasfield

### Last Cast Charters

Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-728-3907  
harkersmarina.com

## Capt. Stacy IV

POB 3013  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-726-4675  
captstacy.com

## Carolina Princess

6th Street Waterfront  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-5479  
carolinaprincess.com

## Crystal Coast Adventures

515 Atlantic Beach Causeway  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
919-414-2452  
crystalcoastadventures.com

## Crystal Coast Lady

617 Front Street  
Beaufort, NC  
252-728-8687  
crystalcoastlady.com

## Dancin' Outlaw

Evans Street @ Big Rock Landing  
Harkers Island, NC  
252-504-2342  
252-241-8346  
dancinoutlaw.net

## Diamond Girl

Evans Street @ Big Rock Landing  
Morehead City, NC  
252-504-0651  
diamondgirlcharters.com

## Down East Guide Services

1907 Paulette Road  
Morehead City, NC  
252-671-3474  
pamllicoguide.com

## Energizer

3009 Tootle Road  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-2944  
energizersportfishing.com

## Fish Finder

601 H Atlantic Beach Causeway  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
800-868-0941  
fishfindertackle.com

## Fish'n Warrior Charters

Fort Macon Road  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-230-5315  
fishnwarriorcharters.com

## Fish'N4Life Charters

113 Ryan Glenn Drive  
Swansboro, NC  
910-325-8194  
nccharterfishing.com

## Sunrise II Fishing Charters

### Capt. Bobby Freeman

221 Smith Street  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-726-9814  
fishsunrise.com

## Sensation Sportfishing

600 Evans Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-725-5375  
sensationsportfishing.com

## Yellow Fin Sportfishing

501 Evans Street  
Morehead Waterfront  
Morehead City, NC  
252-241-2185





# **THE MAGIC OF INSHORE FISHING**

## **ON THE CRYSTAL COAST**

---

If you are in search of the tail-walking puppy drum as he runs with your bait along the edges of the marsh, look no further than the inshore waters of The Crystal Coast.

Our vast marshes, creeks, rivers and sounds are rich with oysters, shrimp and other marine life, and thus provide a culinary extravaganza for drum, trout, flounder and more.

There are quite possibly thousands of places on the Southern Outer Banks from where you could fish inshore and count yourself as the luckiest soul alive with a fishing rod in one hand and your catch of the day in the other!

Whether live bait, jigging or bottom fishing, the beauty of tidal marshes, creeks and rivers will only enhance your fishing experience. To enjoy inshore fishing on The Crystal Coast to its fullest, you might consider hiring a guide. They know the productive areas of the marshes, creeks and rivers as well as how they run on the tides, and what baits are likely to be preferred during the course of the year. However, if you want to explore on your own, here are a few suggested areas: the marshes on the soundside of Emerald Isle, the rock jetty on Radio Island off of the Morehead City and Beaufort Causeway, the rock jetty on the backside of Shackleford Banks (you will need to take a ferry), and the north side of the jetty at Fort Macon State Park. Of course, there are truly another 100-plus locations, depending on how adventurous you are.

Before you cast your line, you'll need to obtain a North Carolina Recreational Fishing License. Simply visit [www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net) to purchase a fishing license online, or stop by any local Crystal Coast tackle shop during your stay. You can also call toll-free 888-248-6834 from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.





# INSHORE FISHING

## Q & A

---

### **What are the top spots to catch fish inshore?**

For prime fishing grounds, the marshes are a great place to start, and they can be accessed by boat, kayak or other personal watercraft from public access ramps. Marshes are prolific with juvenile fish, oysters and other marine life, and thus offer perfect habitat for feeding and shelter. As with the tides, large fish come and go to make a meal...hopefully, on your bait!

In Emerald Isle, you will find marshes to either side of the high-rise bridge. In Atlantic Beach, there are marshes toward Fort Macon State Park. On the Newport River, there is a beautiful marsh between Morehead City and Beaufort. And, from Harkers Island to the cape, there are numerous marshes. Bridges also offer great fishing opportunities.

### **When are the best times to go fishing?**

First light and dusk are always prime feeding times for fish. And, the added benefits of fishing at these times are glorious sunrises and sunsets!

