



Professor Matthew Barr (R) films fisherman Mike Cowdrey on the Sneads Ferry Waterfront.

- photo by Connie Platt

Harvey ✓

## Sneads Ferry film features local fishing families

By Harvey Bradshaw

**SNEADS FERRY** - Seven years ago Professor Matthew Barr, who teaches filmmaking at UNC Greensboro, began a documentary about Sneads Ferry commercial fishermen and shrimpers. On Sunday afternoon, July 30, at 3 p.m., "Wild Caught: The Life and Struggles of a North Carolina Fishing Town" will be shown to the public at the Sneads Ferry Community Building. There is no admission charge.

The film features several local fishing families, including John Norris, John Edens, Mack Liverman, Johnny Wayne

Midgett, Dolphus Thompson, Ray Swaney, Buddy Davis, Tommy Everett, Mike Cowdrey, and Donnie Millis. Bernice Guthrie, Isabelle Sidbury, and Leroy and Faye Dixon are also featured.

The film, edited from more than 100 hours down to two, tells the story of the fisherman's way of life as practiced for hundreds of years around Sneads Ferry and New River.

This way of life is now critically threatened by government regulations, escalating waterfront real estate values, fuel costs, taxes, imported shrimp and other seafood, and zoning

laws. The title comes from "wild caught" versus imported or farmed shrimp.

Professor Barr, who won awards for an earlier documentary, "The Last Carnival Train", seen on PBS, hopes to enter this film in several festivals and eventually have it shown on PBS also. He will be at the Sneads Ferry showing.

The world premiere was held April 29 in Greensboro, attended by a large delegation from Sneads Ferry, who received a standing ovation from the audience.

Next week *Topsail Voice* will feature a full-length story on the film and the story it tells.