The event will begin with a screening of Tidewater, an award-winning film from the American Resilience Project that focuses on sea level rise and the challenges it presents to the military and surrounding communities in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Following the film, a panel will discuss current coastal conditions in North Carolina, the risks posed by sea level rise and opportunities for resilience for our military bases and in coastal communities. Thank you for joining us for this timely discussion on the risks to national security and coastal resiliency in the Southeast.

PROGRAM
2:00 p.m. Welcome
Michael S. Regan, Secretary
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

2:05 p.m. Introduction to the Film
Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.)

2:10 p.m. Tidewater Screening
(Film runs approximately 42 minutes)

3:00 p.m. Introduction of Panel Members
Facilitator, John Nicholson,
Chief Deputy Secretary
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion

4:40 p.m. Closing Remarks
Heather Messera
Senior Fellow for Government Affairs,
The Center for Climate and Security

4:45 p.m. Reception
John Nicholson, Chief Deputy Secretary for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

As Chief Deputy secretary for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, John Nicholson oversees the administration of the department and special projects related to the military. Nicholson is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served for 28 years. He was also the military affairs advisor to two North Carolina governors. During his military service, Nicholson led high-performance teams in advanced strategic planning, policy development, and work force analysis. Nicholson has also advanced programs in energy efficiency and environmental conservation while serving his country. Nicholson holds a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College, a master’s degree in military studies from the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and a bachelor’s degree in political science from San Diego State University.

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.), The Center for Climate and Security, Former Commander of Expeditionary Strike Group TWO and Director of Surface Warfare

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.), is an independent consultant working on resiliency and climate impact on national security. During her 31 years of active duty, Phillips served as a Surface Warfare Officer. Ashore she was a Senior Fellow on the CNO’s Strategic Studies Group XXVIII and Deputy Director and Director of Surface Warfare Division, (NB6) in the Pentagon. In these positions, Phillips developed and implemented climate change adaptation and energy reduction strategies for the Navy. Currently, Phillips serves on local, regional, and national non-profit Boards including on the Advisory Board for The Center for Climate and Security and the Board of Directors for the American Resilience Project, WHRO, CIVIC Leadership Institute and Coastal Community Resilience, Inc. (RISE).

Michael S. Regan, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

As DEQ secretary, Regan oversees the protection of North Carolina’s environment and natural resources through regulatory and public assistance programs. Regan joined the Cooper administration after more than 18 years of professional experience focused on overcoming complex challenges through environmental advocacy and regulation. Most recently, he served as the Associate Vice President of U.S. Climate and Energy and Southeast Regional Director of the Environmental Defense Fund. Prior to that, Regan worked with the Environmental Protection Agency’s air quality and energy programs for the Clinton and Bush administrations. Before leaving the agency, Regan served as a national program manager responsible for designing programs aimed at reducing pollution and creating market-based solutions for climate change. In Goldsboro, N.C., Regan has a bachelor’s degree in Earth and Environmental Science from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from George Washington University.

Dr. Reide Corbett, Dean, Integrated Coastal Programs, Director, Coastal Studies Institute, Professor, Department of Coastal Studies, East Carolina University

Reide Corbett was born and raised in coastal North Carolina. After receiving his PhD in Oceanography from Florida State University and spending a short time at Tulane University in New Orleans, he returned to NC to join the faculty at East Carolina University. He is the Dean of Integrated Coastal Programs, the Executive Director of the Coastal Studies Institute and Professor in the Department of Coastal Studies, East Carolina University. Corbett is a coastal oceanographer/geochemist with an overall scientific interest in the biogeochemical and geomorphic dynamics of coastal and open ocean environments. Much of his research during the last two decades has focused on the delivery of constituents by submarine groundwater discharge and sediment discharge across continental shelves. His research has broadened through the years to include coastal change and geomorphic evolution across timescales.