

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, estuaries are vibrant coastal environments that support more life per square inch than any other ecosystem on earth, providing a home to countless species of fish, shellfish, birds, and marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's estuary regions, including the North Inlet-Winyah Bay, the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserves, and Port Royal Sound, are integral to the economy and quality of life in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, 73 percent of all fish harvested in South Carolina are estuarine-dependent species, and maintaining our local fish habitats and populations is essential to preserving our commercial and recreational fishing industries; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's beautiful coastal regions attract millions of visitors each year and are a significant source of income for our state; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring our estuaries is critical to our local and national economy because they sustain the fisheries that feed America, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the costly impacts of natural hazards, and support local jobs which cannot be exported.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 17 - 24, 2016, as

ESTUARIES WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to care for these vital ecosystems.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA