



# Georgia

## NOAA Works to Improve Georgia'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 Georgia include the economically important white and brown shrimp, blue crab, snapper, amberjack, American shad, spotted seatrout, whiting, and red drum. Other trust resources include American eel, flounder, king and Spanish mackerel, croaker, tarpon, sheepshead, black sea bass, eastern oyster, and dozens of other species and their supporting habitats (e.g., tidal wetlands). Of special concern are federally threatened and endangered shortnose sturgeon, mollusks, sea turtles, and whales. 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 Georgia

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



### Waste Sites

1. Camilla Wood Preserving Company
2. Brunswick Wood Preserving
3. LCP Chemicals Georgia
4. Terry Creek Dredge Spoil Areas/Hercules Outfall

## 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 Georgia, 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.

environmental threats sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery, and restoration of coastal and marine resources and their habitats.

## Areas of Special Concern in Georgia

The **St. Simons Sound** contains a variety of extensive estuarine habitats that support nursery and adult populations of economically important fisheries, as well as sea turtles and marine mammals. NOAA was part of the EPA/State-sponsored Brunswick Initiative, which evaluated the level of contaminants in water, sediment, and soil throughout the St. Simons Sound. NOAA continues to work with EPA Region 4 to address the ecological effects of Superfund sites located in the St. Simons Sound. For example, the LCP Chemical site borders 500 acres of estuarine wetlands next to the **Turtle River**. This wetland and supporting creek system received discharges of high concentrations of PCBs, mercury, and lead while the facility was in operation. Together, NOAA and EPA Region 4 planned and conducted studies on the effects of PCBs and mercury on reproduction in resident-fish species. NOAA has documented the study results in a report for the EPA. Additional sites in the St. Simons Sound include the **Terry Creek** Dredge Spoil Areas site and the **Brunswick Wood Preserving site**, where dioxin concentrations are of concern to NOAA.

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

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

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