Also, as the cold fronts start to blow through in October and bait runs hard, there is a huge surge in migrating fish populations and an instinctual feeding frenzy that always delights anglers.

Seasonally, fishing on the Southern Outer Banks is best in the spring, summer and fall months, but winter also offers good fishing opportunities, particularly if it is mild and the waters stay warmer.

When it comes to tides, many anglers fish on the initial change of the tide, incoming or outgoing.

### **What kinds of fish inhabit the inshore waters?**

Because of The Crystal Coast's proximity to the Gulf Stream, fishermen are afforded the opportunity to catch a wide variety of species.

This includes flounder, speckled and grey trout, red drum, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, spot, black sea bass, sheepshead and sometimes the occasional pompano or black drum. Check out the Guide to North Carolina Fish at [www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net).

Remember you will need a North Carolina Coastal Recreational/Saltwater Fishing License ([www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net)) and need to know about North Carolina Fishing Regulations, including sizes and limits. If you are fishing offshore, it is helpful to know the locations of our artificial reefs.



## **THE JOY OF FLY FISHING**

ON THE

## **CRYSTAL COAST**

---

Ever fished for a false albacore on a flyrod before? Well, imagine hooking up to an 18-wheeler headed for California with no holds barred! This is where the art of your cast and fly meet up with reel smoking albies prepared to fight, dive deep and shred your tippet!

What about fishing for drum, trout or even gamefish on your flyrod? The choice is yours on The Crystal Coast. Whether you prefer to meander deep into the marshes and quietly stalk your fish, scout out the “hook” at the cape or go further offshore, be prepared for the time of your life!

Pick your days, your fish, your location. The marshes on the soundside or the point off of Bogue Inlet offer flyrod fun in Emerald Isle. In between Beaufort and Morehead City as well as Harkers Island and Beaufort, there are several marshes to explore if you have a watercraft of your own. The Cape Lookout National Seashore with Core Banks and Shackleford Banks offer a productive hunting arena for you and your flyrod to hook up with a prize fish. In addition, there are many roadside accesses Down East and along the beach to find other fishing opportunities. Don your waders and cast away.

Or, if you prefer to go and know what the locals know, check out one of our fishing guide services and enjoy a half- or full-day experience on our highly fishable waters.

Before you cast your line, you’ll need to obtain a North Carolina Recreational Fishing License. Simply visit [www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net) to purchase a fishing license online, or stop by any local Crystal Coast tackle shop during your stay. You can also call toll-free 888-248-6834 from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.





## THE EXCITEMENT OF SURF FISHING ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

For Southern Outer Banks fishermen, there's nothing like heading out to the shore with a rod and reel in hand and casting out right from the beach. With intersecting currents and miles of beaches, The Crystal Coast offers a world of exceptional surf fishing, and novice and experienced anglers alike can find amazing record-setting catches just by casting from Cape Lookout National Seashore and the beaches between Emerald Isle and Atlantic Beach.

With the Labrador and Gulf Stream currents colliding at the Southern Outer Banks, a variety of migrating game fish are within surf casting distance at any given point of the year. In the spring months, expect to

catch sea bass, striped bass, bluefish and red drum off of our beaches, with many of these migrating fish returning again in the fall, along with king mackerels.

Anglers attest that fall is when surf fishing really heats up, particularly in the peak weeks of October when the fattened red drum return, and finger mullet run along the coast. Flounder, puppy drum, sea mullet, spot, croaker, black drum and an occasional sheepshead round out some of the fish that can be found in the surf throughout the season.

In the summer months, be on the lookout for prized cobia, amberjack, pompano and tasty Spanish mackerel, which can be found off the Southern Outer Banks beaches all summer long, particularly in the early morning and late evening along our shores and inlets.

Before you cast your line, you'll need to obtain a North Carolina Recreational Fishing License. Simply visit [www.ncfisheries.net](http://www.ncfisheries.net) to purchase a fishing license online, or stop by any local Crystal Coast tackle shop during your stay. You can also call toll-free 888-248-6834 from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.





*(surf fishing continued)*

Surf fishing is a treasured experience...the crashing waves, the salt air and the anticipation of which fish will hit your bait adds to the excitement and allure of surf fishing.

