



Marine Resources Complex

- Ft. Johnson, James Island

Directions:

217 Ft. Johnson Rd.
Charleston, SC 29422

[Google Map](#)

Take I-26 East. Take the 221 B exit heading toward King St. and Savannah. It is a double-lane exit --get into the lane heading toward Savannah. Go about a mile and after you pass by a few fast-food restaurants and gas stations, look for a sign on your right for Lockwood Drive. Veer to the right heading toward Lockwood Drive. Get in far left hand lane and turn left at the stoplight onto Lockwood Drive. Stay in this lane and it will route you up onto Hwy 30 (a bridge) toward James Island/Folly Beach. Take the Harborview Road exit. Turn right onto Harborview Road and go 2-3 miles until you reach a stop sign. Turn left onto Fort Johnson Road. Take Fort Johnson road until it dead ends into the SCDNR complex. Go through the gates and over two speed bumps. Go ¼ mile and look for a three-story white house on your left named the Marshlands House. The Program Coordinator will be out front to direct you to the appropriate parking area.

Discovery Vessel Program (must be 10 years old or older)

35 passenger capacity

Students collect water quality data and sample marine organisms that are collected by a trawl net during the vessel program. There will be an investigation into the organisms' form and function while identifying them. Students learn about local conservation issues and benefits of the estuary while developing critical science investigation skills.

Salt Marsh Field Study (grades K-12)

Join us for a muddy trek through the marsh to explore its importance and biodiversity. Students will use quadrats to replicate current research sampling methods while practicing species identification and data collection. Students will learn about adaptations of observed wildlife and human impacts on the salt marsh.

Sea Turtle Ecology (grades K-8)

Come learn about our state reptile! In this activity students will become a sea turtle biologist, learning about sea turtle biology, migration, and nesting. They will monitor a mock nest, and determine how human and natural threats to sea turtle survival can be mitigated.

How to Read a Fish (grades K-5)

Cast your interest this way as we explore the exciting world of fish. Join us as we examine their body shape and behaviors that make them unique. Discover the ancient Asian method of documenting fish size, Gytaku! We will use fish and fish stamps to make colorful prints of estuarine fish.

Planet Plankton (grades 5-12)

Did you know that phytoplankton is responsible for producing more than 60% of the oxygen in the air we breathe? In this activity, students will collect, observe, and identify phytoplankton and zooplankton using microscopes and learn of their importance to estuarine and ocean life.

Oyster Reef Community (grades 5-12)

South Carolina oyster reefs provide important habitat and food for many species living in the estuary. In this activity students will comb through reef samples to collect, organize and identify the many organisms living within. Students will record findings on data sheets and determine the community structure of their oyster reef sample to share with the class.

Other topics introduced include: Invasive Species, Shoreline Stabilization, Water Quality and the Oyster Life Cycle

Dissections:

Squid Dissection (grades 5-12)

Did you know that oysters and squid are related? In this lab students will have the opportunity to examine connections between squid and some of their close marine relatives. Through a hands-on dissection, students will investigate some of the adaptations, defense mechanisms, and reproductive strategies of squid that have made them successful in waters around the world.

Fish Dissection (grades 5-12)

This lab includes a study of the adaptations of a common SC fish species. Students will learn about current research being done by fisheries scientists, including how to age a fish using its inner ear bones! This activity will also cover the importance of fishing regulations and careers offered by the SC DNR Marine Resources Department before diving into a comprehensive dissection examining the anatomical similarities and differences of bony fish and humans.

Shark Dissection (grades 9-12)

There are over 30 species of sharks off South Carolina's coast. Join DNR staff as we discuss why we study these fascinating predators. In this activity students will study the senses and adaptations of sharks through an in-depth guided dissection of internal and external anatomy.