

## Abstract:

Estuaries are brackish coastal areas that are known as the “nursery of the sea” as many sea animals rely on estuaries for breeding and nesting. Unfortunately, estuaries in NC in areas such as the Pamlico and Albermarle sounds have been destroyed as a result of housing developments and environmental disasters such as hurricanes. I want to research the way that social media covers the destruction of estuaries. I want to see if I can find patterns in how the media covers this topic as I have noticed that within the last five years, the media has ignored a lot of reasons for this destruction and has not been as critical of development companies as they should have been. I believe that in order for estuaries to be better protected in the future, the media needs to talk more and cover more of the destruction of estuaries. I expect to find that the media ignores certain developments while calling out and making articles about others. As a result, we will see that estuaries, where the media has had an outcry for protection, will be much better off than estuaries without any media backing. In the future, I believe that it will be vital for the media to hold large developmental companies accountable. Instead of picking and choosing when to cover/care about estuaries in NC, there need to be covered to help protect all estuaries in NC.