



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jones Students Tour (and Help) the White Oak River

OCEAN – Living in eastern North Carolina offers opportunities to fish, boat or swim. Many coastal residents take those opportunities for granted. Some students from Jones Middle School will get to experience them for the first time on Monday, June 7

The eighth-grade students will take a boat trip down the White Oak River with Hammocks Beach State Park and the N.C. Coastal Federation, learning about the river's wetlands and wildlife along the way. The students will end their educational boat tour at Jones Island, in the mouth of the White Oak River near Swansboro, to help build an oyster reef. The students will also get into the river and, using seine and dip nets, search for critters on their own.

Education staff from the federation visited the students earlier in the spring to teach them about native oysters, wetlands and stormwater runoff. "Many of the students have never been on a boat before and are excited about doing something new and different," teacher Stella Downs said. "After end-of-grade testing last week, this trip is a great end to the year."

The federation has been working with Jones Middle School for two years through a grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation.

Reporters/editors note: Reporters are invited on the boats. Please contact Sarah Phillips for more information. Boats will leave Haywood Landing in the Croatan National Forest at 9 a.m. and will arrive at Jones Island by 10:30 a.m.