



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Experts to Discuss Oyster Research and Restoration at N.C. Coastal Federation's Education Center in Wrightsville Beach

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH - Dr. Ami Wilbur, manager of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington's shellfish research hatchery, and Ted Wilgis, oyster restoration specialist for the N.C. Coastal Federation, will discuss the population status, research and restoration efforts of oysters in North Carolina. The presentation is open to the public, and it will be held on Wednesday, August 13, at 7 p.m. at the Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center in Wrightsville Beach.

Wilbur and Wilgis will discuss the heritage of oysters in North Carolina, interesting facts about oyster biology, current research and why oysters are critical to the health of our estuaries. In this fourth presentation of the newly-launched Coastal Speaker Series, guests will be able to see live oysters and scallops and find out how to get involved in restoring oyster habitats. Oysters and the reefs that they form provide important habitat, serve as a critical link in the estuarine food chain, help control shoreline erosion, filter water and are an important fishery.

Everyone is invited to the presentation, and guests can register at the federation's education center located at 309 W. Salisbury St. in the Historic Square at Wrightsville Beach or at www.nccoast.org. The event is free for federation members and \$10 for nonmembers. People can also register on the night of the event.

The Coastal Speaker Series will run from May to November and will feature a variety of experts bringing to life their coastal experiences, passions and pursuits. Additional programs that will be offered at the education center this summer include:

- A Coastal Adventures series that features special guests who will provide hands-on, engaging opportunities to learn about the coast, critters and simple "do-it-yourself" things to do to protect water quality.
- Touch Tank Tuesdays, interactive education sessions for all ages with critters from nearby tidal creeks and salt marsh habitats.
- A variety of special events with local artists, writers and coastal experts.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation:
"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 the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates field offices in Wrightsville Beach and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at www.nccoast.org.

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