



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Estuaries Day Recognized at Jockey's Ridge

NAGS HEAD – The N.C. Coastal Federation will join other partners at Jockey's Ridge State Park on Tuesday, Sept. 21, to mark the completion on the first phase of a project to restore park shoreline and to celebrate National Estuaries Day.

More than 400 feet of shoreline and an acre of coastal marsh were created during the initial phase of the work. The state park, the N.C. Nature Conservancy and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries joined the federation on the two-year project. Eighth-grade students at First Flight Middle School, the Friends of Jockey's Ridge and community volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours to making this project a reality.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations' Community-based Restoration Program, the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided money for the project.

An interpretive sign explaining the project will be unveiled at the ceremony.

National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration that's been held on the last Saturday of September since 1988.

Ninety-two percent of the fish landed in North Carolina depend on the estuary. Coastal marshes are important habitats that provide refuge, nursery areas and foraging grounds for fish, crustaceans and other aquatic life. Marshes also help to stabilize shorelines and filter sediment and pollutants found in stormwater runoff. Projects, like the one at Jockey's Ridge, help stabilize eroding estuarine shorelines and restore important coastal marsh without hardening the shoreline with bulkheads.

MEDIA NOTE: Media wishing to attend the National Estuaries Day celebration and project completion should plan to meet at the Jockey's Ridge State Park Visitor Center Parking lot by

11 a.m. Transportation will be provided to the project site. Project partners will be available for interview. Please contact Erin Fleckenstein, the federation's regional coastal scientist and project coordinator Sept. 20 at erinf@nccoast.org or at 252 473-1607.