

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 19 - 26, 2015, as

ESTUARIES WEEK

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



NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA