Onslow Water Quality Monitoring Program Update

Impacts of 2007 Drought
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Samples are now being collected from 27 sites throughout Onslow. Brinson Crk. and New River at Rag Lane were added during 2007.
● The “hot topic” of 2007: drought
2007

- Salinity levels greater than 5 ppt were measured several miles above Jacksonville (New River at Rag Lane)
- Salt water species were noted well above Jacksonville by area fishermen and boaters
2007

- Intense rains after dry period can cause spikes in FC concentrations
- Prolonged dry periods can also result in high FC levels, as there is little dilution or flow.
FC bacteria per 100 mL
Dissolved oxygen concentrations lagged at lower levels into the Fall

- Several locations had very low DO levels, including the new site at Rag Lane. This location is significant, because it is the main channel of the New River, not a small tributary.
- Continued drought into Summer ‘08 could cause fish kills from multiple stressors:
  - Higher temperature
  - Lower DO
  - Increased salinity
Oxygen, mg/L

FC, cfu/100 mL

(5 sample log mean)
Caring for a River

- The *Caring for a River: Onslow’s New River* video was completed and available in April 2007.
  - 50 copies were made
  - Enough copies were given to Onslow Bd. of Ed for each middle and high school to receive a copy
  - Copies were given to the DoD schools.
  - Aired on G10TV and county website.