The ever-changing tides, winds, sloughs, bait choices and whimsical feeding nature of fish drives the fever of surf fishing fanatics. One day, the flounder prefer shrimp, the next day white belly strips. One day, the mackerel are hitting like crazy and the next day the blues are ferocious. The beaches of the Southern Outer Banks offer the most spectacular surf fishing available.

Whether you are renting a home in Atlantic Beach or Emerald Isle, surf fishing heaven is but footsteps away. If you want to discover where the hot fishing spots are or what's been biting where, check with your favorite bait and tackle shop.

There are ample public beach access areas from Atlantic Beach to Emerald Isle. Also, know that we have two fishing piers, Oceanna in Atlantic Beach and Bogue Inlet in Emerald Isle. Also, keep in mind that you can surf fish off of the Beaufort Inlet at Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic Beach, and Bogue Inlet in Emerald Isle.

#### **Public Beach Access**

[www.carteretcrossroads.org](http://www.carteretcrossroads.org)

For an outer island experience, you can take one of the ferries to the Cape Lookout National Seashore for the day or rent rustic cabins along Core Banks.

#### **Cape Lookout National Seashore Information**

[www.nps.gov/calo](http://www.nps.gov/calo)

#### **Cabins for Rent at Cape Lookout National Seashore**

[www.nps.gov/calo/planyourvisit/lodging.htm](http://www.nps.gov/calo/planyourvisit/lodging.htm)



# OCEANANA & BOGUE INLET

## FISHING PIERS

---

The Crystal Coast boasts two wooden North Carolina fishing piers that allow anglers to cast deeper into the surf. Anglers, young and old, enjoy finding their spot on the pier and cast out in hopes of a prize hookup!

Pier fishing is sort of an art form with a whole cast of characters dotting the wooden deck boards. Some make it a family event, for others it is a day away from the stresses of life but for most, it is the chance to hook and reel in a great catch high onto the deck of the pier, and of course, be admired by fellow fishermen. It's a quiet and friendly competition to see who is the king or queen angler of the day. Note that you do not need a fishing license when fishing from either pier.

**The Bogue Inlet Pier** ([www.bogueinletpier.com](http://www.bogueinletpier.com))

in Emerald Isle is a 1,000-foot lighted wooden fishing pier that also boasts a brand new beautiful observation deck. For anglers, there are multiple cleaning stations, bathroom facilities and a store on the premises offering bait, tackle, rods, reels and beverages/snacks.

**The Oceanana Pier** ([www.oceanana.com](http://www.oceanana.com))

in Atlantic Beach is a unique family destination on North Carolina's Southern Outer Banks. Featuring one of the widest private beaches on the coast, a 1,000-foot long fishing pier and a large children's playground, there is plenty to do for everyone in the family. Perhaps that's why families have been coming back to the Oceanana year after year for their beach vacations. There is a great restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner in addition to a tackle shop on the premises.







## DRIVING ON THE BEACH

### LICENSES & PERMITS

---

As summer wanes into fall, and cooler weather comes in, fish are migrating south to warmer waters. Whether you are fishing for flounder, blues and mackerel or puppy drum, greys or specs, The Crystal Coast surf fishing is second to none! Being able to drive on the beach will help you find the hot fishing holes and sloughs!

Beach driving in Emerald Isle ([www.emeraldisle-nc.org](http://www.emeraldisle-nc.org)) is allowed from September 15 to April 30, with the exception of the 10-day period from and including the Friday prior to Easter until and including the Sunday that occurs seven days after Easter. Beach driving is allowed from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily from September 15 to November 6, and from March 13 to April 30 (to coincide with daylight saving time). Daily driving hours are 5 a.m. until 7 p.m. from November 7 to March 12 (to coincide with Eastern standard time).

Beach driving in Atlantic Beach ([www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)) is allowed from October 1 through March 15. Annual beach permits are available for purchase for \$50 (residents) and \$75 (nonresidents) at the Town Hall during regular business hours and at the Fire Department on the weekends. A valid drivers license and registration card for a four-wheel drive vehicle must be presented at time of purchase. ATVs are not allowed to drive on the beach at any time.

