



2022 Coastal Georgia Issues Update

Learn about our work to protect Georgia's coast and how YOU can help

It's only April, but 2022 is already off to a momentous start at One Hundred Miles. We've marked milestone victories in our work to stop Spaceport Camden, and we launched an advocacy campaign that stopped a bad bill—one that could have led to a massive giveaway of Georgia's salt marsh—from moving forward.

We aren't slowing down anytime soon. There is nothing more urgent than ensuring a just and safe future for all who call Georgia's coast home. To fulfill that commitment, we've added a Justice Strategist to our team, who will help us expand our work and lead our Council on Environmental Injustice.

Learn more about our work and the issues featured in this update on our website, OneHundredMiles.org, and sign up to receive action alerts about the critical issues facing our coast.

Sharing What We Love

At One Hundred Miles, our definition of advocacy is sharing what you love with others, so that they may also come to value it—and ultimately, take action to protect it. That simple philosophy is at the heart of our ambitious project to educate Georgians about the ecological and cultural value of our state's 100-mile coast. We're creating a communications campaign that builds pride for our coast, then provides advocates with the knowledge and tools to take action.

Our goal? To increase awareness of our coast and its unparalleled natural and cultural resources, creating a tipping point for coastal conservation in Georgia. Stay tuned for more information as we roll out the campaign this summer!



Advocating for Zoning That Invests in Our Coast's Future

Zoning can be complicated—the issues aren't always straightforward, and often the language can be very wonky.

But zoning is the single-most important variable in the conservation of our coast. Its influence is far-reaching—dictating everything from how many homes can be built per acre to protections for our threatened wildlife. That's why—as Glynn County works through a public rezoning process, and other cautionary tales of zoning gone wrong crop up across our coast—OHM is working to help community members better understand and influence the process. The future of our coast hangs in the balance.



Learn more and get involved at OneHundredMiles.org/Zoning

VICTORY: Stopping Spaceport Camden

On March 8th, Camden County voters made history by successfully repealing county resolutions to purchase land for the proposed site of Spaceport Camden. It was a victory years in the making. When OHM began working on the spaceport project back in 2015, we were a fledgling organization with one simple goal: to help residents and stakeholders make their voices heard to protect our coast. It took us years to build the partnerships and earn the trust necessary to grow the opposition—culminating in the first-of-its-kind referendum vote.

Today, it's clear that this movement is about much more than just a spaceport. Camden residents are now involved in local decision-making at unprecedented levels. The empty rooms where commissioners once met are packed with engaged advocates. Journalists from across the country are paying attention to coastal Georgia. And new candidates are running for elected office on platforms of governmental transparency and finding economic solutions that balance the protection of our coast.

2014

Camden County officials announce plans to build Spaceport Camden to launch rockets over Cumberland Island National Seashore.

2015

Camden County signs option agreement to purchase the Union Carbide property.

2018

FAA and US Coast Guard host public hearings. OHM, along with hundreds of concerned citizens, express concerns about evacuations and closures for launches.

Feb
2019

After more than two years of filing information requests under Georgia's Open Records Act, OHM files a lawsuit against Camden County claiming GORA violations and unreasonable withholding of information.

Aug
2019

Taxpayers Against Camden Spaceport announce petition effort to repeal the Commissioners' resolutions to enter into and extend an option agreement to purchase the Union Carbide property.

Abbreviated Timeline

Protecting our Coast's Signature Landscape



It's hard to imagine coastal Georgia without our salt marsh. The marsh that surrounds us today has been protected by decades of state ownership, which prevents development and allows for public access to Georgia's more than 400,000 acres of marshlands. But not all salt marsh is publicly owned.

That's one reason we were so concerned about House Bill 748 (HB748), introduced by Representative Jesse Petrea to address the process for certifying Kings grants, or gifts of land that were given by the King of England before the Revolutionary War. If passed, HB748 would have shifted the burden of proof from private

individuals to the state and drastically limited the amount of time the state has to certify whether landowners have legitimate claims to Kings Grants—putting our salt marsh on the fast track for privatization.

In March, OHM staff, board members, and concerned citizens spoke at legislative hearings in Atlanta and connected advocates with their lawmakers in opposition to the bill, which died after it failed to advance before Crossover Day. Now, in advance of the 2023 legislative session, we're committed to working with Representative Petrea and other stakeholders to create a better, more easily navigable certification process—one that benefits all Georgians and our beloved salt marsh.



“THIS PROJECT SHOWS WHAT **SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY IS ALL ABOUT**: STAYING THE COURSE, BRINGING TOGETHER UNCONVENTIONAL ALLIES, AND **EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES TO STAND UP FOR THE THINGS THEY BELIEVE IN.**”

- MEGAN DESROSIERS, OHM PRESIDENT/CEO

July
2020

OHM takes over the distribution and collection of the spaceport petition—ultimately mailing more than 40,000 petitions to registered voters in Camden County.

Dec
2021

OHM delivers signed petitions to the Camden Probate Court. FAA issues a launch site operators license to Camden County. In a statement, FAA officials note, “This license does not authorize FAA-licensed launches.”

Feb
2022

Probate Court Judge Robert Sweatt verifies the signatures of more than 10% of the registered voters on the spaceport petition and schedules a special, one-issue referendum for March 8, 2022.

March
2022

On March 8, voters overwhelmingly pass the ballot measure repealing the resolutions authorizing Camden commissioners to enter into an option agreement to purchase the spaceport property! The vote is certified on Mar 10th.

April
2022

Camden County is appealing the constitutionality of the referendum. But no matter what happens next, this vote was a huge victory for our coast!



Saving the Okefenokee

OHM and our partners are working to prevent the approval of a permit to mine several hundred acres of land adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp—a project that could set the stage for future mining of *tens of thousands* of acres throughout Trail Ridge.

In January, House Bill 1289 was introduced by Representatives Darlene Taylor and Ron Stephens. The bipartisan bill would have prevented EPD from issuing new mining permits or permit modifications on Trail Ridge between the Satilla and St. Marys Rivers. Unfortunately, HB 1289 did not pass this year, but we are already laying the ground work in advance of the 2023 legislative session—to protect the Wild Heart of Georgia, once and for all.



Horseshoe Crab Project

Horseshoe crabs play a critical role in our coastal ecosystem. Their eggs are the major food source for shorebirds, including the federally-threatened red knot, whose migrations north coincide with peak horseshoe crab spawning across our coast. Unfortunately, with threats from the biomedical industry and other fisheries, horseshoe crab populations are declining across their range.

This spring, OHM is working with the Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition, Georgia DNR, and partners across our coast to conduct a series of horseshoe crab spawning surveys. The data we collect will be used to inform policies and management practices to better protect these incredible animals long term.



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We're committed to doing whatever it takes to protect and preserve Georgia's coast. **Forever.**

Join us at OneHundredMiles.org.



Give \$100 or more during our Summer Campaign, and receive a FREE limited-edition "I Love Georgia's Coast" t-shirt!

GIVE

Join or renew as a One Hundred Miles member with a gift of \$25 or more.



ACT

Sign up for action alerts to help us speak up on the critical issues facing our coast.



SHARE

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and share updates with friends!



Thank you for making a difference for the coast you love.

One Hundred Miles exists to help those who love our coast protect it. If you are one of the many volunteers or donors who contributed to our efforts so far this year, **thank you**. If you've held a sign, signed a petition, or written a letter, **thank you**. And if you're committed to educating yourself and others about our coast and its value, **thank you!** We need all the help we can get from advocates of all interests and abilities, now and for the future of our coast.

Learn more about our issues and how you can take action at OneHundredMiles.org.

