

# Seashore

## Park Sale

### Plan Told

WILMINGTON — James E. Harrington Jr., secretary of natural and economic resources, said here Tuesday that tentative arrangements have been made for the state to purchase the final parcel of land needed to complete the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Harrington, attending a meeting of the Coastal Area Resource Commission here, confirmed reports that an agreement in principle had been reached for the purchase of about 950 acres of land from the Core Banks Gun Club for \$3 million.

Harrington said the Nature Conservancy, a private land conservation organization, would buy the land and then sell it to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The state would provide \$2 million of the purchase price and the Department of the Interior would be expected to provide the additional \$1 million, he said.

Harrington said the owners of the land intend to take tax write-offs for the difference between the purchase price and the estimated value of the land.

In 1970 an independent court-appointed panel of assessors estimated the value of the land at \$3.6 million.

Acquisition of the Core Banks property has impeded the establishment of the national seashore under provisions of an act of Congress passed in 1966.

The seashore would be located on 54 miles of Core Banks between Portsmouth Island and Cape Lookout and about 12 miles of Shackleford Banks.

Congress agreed to establish the seashore if the state purchased the property and then deeded it to the Interior Department.

Owners of the gun club have steadfastly refused to sell their land for the \$1 million originally offered by the state and the state has insisted that the \$3.6 million value placed on the property by court assessors was too high.

Harrington said he has no indication how soon the seashore can be established after the final property transaction is completed.