

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Development of this plan included direct input from all Reserve staff members, Division of Coastal Management staff, and the Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD) staff. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members from each component site and Education Advisory Committee (EAC) members helped inform the specific activities listed in the Management Plan. The draft Management Plan was discussed with the four Local Advisory Committees in the fall of 2008 and winter of 2009. Each LAC was given a brief overview of the Management Plan and a copy of Figure 1 to facilitate the discussion. Site-specific issues and suggestions for resolution provided by the LACs were incorporated into the plan.

A Federal Register Notice allowing a 30 day public comment period was published on 29 July 2009. In addition, similar Public Notices were sent to several local newspapers seeking public input on the NCNERR Management Plan. A public meeting on the revised Management Plan was held on 19 August 2009 in Beaufort. After the required 30 day public comment period, revisions to the document were made, where appropriate, and the document was finalized.