



# Beaufort County Economic Development Report January 2019

## Seafood processing plant will create jobs, invest in Belhaven economy

By Matt Debnam Published Washington Daily News  
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BELHAVEN — A \$500,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce may help put the Belhaven seafood industry back on the map in 2019, creating 25 jobs and attracting \$1.7 million in private investment in the community. Through the DOC’s Building Reuse Program, the half-million dollars will help fund the renovation of the building that once housed Seafood Safari. County Road Seafood, an affiliate of the Swan Quarter-based Newman Seafood, plans to install a state-of-the-art seafood processing plant in the building.

For Belhaven Mayor Ricky Credle, bringing the seafood plant to town will restore a piece of the Belhaven economy that he and many others in town experienced firsthand. Credle’s mother worked at Seafood Safari, and he picked up shifts there as a teenager to help earn extra money.....

The effort to secure the grant came through cooperation of many community partners, including the Town of Belhaven, Beaufort County Economic Development, the Mideast Commission, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the Small Business Technology Development Center, Tideland EMC, the Region Q Workforce Board, N.C. Works and Beaufort County Community College. In addition to the state grant, Beaufort County will also provide a \$50,000 economic development grant for the project. “It was really a team effort to work with the project to locate it in eastern Beaufort County,” Johnson said.

Moving forward, Johnson says that once the paperwork is submitted, a letter from the N.C. DOC will give the green light for the project to begin. Construction is expected to start this spring, with a goal of completion sometime in the fall of 2019.

Full article go to: [www.thewashingtondailynews.com](http://www.thewashingtondailynews.com)

## Team Work to bring Jobs to Beaufort County, NC



## Building just west of Belhaven on Old County Road



Unadjusted Labor Force Statistics 11/18			
USA '000	11/17	11/18	Δ
Labor Force	160,466	162,665	1.37%
Employed	154,180	157,015	1.84%
Unemployed	6,286	5,650	-10.12%
Unemp. Rate	3.90%	3.50%	-10.26%
<b>NC '000</b>			
Labor Force	4,966	4,994	0.56%
Employed	4,744	4,822	1.64%
Unemployed	222	172	-22.52%
Unemp. Rate	4.50%	3.50%	-22.22%
<b>GWCSA</b>			
Labor Force	109,758	109,029	-0.66%
Employed	104,444	104,871	0.41%
Unemployed	5,314	4,158	-21.75%
Unemp. Rate	4.80%	3.80%	-20.83%
<b>Beaufort County</b>			
Labor Force	20,030	19,933	-0.48%
Employed	19,001	19,083	0.43%
Unemployed	1,029	850	-17.40%
Unemp. Rate	5.10%	4.30%	-15.69%