

SECTION .2500 - EMERGENCY GENERAL PERMIT, TO BE INITIATED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURES, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY OR FRONTAL DUNE SYSTEMS, AND THE MAINTENANCE EXCAVATION OF EXISTING CANALS, BASINS, CHANNELS, OR DITCHES, DAMAGED, DESTROYED, OR FILLED IN BY HURRICANES OR TROPICAL STORMS, PROVIDED ALL REPLACEMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES CONFORM TO ALL CURRENT STANDARDS

15A NCAC 07H .2501 PURPOSE

Following damage to coastal North Carolina due to hurricanes or tropical storms, the Secretary may, based upon an examination of the extent and severity of the damage, implement any or all provisions of this Section. Factors the Secretary may consider in making this decision include, but are not limited to, severity and scale of property damage, designation of counties as disaster areas, reconnaissance of the impacted areas, or discussions with staff, state, or federal emergency response agencies. This permit shall allow for:

- (1) the replacement of structures that were located within the estuarine system or public trust Areas of Environmental Concern and that were destroyed or damaged beyond 50 percent of the structures value as a result of any hurricane or tropical storm;
- (2) a one time per property fee waiver for the reconstruction or repair by beach bulldozing of hurricane or tropical storm damaged frontal or primary dune systems; and
- (3) a one time per property fee waiver for maintenance dredging activities within existing basins, canals, channels, and ditches. Structure replacement, dune reconstruction, and maintenance excavation activities authorized by this permit shall conform with all current use standards and regulations. The structural replacement component of this general permit shall only be applicable where the structure was in place and serving its intended function at the time of the impacting hurricane or storm, and shall not apply within the Ocean Hazard System of Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) or waters adjacent to these AECs with the exception of those portions of shoreline that feature characteristics of Estuarine Shorelines. Such features include the presence of wetland vegetation, lower wave energy, and lower erosion rates than in the adjoining Ocean Erodible Area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-118.1;
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 2, 1999;
Temporary Adoption Expired on July 28, 2000;
Eff. April 1, 2001;
Readopted Eff. July 1, 2022.*