Beach driving is also allowed on parts of the Cape Lookout National Seashore ([www.nps.gov/caloc](http://www.nps.gov/caloc)). There are vehicle ferries in Atlantic for the northern part of Core Banks and also in Davis for those wanting to go to the Southern Core Banks.



# THE ADVENTURE OF BOATING

## ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

Boating on The Crystal Coast offers visitors a chance to explore our waterways from the ocean to the sounds and rivers, in addition to exploring barrier islands and finding your own piece of paradise!

What makes boating so special on The Crystal Coast is the access to pristine and uncrowded waterways. Boat ramps can be found from Emerald Isle to Atlantic Beach, from Morehead City to Beaufort and Down East. Many of the boating access areas are new with ample parking for trailers and offer multiple launch ramps. Within minutes you can be fishing, picnicking on a sandbar or watching the wild horses roam on the Banks.

Boating on The Crystal Coast gives you access to experience things that are very unique to our area. By boat you can go explore the Cape Lookout National Seashore and spend the day anchored in front of the Diamond Lady Lighthouse. Or, you can motor along Taylors Creek taking in the scenery and tie up for lunch on the Beaufort waterfront. Along the Morehead City waterfront, you can watch the sport fishing boats bring in their catch for the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament or anchor to watch the spectacular fireworks display on Fourth of July. Want to go tubing or kneeboarding? There are plenty of places for family fun along the sounds of Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle.

Boats are also a wonderful way to go explore the creeks and marshes of The Crystal Coast. Within the meandering waterways, a boater can discover a new secret fishing spot, watch dolphins frolicking, cast net for succulent shrimp or photograph the wild Shackleford horses grazing along the Banks.

**Boating Access Guide** [www.ncwildlife.org/boating](http://www.ncwildlife.org/boating)





# MARINAS ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

**70 West Marina**

4401 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-5171  
[www.70westmarina.com](http://www.70westmarina.com)

**Anchorage Marina**

517 E Fort Macon Road  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-726-4423  
[www.anchoragemarina.net](http://www.anchoragemarina.net)

**Beaufort Docks**

500 Front Street  
Beaufort, NC  
252-728-2503

**Boathouse At Front Street Village**

2400 Lennoxville Road  
Beaufort, NC  
252-838-1524  
[www.frontstreetvillage.com](http://www.frontstreetvillage.com)

**Coral Bay Marina**

4531 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-247-4231  
[www.coralbaymarina.com](http://www.coralbaymarina.com)

**Dockside Marina**

301 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-247-4890

**Dudley's Marina**

106 Cedar Point Blvd  
Cape Carteret, NC  
252-393-2204  
[www.dudleysmarina.net](http://www.dudleysmarina.net)

**Fort Macon Marina**

417 E Fort Macon Road  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-726-2055

**Morehead City Docks**

9th and Shepard Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-2457

**Morehead City Yacht Basin**

208 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-6862  
[www.mcyachtbasin.com](http://www.mcyachtbasin.com)

**Old Towne Yacht Club**

100 Olde Towne Yacht Club Road  
Beaufort, NC  
252-726-3066  
[www.oldetowneyachtclub.com](http://www.oldetowneyachtclub.com)

**Radio Island Marina**

156 Radio Island Road  
Beaufort, NC  
252-726-3773  
[www.radioislandmarina.com](http://www.radioislandmarina.com)

**Portside Marina**

209 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC  
252-726-7678  
[www.portsidemarina.com](http://www.portsidemarina.com)

**Sea Water Marina**

400 Morehead Ave  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
252-726-2707

**Town Creek Marina**

232 W Beaufort Road  
Beaufort, NC  
252-728-6111  
[www.towncreekmarina.com](http://www.towncreekmarina.com)





# BOATING NEED TO KNOW INFO

## Tides

The tides along The Crystal Coast rise and fall twice each day, approximately 3 feet. Of course, during the spring and fall and with approaching full and new moons, they can be even more drastic. The locals fish on the character of tides, claiming that their blueprint for a successful fishing day rests in knowing when and where the fish will be running or biting. Most fishermen know that fish will bite at first light or just as the sun is setting but others also fish hard at the onset of an incoming tide or near the tail of an outgoing tide. All fishermen have their own formula based on their years of fishing experience, but one thing for sure is that the Southern Outer Banks are great fishing grounds. When tides run out fast, be mindful of the depth of the water you are anchored in.

