

SCORE won the prestigious 2004 Coastal America Partnership Award honoring the accomplishments achieved through successful partnership between SCDNR, community organizations, and volunteers. SCDNR invites you to join this award winning team.

Volunteers

- Learn more about the environment and potential effects of human activities on our fragile coastal resources
- Participate in hands-on restoration and enhancement activities
- Gain a vested interest in natural resources
- Become better stewards of the environment

Volunteer opportunities include

- Shell recycling
- Shell bagging
- Reef building
- Water quality monitoring
- Volunteer coordination
- Spat collection from your dock

Contact Information

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Shell recycling:

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Learn more at our website:

SCORE: <http://score.dnr.sc.gov>

Recycling: <http://saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/oyster.html>

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Volunteers of all ages get satisfaction from knowing they are part of the solution!



South Carolina
Department of
Natural Resources

DNR

SCORE

Community-based
Oyster Restoration Program



Why are oysters important?

- **Filters:** one 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 while providing habitat and other critical ecosystem functions.



Why do SC's oysters need restoration?

- Oyster larvae must attach to hard surfaces, preferably other oyster shells.
- Harvesting oysters removes substrate needed for larval settlement.
- Coastal development can lead to increased siltation which smothers oyster reefs.
- Boat wakes can damage intertidal oyster reefs.
- Returning properly quarantined shell to the water during the summer months provides needed substrate for future generations of oysters.

What is SCORE?

The South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program allows community volunteers to work with scientists to restore and monitor oyster habitat along the South Carolina coast. Volunteers recycle and bag oyster shell, construct oyster reefs, collect spat, and monitor water quality and reef progress. SCORE volunteers have used more than 570 tons of shell to build 190 reefs at 37 sites since 2001. These sites are used as research platforms to improve restoration success.



Middle school art clubs have created living murals at environmental education centers



Volunteers recycle shell at designated restaurants to help increase our supply



Volunteers form a human chain to pass the shell bags to the shoreline



Volunteers sample around oyster reefs



Volunteers monitor water quality weekly at restoration sites and enter data online at our interactive website <http://score.dnr.sc.gov>