Defining Resilience with Coastal Communities

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A Quick Exercise

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In 50 words or less, define the term 'resilience'

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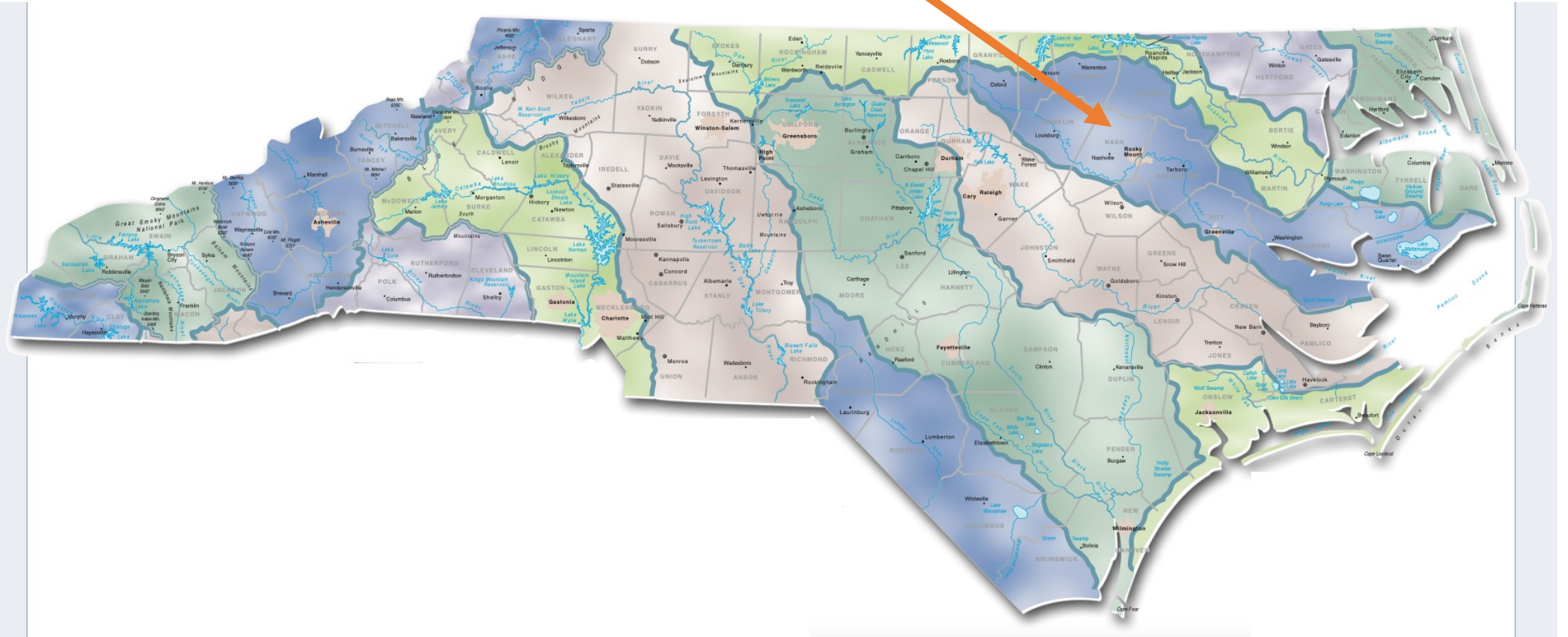Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Resilience in Eastern North Carolina

- Focused CoPe Hub – Supporting Environmental Justice in Connected Coastal Communities through a Regional Approach to Collaborative Community Science (NSF 20-52889)

- "…an interest in understanding the issues and solutions from water-related risks in eastern North Carolina."

About Eastern North Carolina & the Tar-Pamlico River Basin

Resilience

- Current buzzword? New paradigm?

- End of sustainability? (Benson and Craig)
  - Multiple meanings of sustainability

Sustainability's Multiple Meanings

Summary of Position (% of Respondents with Definition) | Top 6 Key Terms & Phrasing
Biological Diversity & System Perpetuity (8.67%) |remain diverse, keeping, indefinitely, property biological, remain, productive, productive indefinitely
General Environmental Support & Protection (33.05%) | environment, support, harmful environment, good, survive, level, rate
Reuse and Replenishing of Resources (15.08%) | used, possible, reus, reused, much, nature, everything
Consumer-based Recycling and Reuse (11.94%) | product, maintaining, replenished, taking care, material, replenish, self sufficient
Temporal Endurance (6.92%) | long term, long, lasting, term, long lasting, need, live
Intergenerational (7.36%) | time, long, last, period time, long time, future generation, period
Use and Consumption of Natural Resources (10.46%) | resource, continue, using, natural resource, renew, natural, life
Renewability and Perseverance (6.51%) | keep, keep going, going, take care, self, reuse

Resilience

- Concerned about multiple meanings and perceptions
  - Impact community support for resilience initiatives
  - Impact financial support to enact resilience projects, programs, or policies
  - Divergent perspectives may weaken collective efforts (e.g., greenwashing) and ability to assess performance

Defining Resilience in ENC

- Asked for definitions| Sustainability & Resilience/y

- Predominantly with community leaders along the Tar-Pamlico via interviews

- Other sources
  - Bald Head Island Community (Cape Fear River Basin)
  - Planning grant team (NSF CRISES)
  - All ENC communities (NCDOJ EEG Grant – starting April/May 2024)

Bald Head Island – April 2023

Bald Head Island – April 2023

Tar-Pamlico Interviews

- Similar language used for both sustainability and resilience compared to other collected data
- Noteworthy Observations
  - Sustainability → Some perceived the concept as losing all meaning. Questioned if it was even viable as a practice.
  - Resilience/resiliency → Fewer questions about viability but most see from a natural disaster or systems perspective
    - Questions on natural resource and individual-level perspectives

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Current Lessons

- Resilience is…
  - More politically and socially accepted
  - Has potential to catalyze responses to climate change and natural disaster preparedness
  - Mainly perceived as systems-based (e.g., natural environment, community-level)
  - Ripe for potential abuse and misuse (e.g., greenwashing) and challenges with performance measurement

Questions?