



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shoreline Clean Up, Kayak Trip Part of Estuaries Celebration

HOLLY RIDGE – Celebrate National Estuaries Week by helping spruce up the Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve in Onslow County and then kayaking the tranquil waters of Stump Sound.

The N.C. Coastal Federation is sponsoring the shoreline cleanup at the preserve and the kayak trip on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

National Estuaries Week is an annual celebration that's been held since 1988 to highlight the importance, beauty and vulnerability of our estuaries. With a rich mix of fresh and salt water, North Carolina's shallow estuarine waters are spawning, nursery, and feeding areas for most of state's important coastal fishery species, like flounder, blue crabs and shrimp.

As part of the National Estuaries Celebration volunteers will clean up the shoreline along Stump Sound from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Federation staff will then pull seine nets and host fun kids' activities, like fish printing on free t-shirts. Representatives from local environmental agencies and organizations will be on hand before and throughout lunch with educational exhibits.

In the afternoon, people will have the option to go on a two-hour kayak tour from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., led by Wilmington's Hook, Line and Paddle and federation staff, or a free one-hour marsh walk and birding tour with federation staff.

The 52-acre Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve is open to the public for fishing, boating and recreation. The federation bought the land in 2004 with funding from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

For more information on the National Estuaries Week celebration and register for the event people can visit www.nccoast.org or contact Ted Wilgis, the federation's coastal education coordinator, at 910-509-283 or at tedw@nccoast.org.

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