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<th>Rule Section</th>
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<th>Agency Determination (150B-21.3A(c)(1))</th>
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<tr>
<td>SECTION .0100</td>
<td>15A NCAC 07O .0101</td>
<td>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</td>
<td>Amended Eff. April 1, 1988</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>RRC not required to review comments(s)</td>
<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
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<td>15A NCAC 07O .0102</td>
<td>STATEMENT AS USED IN THIS CHAPTER</td>
<td>Amended Eff. April 1, 1988</td>
<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
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<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
<td>Keep in Code - Update History Note</td>
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<td>15A NCAC 07O .0103</td>
<td>DEFINITIONS OF THE COASTAL RESERVE PROGRAM</td>
<td>Amended Eff. April 1, 1988</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
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<td>15A NCAC 07O .0104</td>
<td>STATE AND LOCAL COASTAL RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES</td>
<td>Amended Eff. May 1, 1990</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>15A NCAC 07O .0105</td>
<td>RESERVE COMPONENTS</td>
<td>Amended Eff. February 1, 2006</td>
<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Necessary without substantive public interest</td>
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<td>SECTION .0200</td>
<td>15A NCAC 07O .0201</td>
<td>MANAGEMENT PLAN</td>
<td>Amended Eff. May 1, 1990</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
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<td>15A NCAC 07O .0202</td>
<td>RESERVE USE REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>Amended Eff. April 1, 1999</td>
<td>Necessary with substantive public interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16 USC 1461</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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November 21, 2016

Audubon North Carolina
Coast Office and Sanctuaries
7741 Market Street, Unit D
Wilmington, NC, 28411

DEQ Rule Comments
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC, 27699

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept these comments on the rules governing the North Carolina Coastal Reserve (15A NCAC 07O) pursuant to the review authorized under G.S. 150B-21.3A.

Audubon North Carolina is the state office of the National Audubon Society. Audubon’s coast office and sanctuary program, based in Wilmington, NC, protects, manages, and monitors about 21 sites from Ocracoke Inlet to the Lower Cape Fear River to the Pine Island Sanctuary in Corolla. The program’s staff frequently collaborates with partners, including the North Carolina Coastal Reserve, to advance our shared goal of coastal stewardship.

We write to agree with the agency’s determinations for rules 15A NCAC07O.0101 through 15A NCAC07O.0202 that all rules are necessary. The rules are essential to the administration and management of sites within the North Carolina Coastal Reserve for long-term preservation of coastal ecosystems, research, and education for both the general public and decision-makers. The rules are also necessary to follow the federal rules for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System that were enacted by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1461. National Estuarine Research Reserve System (Section 315)). Similar to the state rules, the federal rules establish the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in order to provide long-term natural resource protection, opportunities for coastal research, and opportunities for public education and interpretation.

As an NGO working for conservation on the North Carolina coast, and as an active partner with the Reserve, we support the purpose and goals of the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and the rules needed to implement its work for ecosystem protection, research, and education.

Sincerely,

Heather Starck Hahn
Executive Director, Audubon North Carolina
Comment received via letter:
Commenter Name: Heather Starck Hahn, Executive Director
Affiliation: Audubon North Carolina

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Agency Response:
The agency’s selected initial determinations have been retained as the final determinations. We will consider these comments during the readoption process.