[www.salwatertides.com](http://www.salwatertides.com)

## Weather

The weather is ever changeable on The Crystal Coast. So if you are headed to the Cape for a day, it's best to pack too much rather than too little. Particularly in the spring and fall, an extra layer is good, along with plenty of sunscreen and bug spray. In the summer months, thunderstorms can form in a matter of minutes so know your safety plan ahead of time.

[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

## Navigation

If you are unfamiliar with the waters on The Crystal Coast, it is wise to get a local navigational chart. And note that while the charts are updated they don't always reflect the shifting of shoals during winter nor'easters.

## Pets

Your beloved four-legged friends are welcomed on our beaches provided they have leashes. Two important things to remember are that oyster shells make nasty cuts in paws, and secondly, just like you pets need water and shade from the hot summer sun.

## Guide to Water Color

Remember this jingle: "Brown, brown, run aground. White, white, you just might. Blue, blue, sail on through. Green, green, nice and clean."



# LAUNCH YOUR BOAT ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

## **Emerald Isle-ICW**

From the NC 58 bridge in Emerald Isle, continue east on NC 58 (Emerald Isle Drive) 3 miles. Turn left into the area.

## **Morehead City-ICW**

From the junction of NC 24 and US 70 in Morehead City, travel on US 70 east 2.7 miles. Turn right to The Crystal Coast Visitors' Center. The launch area is behind the center.

## **Beaufort Causeway-Newport River**

Travel east on US 70 over the Morehead City bridge and ramp is at the bottom of the bridge on your left. This ramp also has a fishing pier.

## **West Beaufort-Newport River**

From the east end of the drawbridge on US 70 in Beaufort, travel on US 70 east 0.3 miles. Turn left on Turner St. (SR 1174) and travel 0.4 miles. Before reaching W. Beaufort Rd., turn left to the area.

## **East Beaufort-Taylors Creek**

From the east end of the drawbridge on US 70 in Beaufort, travel on US 70 east 1 mile. Turn right on Lennoxville Rd. (SR 1310) and travel 1.5 miles. Turn right to the area.

## **Straits Landing-North River**

From the junction of US 70 and Merrimon Rd. (SR 1300), 5 miles east of Beaufort, travel on US 70 east 4.9 miles. Turn right on Harkers Island Rd. (SR 1332) and travel 3.8 miles. Before crossing the bridge, turn right to the area.

## **Oyster Creek-Core Sound**

From the junction of US 70 and NC 101 east of Beaufort, travel on US 70 east 18.5 miles. Turn right to the area.

## **Salters Creek-Salters Creek**

From the junction of US 70 and NC 12 near Sea Level, turn left on Wildlife Ramp Rd. and travel 0.3 miles to the area at the end of the road.

## **Cedar Island-Pamlico Sound**

From the junction of US 70 and NC 12 near Sea Level, travel on NC 12 north 11.7 miles. Turn right on Driftwood Rd. and travel 0.3 miles to the area at the end of the road.

*Warm waters from the Gulf Stream make one of the closest loops to land at this point of the Atlantic coast, and with it comes a great number of migrating species ready to be challenged.*





# TAKE A FERRY TO YOUR FAVORITE FISHING SPOT

If you want to fish out on Core Banks or Shackleford Banks, you will have to take a ferry out to the Cape Lookout National Seashore to enjoy some of the finest fishing known to mankind!

The fall season is the epic highlight of the Southern Outer Banks fishing dream. Imagine the sun setting behind you and the full moon rising out of the ocean in front of you as you hook up with a fat puppy drum. Or, set your sights on the perfect trout hole, wait until a grey or spec hits the bait and enjoy an amiable fight. Winter, spring and summer months also offer abundant fishing opportunities for flounder, blues, mackerel, whiting and more.

