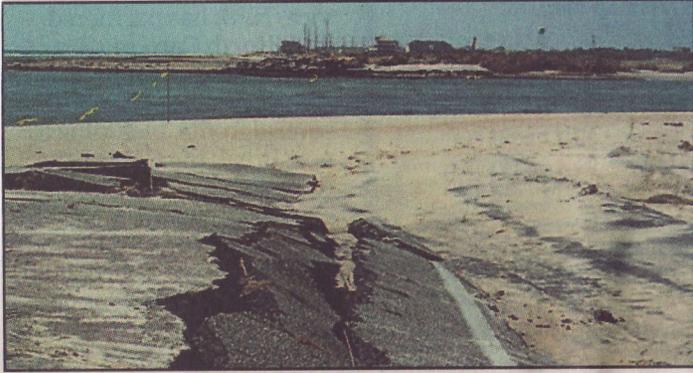


# Izzy's Inlet receives second look by scientists



SENTINEL ARCHIVES

In 2003, Hurricane Isabel left a new inlet that cut Hatteras Village off from the rest of the island.

Mother Nature delivered a stunning blow to the fragile Outer Banks in 2003 when she spawned Hurricane Isabel. As a result of her furor, a watery passage, aptly named Izzy's Inlet, was sliced from ocean to sound, separating Hatteras Village from the remainder of Hatteras Island. It was of sufficient magnitude, both in width and depth, that the only way to get from one side to the other was by boat.

The breach was mended at substantial cost in as timely a manner as possible by pumping significant amounts of sand from a nearby ferry channel to fill in the gap and reinstate the roadway.

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Dare County, Zac Long, a University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences ecologist working on a project on behalf of the UNC Coastal Studies

Institute will present a one-hour program at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, in the Jockey's Ridge State Park auditorium in Nags Head. The presentation centers about work he is conducting on environmental effects as the result of the particularly severe storm system that struck the area three and a half years ago. The free program is open to the public.

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## INLET: gets a second look

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On a positive note, Hurricane Isabel's impact provided an opportunity to observe, over a span of time, elements of the recovery process of the established natural environment impacted by the event. It is hoped the results of this research will lead to an understanding of how soon and to what extent environmental restoration might come about in instances of loss of land mass and subsequent re-creation as occurred in the case of Izzy's Inlet. The findings might be applied to restorative efforts should similar situations occur in the future here or elsewhere.

The Coastal Studies Institute research project began in 2006 under the direction

of Charles "Pete" Peterson, Morehead City marine sciences professor. It will continue for as long as adequate funding is available.

For information about Long's presentation, contact the League's natural resources committee chairman, Martha McKeon, at (252) 261-1756.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For information about the organization, contact co-presidents Jeannette Anderson, (252) 255-0035 or Nancy Birdindelli, (252) 261-3915.