



**For Immediate Release**

**June 3, 2013**

**Contact: Lexia Weaver, coastal scientist**  
**Phone: 252.393.8185**  
**Email: [lexiaw@nccoast.org](mailto:lexiaw@nccoast.org)**

## **Help Create Oyster Reefs at Jones Island This Summer**

The N.C. Coastal Federation and Hammocks Beach State Park are recruiting volunteers to create oyster reefs at Jones Island in the White Oak River. Volunteers will work with the federation and the park to build the reefs every Wednesday, starting June 12 and ending on Aug. 7. They'll work from 9:30 a.m. to – 2 p.m. each Wednesday.

Since 2007, volunteers have been helping to restore salt marsh and oyster habitat at Jones Island, now protected as part of Hammocks Beach State Park. More than 3,300 volunteers have logged more than 19,200 hours planting marsh grasses, bagging recycled oyster shells and placing the bags of oyster shells in the water to create oyster reefs. These activities are part of a multi-year restoration effort to help reduce erosion of the island, create vital habitat for our favorite seafood, including shrimp, blue crabs and flounder, and improve the water quality of the White Oak River.

This summer, activities may include transporting and placing bags of oyster shells in the water, trash clean-up or scientific monitoring of the restored salt marshes and oyster reefs. "If you are looking for something a little bit different to do this summer, come join us for a fun-filled day on the water helping to protect and restore our beautiful coast," said Lexia Weaver, a coastal scientist at the federation.

The Habitat Restoration Days include a scenic boat ride to the island, with possible dolphin sightings along the way.

Volunteers should register through the federation's web calendar at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org) and meet at the Hammocks Beach State Park maintenance area, which is the first left upon entering the park, at 9:30 a.m. Park boats will then take volunteers to the island. Participants should wear clothing that will get wet and sandy and are required to wear closed-toe shoes. Participants should also bring work gloves and a lunch. Snacks, water, bug spray and sunscreen will be provided. A restroom is available on the island. The Habitat Restoration Days are most appropriate for those ages 12 and older and are weather dependent. More details will be emailed to registered volunteers prior to the event.

At the event, volunteers will be able to join the federation for a special discounted membership price of \$15.00. This summer, the park and the non-profit group will also be offering marsh cruises and several one-day summer camps on Jones Island for elementary and middle school students. For more information, visit [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

Grants from the federal Estuary Restoration Act, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Restore America's Estuaries and the Fish America Foundation have supported the restoration projects at Jones Island.