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Press Release

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Grady-White Boats To Help Coastal Federation Restore Fish Habitat

Swansboro, N.C. – A donation has been made by Grady-White Boats to the North Carolina Coastal Federation to help create new fish habitat in the White Oak River. Greenville-based Grady-White Boats will partner with the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, NOAA, Restore America's Estuaries and the Coastal Federation to restore and create habitat in the surrounding waters of Jones Island in the White Oak River.

“Boating, sportfishing and outdoor activities are great gifts for our society”, stated Kris Carroll, Grady-White Boats’ President. “The history of Grady-White Boats reflects nearly fifty years of appreciation and respect for these gifts, and the company is a steadfast advocate of fisheries conservation and education, and waterways management.”

Working with its regional, state and national partners, the Coastal Federation will engage hundreds of student and adult volunteers in creating marsh and oyster habitat along the Jones Island shoreline. This will be accomplished through a combination of marsh grass plantings, loose oyster shell placement and the creation of oyster shell bag sills – projects that will be conducted over a five-year period.

The Federation’s Executive Director, Todd Miller, explained the scope of the project. “These restoration activities will provide habitat for fish, shellfish and other wildlife, improve the water quality of the impaired White Oak River and help to stabilize the eroding shoreline of the island. The Jones Island project will create a national model for fish habitat restoration that combines various techniques to treat stormwater and improve water quality.”

The request to Grady-White Boats came from the Coastal Federation as part of its most recent Capital Campaign, which has been underway for the past two years. The Campaign is designed to provide funding for an endowment and a reserve fund and to expand the Federation’s programs, including education and habitat protection, restoration and creation.

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state’s only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education,

advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. Its headquarters and central regional office are located at 3609 Highway 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro. The Federation also has a northeast regional office in Manteo and a southeast regional office in Wilmington. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org

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