



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oyster Roast Celebrates N.C. Coastal Federation's Oyster Habitat Program**

OCEAN -- Restoring oysters in North Carolina means you get to eat them. Join the N.C. Coastal Federation at an oyster roast in Beaufort to celebrate its successful oyster habitat restoration efforts.

The roast is scheduled at Hannah's Haus on Thursday, Feb. 6, beginning at 5 p.m.

"To help increase our native oyster population, the federation has placed thousands of bushels of oyster shells back into the water," explained Lexia Weaver, a federation coastal scientist. "There, the oyster shells provide a hard surface for naturally-occurring oyster larvae to attach to, increasing the number of oysters in our coastal waters. The more oyster shells we put back into the water, the more oysters we will have."

Not only are oysters tasty, but they also help to keep our coastal waters clean as they filter the water as they feed, she said. Oysters are also valuable habitat for fish, crabs and other shellfish.

At the roast, people will have an opportunity to learn about the importance of local oyster habitat restoration projects and how they can help.

The roast is free, but donations and a portion of beer sales will benefit the federation's environmental education and habitat restoration programs. A special \$15 federation annual membership will also be offered at the event. Memberships

usually cost \$35.

Volunteers are needed at the federation's membership table and the oyster tables. Please contact Lexia Weaver at [lexiaw@nccoast.org](mailto:lexiaw@nccoast.org) if you would like to help.

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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 Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).

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