The Economic Impacts of Carolina Beach Inlet Navigability
Carolina Beach Inlet Association

- A study of The Economic Impacts of Carolina Beach Inlet (CBI) Navigability was conducted in the spring of 2014 by economists at UNC-Wilmington and Appalachian State University.
- The study considered direct economic impacts to commercial fishing, seafood markets/dealers, charter boats, head boats, private fishing boats, and also economic multiplier effects on boatyards, fuel suppliers, hotels, restaurants, etc.
- As of 2012, CBI commercial fishery landings amounted to 158,342 pounds per year, valued at $290,762. These landings supported 20 commercial fishing vessels, 20 commercial fisher persons, and 193 commercial fishing vessel trips per year.
- Commercial fishery landings support an additional $406,000/yr in sales by seafood markets/dealers in New Hanover County.
- Based on a 2009 study, the 47 charter vessels accessing the Atlantic Ocean via CBI service over 16,000 angler-day trips/year, directly supporting 84 charter captain and crew jobs. Two head boats support over 20,000 additional angler-day trips/year, directly supporting an additional 16 captain and crew jobs.
- For charter and head boat anglers using CBI to access the ocean, 58 percent were North Carolina residents, and 42 percent were out-of-state residents (from 28 other states). These data indicate that a substantial proportion of CBI charter and head boat anglers are from out of state.
- Among those charter and head boat anglers using CBI, 63 percent of NC residents said that would not have visited the local area if charter/head boat fishing were not available, while 36 percent of non-NC residents said that they would not have visited the local area if charter/head boat fishing were not available.
- Of the NC residents using CBI in the 2009 study, 21 percent were from New Hanover County, with the remaining NC residents coming from 42 other North Carolina counties.
- Of the 49 New Hanover County resident anglers using CBI in the 2009 study, 7 (14%) were from Carolina Beach, and 42 (86%) were from other areas within New Hanover County. These survey results (albeit based on a limited sample size) indicate that most New Hanover County residents using CBI to access Atlantic Ocean fishing reside outside Carolina Beach itself.
- Data from 2011 indicate that 29,491 private boat ocean fishing angler trips were made by North Carolina residents using CBI, and an additional 933 angler trips were made by non-NC residents, for a total of 30,424 private boat angler trips using CBI.
- At an estimated $750,000/year in maintenance costs to fully maintain the inlet, each dollar spent on inlet maintenance would support an additional $35 in sales/output within New Hanover county beyond the sales that would occur with an essentially closed inlet.
- Each dollar spent on inlet maintenance returns $0.93 in state and local taxes, and $1.33 in federal taxes, beyond the taxes collected with an essentially closed inlet.

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Economic Impacts within New Hanover County ($ millions/year)

Inlet Navigability Conditions	Sales (Output)	Employment	Wage, Salary, and Sole Proprietorship Income	Dividend, Rent, and Interest Income	State and Local Taxes	Federal Taxes
Current (Degraded) Conditions	$68.0	493	$18.9	$13.7	$3.1	$3.9
Improved (Fully Maintained) Conditions	$76.1	584	$21.0	$15.3	$3.5	$4.4
Inlet Essentially Closed	$49.6	353	$13.8	$10.0	$2.3	$2.8

The economic impacts include both direct effects and multiplier effects.

Economic Impacts Statewide (incl. New Hanover Co.) ($ millions/year)

Inlet Navigability Conditions	Sales (Output)	Employment	Wage, Salary, and Sole Proprietorship Income	Dividend, Rent, and Interest Income	State and Local Taxes	Federal Taxes
Current (Degraded) Conditions	$81.1	537	$24.1	$17.1	$3.8	$5.2
Improved (Fully Maintained) Conditions	$84.5	558	$25.1	$17.9	$4.0	$5.5
Inlet Essentially Closed	$70.2	448	$20.8	$14.8	$3.3	$4.5

The economic impacts include both direct effects and multiplier effects.