



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Students, Volunteers to Create New Habitat for Bogue Sound**

OCEAN – Come join the kids from Croatan High School help the critters of Bogue Sound.

More than 50 students from the Carteret County school will team up with adult volunteers on Tuesday, May 3, to plant 15,000 plugs of salt marsh grass along the sound's shoreline behind the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in Morehead City and N.C. State University's nearby Center for Marine Science & Technology. The planting will start at 10 a.m. and should end at 4 p.m.

The marsh plants will provide valuable habitat for fish and crabs, absorb and filter polluted stormwater runoff from the parking lots, sidewalks and other hard surfaces and help prevent shoreline erosion.

The N.C. Coastal Federation and the state's fishery division are heading the effort with grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Restore America's Estuaries and the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, a joint federal and state effort to improve water quality and create valuable habitat in the state's estuaries.

The shoreline restoration at the fisheries building is part of a comprehensive stormwater management plan that was developed in 2008 to reduce stormwater runoff into Bogue Sound and improve its water quality. A grant from N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund paid for the plan. As part of the plan, a rain garden was previously built at the building to capture and absorb stormwater runoff.

The planting at N.C. State's building will enhance salt marsh habitat that was restored during a previous project. The goals are to control erosion, create coastal marsh and oyster reefs, build a wetland to treat stormwater and educate the public.

Those interested in helping the critters, should contact Lexia Weaver at 252-393-8185 or at [lexiaw@nccoast.org](mailto:lexiaw@nccoast.org) for more information and to register. Volunteers are needed from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. or from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you're feeling energetic, you can work all day. Volunteers will be assigned to one of the two locations. Water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray and planting tools will be provided. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and clothing that may get wet and dirty. All ages are invited, though children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

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*About the North Carolina Coastal Federation: "Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast"*

The N.C. 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. The federation's headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out its website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)



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