There are ferry services in Beaufort and Harkers Island that will all take you to the cape. Harkers Island, however, is the closest point. Most of the ferries are flat bottomed skiffs driven by experienced, local captains. In fact, they are often more than willing to share fishing hot spots and news about what's been biting where. Larger catamaran ferry vessels are available for passengers wanting this type of ferry experience.

Mark your calendars for your annual fishing trip and prepare to tell the best fishing tales ever.

## **Ferry Services on The Crystal Coast:**

Island Express Ferry Service:

[www.islandexpressferryservices.com](http://www.islandexpressferryservices.com)

Beaufort & Harkers Island Departure

Points at the National Park Service





A person wearing a blue shirt, a white life vest, and a white hat is kayaking on a body of water. The kayak is red and white. In the background, there are yellow marshes and a clear blue sky.

## PARADISE FOR WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

The Crystal Coast is truly a water sports enthusiast's paradise!

The Southern Outer Banks has miles and miles of rivers and sounds as well as the playground of the Atlantic Ocean. And, there are plenty of public access points, whether from your rental home, a public launch area or from a ferry to one of our outer islands on the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

If you are a kayaker or paddleboarder and you want to explore the vast verdant green marshes abundant with birds and marine life, we have the memorable adventure you seek.

If you want to surf the waves of our beaches or dance across the open flat waters of the sounds on your kiteboard or windsurfer, the waters of The Crystal Coast were made just for you! The summer usually offers southwest winds that are perfect for kiting or windsurfing along the shore from Atlantic Beach to Emerald Isle, and Shackleford Banks, one of the outer islands of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. These winds are equally as good for Bogue, Back or Core Sound, which offer shallower waters and ample beaches.

And, if you are interested in sailing, you will find dozens of rivers and sounds with fair winds, where you are likely to see wild dolphins and horses amongst many other spectacular sights.

A notable note is that no matter which direction the wind is blowing, you are likely to find the perfect spot to enjoy your particular water sport.



# YOUR DIVE ADVENTURE ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

If exploring the Graveyard of the Atlantic is on your bucket list, diving the waters off of The Crystal Coast's Southern Outer Banks should be tops on your list!

We offer world-class, warm water wreck diving.

The views of the shipwrecks are second to none, along with their tragic tales of terrific storms, submarine warfare and horrendous collisions. Not only will you learn about our maritime history, but each wreck is its own metropolis of fish and coral life.

It's a collection of sunken ships, and the U-352 is one of the most unique and sought after dive experiences. She was about one of a dozen German subs that prowled the waters off of the Outer Banks during World War II. The Spar, another popular wreck, was a U.S. Coast Guard cutter and is also one of the newest wrecks, sunk in 2004 as an artificial reef. You will find that this wreck is one of the fishiest with ample sand tiger sharks, groupers and other tropicals. And, if you just want to learn how to scuba dive, there are regular classes with certified instructors ready to teach you.

It's a diver's dream come true and the experience of a lifetime!

## **Olympus Diving**

[www.olympusdiving.com](http://www.olympusdiving.com)

## **Discovery Diving**

[www.discoverydiving.com](http://www.discoverydiving.com)



A man in silhouette is walking on a beach at sunset, carrying a surfboard and a paddle. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple, and the ocean is visible in the background.

# YOUR PADDLEBOARDING EXPEDITION ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

Stand-up paddleboarding is the hottest growing sport in the world and The Crystal Coast has the best waters for it, no matter what your level of experience.

If you want the challenge of paddling in the surf, there are many beach access points from Atlantic Beach to Emerald Isle, and you can even take your board by ferry out to the Shackleford or Core Banks beaches, which are all a part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. If you prefer calmer waters and just want to go cruising, you can almost always find your type of water and depth, on any sound or river. And, if you want to fish from your SUP, you will find it easy to access your favorite trout or drum spot by paddle.

If you fancy trying paddleboarding, there are several companies offering rentals, including Beaufort Inlet Watersports on the Beaufort waterfront, AB Surf Shop in Atlantic Beach and Flatwaters Paddlesports and Hot Wax Surf Shop in Emerald Isle. They will advise you where to launch and how to best enjoy your paddling experience.

Paddleboarding is a fun way to enjoy the waters of The Crystal Coast, enjoy the marine life and get a little exercise.

