



Volunteers assist in the annual assessment to measure reef progress.



Teachers use reefs as living classrooms



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) invites

YOU

to participate in a community project to restore and enhance South Carolina oyster habitat. Citizens will work with DNR scientists to construct oyster reefs along the South Carolina coast, measure water quality, and recycle oyster shells.



Whether you are looking for a one-time activity or a long-term commitment as an individual or a group, we can use your help! Call, email or sign up online to volunteer and be placed on our contact list! We will notify you regularly of volunteer opportunities.

Contact Information

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Learn more at our website:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/scoysters>



SCORE

Community-based Oyster Restoration



Involving citizens in resource enhancement



Why are oysters important?

- **Filters:** *an adult oyster filters up to 50 gallons of water per day, improving water quality in the process.*
- **Habitat:** *oysters build reefs which provide habitat for fish, shrimp, crabs, birds and other animals.*
- **Erosion Control:** *oyster reefs are natural breakwaters that can protect shorelines.*

SCORE Reef at Palmetto Islands County Park



Why do oysters need restoration?

- Oyster larvae must attach to hard surfaces, preferably other oyster shells.
- Harvesting oysters removes substrate needed for larval settlement.
- Returning shell to the water during the summer months provides needed substrate for future generations of oysters.

What is SCORE?

Through the South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE), community volunteers help scientists restore and monitor oyster habitat along the South Carolina coast. Volunteers recycle and bag oyster shell which has been used to build reefs at 25 sites since 2001. These sites are used as research platforms to improve restoration success.



Beaufort County volunteers established a recycling/bagging center which has provided the shell for twenty-four reefs at seven sites.



Girl Scout Troop 599 bagging shell



Callawassie Island volunteers form a human chain to deliver shell bags to a growing reef.



Edisto Island volunteers with completed reefs



Volunteers monitor water quality at restoration sites.