Coastal Voices of North Carolina:
Community Collaboration on the Waterfront

Barbara Garrity-Blake
National Working Waterfronts and Waterways, Tampa
First Mate

The first mate is second in command, responsible for crew, net and rigging maintenance, and running a new boat.

Ernest "King" Davis, First Mate
North River

(Photograph of Ernest Davis)
The Scrap Shed

Scrap shed workers are responsible for turning the fish scrap to keep it from heating and burning, and grinding it into powder-fine fish meal in preparation for market.

"My chil was working at the factory and they used to have a truck come around Beaufort to pick them up. I said, 'Can I go?' He said, 'No, you ain't old enough.' Finally one day I did get a job to the plant. I started out in the scrap shed. Turning scrap, turning the fish meal. Turn it into the drag so it could run through and cool, keep it from catching afire. We all miss the factory. We smelled up Beaufort, but all we saw was money in the air. Said, 'Look at that money! She's running!'"

Theodora Coode
OBX National Scenic Byway (2009)

Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores

21 unincorporated communities

Saltwater Connections: Strengthen Cultural and Ecological Assets

Coastal Voices: What story do you want to tell?
Captain Al Dudley: It’s Hard to See an Industry Die
The Albatross Fleet
57976 NC Hwy. 12,
Hatteras, NC

With Audio
MORE INFO

Map Search
Search keyword...
All categories
All locations
Search around my position
Search

Traditions, Trades and Treasures

“Tell me where you’re from and I’ll tell you who you are ...” — WALLACE STEGNER, HISTORIAN
The Albatross Fleet pioneered the charter boat industry on the NC coast in 1937 and continues to operate the original custom wooden boats built along the Heritage Trail in Down East Carteret County. Our crews, captains and mates alike, are local and have fished these waters their entire lives. Our dock is in the center of the original harbor in Hatteras village, one of the few remaining true working waterfronts in the state where charter, commercial and recreational vessels dock side by side.

Listen to Captain Ernal Foster talk about starting the Albatross Fleet in a 1988 interview digitized by Coastal Voices.

Ernie Foster tells us why his father Captain Ernal named his boat The Albatross.

Resources & Links:
Coastal Voices
Outer Banks Catch
Parting thoughts on community collaboration...

...Do oral histories have a role in helping preserve working waterfronts?