



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers to Bag Oyster Shells to Restore Oyster Habitat

WILMINGTON – The N.C. Coastal Federation is recruiting volunteers for an oyster and shoreline restoration project at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Holly Ridge in Onslow County. The event will take place Friday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us as we work on a project to create oyster habitat along the shores of Stump Sound at Morris Landing. Volunteers will be filling mesh bags with oyster shells and marine limestone. We will be supplying a Bob-Cat to do the hard work, but we will still need many hands to cut, seal and stack the shellbags.

The shellbags will eventually be used to create an oyster reef that will help control erosion. Then native plant seedlings will be planted behind the oyster reef to restore the salt marsh. The oyster reef and marsh will become valuable habitat for important species of commercial and recreational fish and shellfish. The reef also will improve water quality by filtering sediment from the water. The Fish America Foundation, the American Sportfishing Association and the NOAA Restoration Center supplied money for the project.

Everyone is invited to join us at Morris Landing for activity and educational activities. The federation will supply all the equipment and refreshments.

Contact Ted Wilgis at the federation's Southeast Region Office at 910-509-2838 or tedw@nccoast.org to register and receive more information.