

# State of South Carolina Proclamation

by  
Governor Jim Hodges

**WHEREAS,** wetlands are areas covered with water for periods long enough to support plants that thrive in wet soils, including bogs, marshes, swamps and wet meadows; and

**WHEREAS,** wetlands provide critical habitat for a majority of the commercial fish and shellfish consumed in the United States, are the most valuable inland marshes for waterfowl production in North America, and act as a buffer to protect shore areas from waves and storms; and

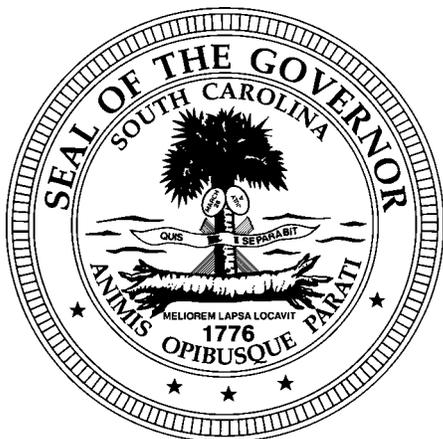
**WHEREAS,** the destruction of wetlands nationwide has been dramatic, with more than half of all wetlands in the 48 contiguous states lost since the mid-1700s; and

**WHEREAS,** the approximately 4.5 million acres of wetlands in South Carolina have multiple and diverse functions ranging from being valuable for wildlife habitat to improving water quality, providing flood protection and offering unique opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting and nature watching.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as

## WETLANDS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about wetlands as a valuable natural resource and to take an active role in preserving wetlands in the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

**Jim Hodges**  
Governor  
State of South Carolina