



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jan. 16, 2015

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## **N.C. Oyster Summit Planned to Promote Healthy Coastal Environment, Economy**

OCEAN - Maybe oysters won't make you live longer, as folklore suggest, but there's no doubt that a happy oyster means a happy coast. That's why recreational and commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, scientists, engineers, elected officials and others will gather at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh on March 10 and 11 to chart out future oyster management and restoration programs for the N.C. coast.

A new report prepared by the Research Triangle Institute International that has been commissioned by the N.C. Coastal Federation will be released at the N.C. Oyster Summit. This report assesses the economic values of oyster restoration and other forms of coastal environmental restoration and clarifies how promoting environmental restoration is an important economic development strategy.

The summit will also focus on key strategies for ensuring healthy populations of oysters, including protecting and restoring coastal watersheds to maintain healthy growing waters, expanding programs that build oyster reefs to promote sustainable fisheries, establishing fully functioning oyster sanctuaries to provide abundant levels of baby oysters, increasing commercial mariculture and ensuring that recreational and commercial harvest of oysters from public trust areas are properly managed.

Rowan Jacobsen, the award-winning author of *A Geography of Oysters*, will speak

at the Tuesday evening legislative reception. His talk will be followed by a legislative reception at the museum that will allow summit participants to educate lawmakers about oysters in N.C.

Registration is now open for the N.C. Oyster Summit. Sign up at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org). Early bird registration is \$35 for both days and ends Feb. 10. Regular registration is \$45 for both days and closes Feb. 27. Travel assistance and registration waivers are available for qualifying individuals.

The summit is sponsored and organized by the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, N.C. Sea Grant, N.C. Coastal Federation, The Nature Conservancy, N.C. Catch and the Campbell Foundation.

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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 office is located at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and 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](http://www.nccoast.org).

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