## **Beaufort Inlet Water Sports**

Beaufort

[www.beaufortwatersports.com](http://www.beaufortwatersports.com)

## **Atlantic Beach Surf Shop**

Atlantic Beach

[www.absurf.com](http://www.absurf.com)

## **Flatwaters Paddlesports**

Emerald Isle

[www.flatwaterspaddling.com](http://www.flatwaterspaddling.com)

## **Hot Wax Surf Shop**

Emerald Isle

[www.hotwaxsurf.com](http://www.hotwaxsurf.com)



# YOUR KAYAKING ADVENTURE ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

The Crystal Coast is a kayakers paradise.

Crystal blue green waters, dolphins, wild Shackleford horses, gorgeous marsh-laden vistas and private sandy beaches abound.

If you and your family or friends want to go kayaking, there are several companies offering rentals including Beaufort Inlet Watersports on the Beaufort waterfront, Barrier Island Kayaks in Cedar Point, H2O Sports Rentals in Indian Beach and Flatwaters Paddlesports in Emerald Isle. They will advise you where to launch and how to best enjoy your kayaking experience.

You might think about kayaking in Taylor's Creek where you can see Beaufort from the waterfront and enjoy the wild horses on Carrot Island and dolphins frolicking in the creek. Or, in the soundside marshes of Emerald Isle enjoying the coastal bird life and marine life that will surround you like a blanket of peace. Or, you can paddle out to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse from the east end of Harkers Island, and enjoy a series of marshy waterways and tiny islands. Be sure to pack a picnic as there are many private sandy beaches to enjoy!

## **Barrier Island Kayaks**

Near Emerald Isle

[www.barrierislandkayaks.com](http://www.barrierislandkayaks.com)

## **Beaufort Inlet Watersports**

Beaufort

[www.beaufortwatersports.com](http://www.beaufortwatersports.com)

## **Beaufort Paddle**

Beaufort

[www.beaufortpaddle.com](http://www.beaufortpaddle.com)

## **H2O Sports Rentals**

Indian Beach

[www.h2osportsrentals.com](http://www.h2osportsrentals.com)

## **Island Water Sports**

Atlantic Beach

[www.islandwatersports.com](http://www.islandwatersports.com)





# KITEBOARDING AND WINDSURFING ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

Looking for uncrowded beaches, steady winds and open water?

The Crystal Coast is the kiter's and windsurfer's undiscovered paradise!

The first ingredient to the perfect day for a kiteboarder or windsurfer is wind. The Southern Outer Banks has it in spades. And no matter where the wind is blowing from, you are almost always likely to be able to find that perfect beach to launch your kite from or set sail across the water on your board! In the summer, southerly winds prevail so it makes it possible to kite or windsurf, not only in the ocean from Atlantic Beach to Emerald Isle but also along Shackleford Banks and in the sounds and rivers. During the fall, spring and winter months when we tend to experience more northerly winds, a good place to kite is on the Pamlico Sound off the beaches on Cedar Island.

The second ingredient to a perfect day for a kiteboarder or windsurfer is great expanses of water. From the shallows of the rivers and sounds to the Atlantic Ocean, we will be your favorite playground. The green blue turquoise waters are out of a Caribbean picture and the vistas of wild horses, sandy beaches and marine life will only add to your kiting or windsurfing experience on The Crystal Coast. For those of you just beginning, there are plenty of shallow water areas that keep you close to shore.

If you want to go to the Cape Lookout National Seashore for the day, it is only a short ferry ride away to Shackleford Banks or Core Banks where you can be ready to play in a matter of minutes. Inside of the hook or "bight" of the cape, there is plenty of space to play, and if you want to be completely away from boating traffic, you can play in Core Sound just to the north of the lighthouse.







# PARASAILING

ON THE

## CRYSTAL COAST

---

Have you ever wanted to see The Crystal Coast from up above the water? Well, parasailing may be just the experience for you! You will be able to see the breadth of waterways, the gorgeous wild islands of the Banks, Fort Macon, the Beaufort Inlet, Cape Lookout Lighthouse and more. You will have the thrill of riding in a boat out to the launch area and then be safely launched into the air where you will enjoy breathtaking vistas. It is truly peaceful and a great way to see the sheer beauty of The Crystal Coast as most people never get to do. Bring your camera and be prepared to take some amazing shots.

