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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workshop for Volunteers on Coastal Environmental Issues and Education August 14, 2009

Wilmington, N.C. – The N.C. Coastal Federation is holding a workshop for people interested in volunteering their time to work on coastal environmental issues and education. The interactive workshop and seafood potluck dinner is open to the public and is being held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, at Halyburton Park in Wilmington.

The federation is a non-profit conservation group working to increase public involvement and engagement in coastal issues, habitat protection and restoration projects, and education. Workshop participants will learn more about regional coastal issues, how they can get involved and how they can help with environmental outreach and education efforts. This activity is free and is suitable for ages 18 and up, but pre-registration is required.

With more than 320 miles of ocean beaches, 2.5 million acres of estuarine and marine waters, and 4,200 miles of shorelines around its coastal sounds, rivers and creeks, North Carolina's coast is a very productive and important resource. North Carolina's estuarine and marine waters are spawning, nursery and feeding areas for most of state's important coastal fishery species. Increasing pressures on coastal resources and habitats, including loss of habitat and degradation of water quality, are threatening North Carolina's coast and its resources. Engaging the public in efforts to increase the public's awareness and stewardship of the coast is imperative to managing, protecting and restoring this vital resource.

Funding and support for this workshop comes from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, which awards grants to nonprofit community agencies, universities and other partners for programs that promote the sciences, health and education.

Media and the public are invited to join the federation at Halyburton Park on Friday, Aug. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to participate in the workshop. Please contact Ted Wilgis at the federation's southeast region office at 910-790-3275 or tedw@nccoast.org to register or get more information.

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The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) 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.

NCCF operates its headquarters in Ocean and has regional offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 910-790-3275 or visit NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org