



# South Carolina

## NOAA Works to Improve South Carolina's Coastal and Marine Areas

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) acts for the Secretary of Commerce as a federal trustee** under the Superfund Act to protect and restore natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA trust resources in South Carolina include commercially and recreationally important blue crab, hard clam, eastern oyster, white and brown shrimp, snapper, swordfish, gag, scamp, spotted seatrout, flounder, and bluefish. Of special concern in South Carolina are federally threatened and endangered shortnose sturgeon, whales, and sea turtles. Other trust resources include anadromous Atlantic sturgeon, blueback herring, American shad, and striped bass, American eel, bottlenose dolphin, sheepshead, king and Spanish mackerel, and dozens of other species and their supporting habitats (e.g., tidal wetlands). NOAA's stewardship also safeguards our nation's waterways and coastal activities, ranging from safe navigation and marine transportation to recreational activities along navigable waters.

## Cleaning up and Restoring Sites in South Carolina

The Office of Response and Restoration's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division (OR&R/CPRD) partners with other agencies and responsible parties to ensure that waste site cleanups not only reduce risk but also restore natural resources and improve the quality of the environment. NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinators get involved early in site cleanups to:

- ensure that ecological assessments and the entire cleanup process evaluate and mitigate any risk to sensitive species and habitats;
- incorporate environmental restoration into cleanup actions;
- monitor the successful recovery of trust resources and habitats; and
- reduce the need for expensive re-evaluations.

Because CRCs help make site-cleanup and restoration decisions in coastal regions, everyone saves time and money by avoiding litigation and duplication of effort. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of liability for damage to natural resources. Best of all, we can address environmental threats sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery, and restoration of coastal and marine resources and their habitats.



### Waste Sites

1. Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot
2. Naval Weapons Station - Charleston
3. Naval Shipyard - Charleston
4. Macalloy Corporation
5. Columbia Nitrogen
6. Koppers Co., Inc. (Charleston Plant)
7. Calhoun Park Area
8. USDOJ Charleston Harbor Site

## *Protecting and Restoring Coastal and Marine Resources*

*NOAA's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division (CPRD) protects and restores natural resources in marine and coastal environments that are affected by hazardous waste sites. NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of South Carolina, and other trustee agencies to identify risks to natural resources, recommend site cleanups that protect habitat and wildlife, and design projects to restore injured resources and habitats.*

## Areas of Special Concern in South Carolina

South Carolina has extensive fresh water and brackish marshes that occur in estuarine areas. These wetlands provide nursery and adult habitats for abundant and diverse populations of NOAA trust resources. The Charleston area has several Superfund sites located adjacent to the **Cooper River** and **Ashley River**. NOAA is conducting an ecological risk assessment and cleanup of the former Koppers Wood Treatment facility, Calhoun Park/SCE&G site, the former Charleston Naval Shipyard, the Macalloy Corporation site, and the Columbia Nitrogen site.

The **Savannah River** is a concern for NOAA because it provides adult habitat and spawning and nursery grounds for NOAA trust resources, particularly sturgeon. The river provides adult habitat for several commercially important species such as American shad, striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, and the endangered shortnose sturgeon. The Savannah River Plant site, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, produces nuclear materials. Site activities are the source of conventional and radioactive contaminants that have potentially contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments that are eventually transported to the Savannah River. The CRC program is working with EPA to develop studies to determine the extent of contamination and potential risk to natural resources.

For information about NOAA's Coastal Protection and Restoration Division in **South Carolina** please contact:

### Dr. Tom Dillon

NOAA CRC, EPA Region 4  
Atlanta, Georgia  
tom.dillon@noaa.gov  
404-562-8639

### Dr. Alyce Fritz, Chief

OR&R/Coastal Protection and Restoration Division  
Seattle, Washington  
alyce.fritz@noaa.gov  
206-526-6305

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*Our goal: healthy, productive coastal ecosystems, fisheries, and marine mammals in South Carolina and the U.S.*

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