



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers to Bag Oyster Shells at Stump Sound

Wilmington – The N.C. Coastal Federation is recruiting volunteers to help bag oyster shells for an oyster and shoreline restoration project at the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve. Volunteers will bag shells on Monday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the preserve on Stump Sound in Holly Ridge in Onslow County.

Volunteers and students will fill mesh bags with oyster shells and limestone marl. The federation will supply a Bobcat to do the hard work, but the project will need many hands to cut, seal and stack the 20-40 pound shell bags.

Volunteers will join staff from the Federation and students from Meredith College in Raleigh to work on the project. The college students are participating in an alternative spring break trip to learn more about coastal communities and the issues they face. The oyster restoration project adds a service component to the trip and provides an interactive learning experience about sustainability and the importance of preserving coastal communities and habitats.

The shell bags will be used this spring to create an oyster reef that will help control erosion. Native plant seedlings then 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.

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