Dragonfly Parasail ([www.dragonflyparasail.com](http://www.dragonflyparasail.com)) in Atlantic Beach will offer you and your family a memorable parasailing experience.





## SAILING ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

If you are yearning to set sail on The Crystal Coast you have several options. The Lookout Catamaran is very comfortable and stable and offers sailing trips to the cape where you will likely see the wild Shackleford horses, anchor near the Cape Lookout Lighthouse and enjoy the beautiful sands and surf of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. If you are more the romantic type, their sunset cruises are a lot of fun and offer breathtaking vistas.

For those more interested in coastal ecology, Capt. Ron of the sailing vessel Good Fortune will sail you through the Beaufort Harbor and surrounding waters, and share his knowledge of local dolphins, coastal birds and marine life.

During the summer months there are several informal sailing races that can be fun to watch or participate in. The Harkers Island Sunfish Regatta

is held in the latter part of August and it is a blast to watch all the colorful striped sails skim across the water with their skippers plotting out the best course for a win! Also, Fishtowne Regatta in Beaufort has four races annually and is open for small sailboats, kayaks and paddleboards.

If you want to trailer your own small sailboat with you on vacation, there are plenty of available launch sites, and all types of sailing grounds, depending upon your interests. With The Crystal Coast's vast sounds and rivers, there is ample opportunity to catch a great breeze and have the sail of a lifetime!

**The Lookout Catamaran**  
Beaufort  
[www.lookoutcruises.com](http://www.lookoutcruises.com)

**Good Fortune Sailing Charters**  
Beaufort  
[www.goodfortunesails.com](http://www.goodfortunesails.com)



A full-page background image of a surfer in a black wetsuit riding a wave. The surfer is in a crouched position, leaning forward, with one arm extended for balance. The wave is breaking, creating white foam. The water is a deep blue-green color. The sky is not visible.

## ON THE CRYSTAL COAST

---

Hang 10! Grab your surfboard and check out the waves on The Crystal Coast!

Because The Crystal Coast has south-facing beaches from Atlantic Beach to Emerald Isle and east-facing beaches along the Core Banks portion of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, you are likely to find your ride on one or more of our beaches. You will also find regular surfers near both the Oceanna pier in Atlantic Beach and Bogue Inlet pier in Emerald Isle.

Get stoked and learn how to surf or advance your skill levels with a surf camp. You can take private lessons or group lessons, and learn the ins and outs of reading waves and riding your board.

### **Atlantic Beach Surf Shop**

Atlantic Beach

[www.absurfshop.com](http://www.absurfshop.com)

### **Action Surf Shop**

Morehead City

[www.actionsurf.com](http://www.actionsurf.com)

### **Bert's Surf Shop**

AB & Emerald Isle

[www.bertsurfshop.com](http://www.bertsurfshop.com)

### **Hot Wax Surf Shop**

Emerald Isle

[www.hotwaxsurf.com](http://www.hotwaxsurf.com)

### **South Swell Surf Shop**

Emerald Isle

[www.southswellsurfshop.com](http://www.southswellsurfshop.com)

### **Marsh's Surf Shop**

Atlantic Beach

[www.marshsurfshop.com](http://www.marshsurfshop.com)



# REFERENCES

**Crystal Coast Hotel and Motels**

[www.crystalcoastnc.org](http://www.crystalcoastnc.org)

**Crystal Coast Restaurants**

[www.crystalcoastnc.org](http://www.crystalcoastnc.org)

**Michael J Smith Airport**

[www.flysouthernair.com](http://www.flysouthernair.com)

**Weather**

[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

**Tides**

[www.salwatertides.com](http://www.salwatertides.com)

**TowBoat US**

[www.atlanticcoastmarinegroup.com](http://www.atlanticcoastmarinegroup.com)

**SeaTow**

[www.crystalcoast.seatow.com](http://www.crystalcoast.seatow.com)

**Emergency Pet Clinic (Newport)**

252-223-5115

