



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

4:00pm, Thursday, October 9, 2025

City Hall

Council Chambers

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

### **Public Comment:**

All citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address, and topic to Nicole DeNeane at [nicoled@iop.net](mailto:nicoled@iop.net) no later than **3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting**. Citizens may also provide public comment here:

<https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

### **Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – September 11, 2025**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation – Fisher Glass Recycling**
5. **Old Business**
  - a. Recommendations matrix
  - b. Water quality testing results
  - c. Discussion and consideration of changes to Lighting Ordinance
  - d. Contract with Fisher Glass Recycling
6. **New Business**
  - a. Folly Beach's Sustainability Bucket List
  - b. Aluminum beach recycling
7. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025, 4:00pm
8. **Adjournment**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**4:00pm, Thursday, September 11, 2025**

**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

**and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to order**

Present: Laura Lovins, Mary Pringle, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson, Todd Murphy

Absent: Eric Cicora

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Asst. Director Asero, Council Member Miars

#### **2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025 meetings, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **3. Citizen's Comments --**

#### **4. Presentation – Mujeres Latinas and Waves of Change**

Ms. Susan Smith spoke about how the IOP Clean Up Crew can support the efforts of the Mujeres Latinas including monitoring the bins to keep them free of trash. Mujeres Latinas will make and donate the bins to the island. Ms. Smith said she can get free signage for the bins.

Concern about trash in the bins was discussed. Mr. Murphy said the bins deal with the symptom of trash on the beach and not the problem of people leaving trash on the beach. He is also concerned that the trash buckets will end up on the beach.

Ms. Lovins noted that one of the matrix recommendations is related to educating the public about taking your trash with you when you leave the beach, particularly bigger items like broken chairs and toys.

After further discussion about the bins and possible locations, a trial location was voted on.

**MOTION: Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve one trash and toy bin provided by Mujeres Latinas roadside at the 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beach access path next year from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Ms. Pringle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Recommendations Matrix**

Ms. Lovins met with Sarah McDonald and Aubrey Anthony of the "South Carolina Aquarium Sea Rise Sign Project" and will invite them to present at the October meeting.

Ms. Lovins reported that the recent water quality tests indicated high levels of *E. coli* at the 25<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> avenues outfalls. A proposal from Wolpert for DNA testing of these samples is forthcoming. She hopes to have the results by the October meeting. Administrator Kerr shared that the results from 20+ years ago indicated that over 90% of the *E. coli* was related to animals, so there was nothing that could be done to diminish that.

Administrator Kerr reported that the Chamber of Commerce received a low response (seven restaurants) to its survey on a potential amendment to the regulation. Discussion ensued about the choice between strengthening the enforcement of the current ban on non-recyclable plastics or changing the approach, meaning providing straws and disposable utensils only upon customer request. Council Member Miars would like to see more stringent straw regulations but agreed it would be better to start with asking restaurants to not hand out straws unless asked. Some restaurant owners will be invited to the next Committee meeting to further discuss.

Discussion continued about the "Good Neighbor" brochure. Ms. Marrs shared the "Wild Dunes Way" webpage with the Committee. Ms. Marrs will work with Mr. Cicora and the PR Officer to develop a brochure and webpage similar to that of the "Wild Dunes Way." The Committee believes that this new page could serve as a landing page for QR codes and consolidate information on various initiatives such as the "Do No Harm" campaign, septic system education, composting, plastics, native plants, and sea-level rise.

Administrator Kerr noted that items 4, 5, 14, and 18 on Mr. Cicora's version of the matrix recommendations could be combined onto one page, similar to the sustainability list from Folly Beach.

##### **B. Contract with Fisher Glass Recycling**

Administrator Kerr referenced a recent email from Dr. Jim Smiley sent to Committee members regarding the City's contract with Fisher Glass Recycling. Administrator Kerr said that Mr. Belvin Olasov has confirmed all that is in the email. He will provide more details at a later date.

Administrator Kerr said the Environmental Advisory Committee previously recommended that the City continue the contract with Fisher Glass Recycling since the County frequently changes its glass recycling policy.

Ms. Lovins added that Dr. Smiley's original email to her said that the City has no efforts directed at recycling aluminum cans from the beach. Ms. Marrs did not believe the small amount of compliance that initiative would create is not worth the effort.

This will be discussed further at the October meeting. Ms. Lovins will inform Dr. Smiley they are working on a solution.

**5. New Business**

**Folly Beach's Sustainability Bucket List**

Administrator Kerr would like to see a page/list similar to this created under the Environmental Advisory Committee's page on the City's website. Ms. Lovins is attempting to collaborate with the staff person at Folly Beach who helped create this document.

**6. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 4pm.

**7. Adjournment**

Ms. Popson made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk



Recommendations	Source	Category/Focus Area	Assigned Committee	Initiative	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation	Budgetary Cost	Initiative2	Rec #	Recommendation	Status
Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory		Infrastructure Improvements	58	Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.	Speaker Series includes Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	62	Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).	Speaker Series includes Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island’s natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island’s interior.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	87	Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island's natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island’s interior.	
Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Revenue & Funding	88	Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.	
Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory	\$\$	Talent Management	92	Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.	
Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Actionable	\$	Environmental Sustainability	95	Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.	ONGOING - Conducting Fluidion test at 3 sites on island pending budget review by Douglas. 3 sites: 25th, 36th, and Myrtle - LL Update 36 & 25 high levels of ECOLI - move forward with MST testing (James Piddle) putting MST proposal together to
Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	96	Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.	
Advance recommendations from city’s developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	97	Advance recommendations from city’s developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	
Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	98	Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.	
Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	99	Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.	
Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Forecasting	101	Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.	
Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	102	Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.	PW had panels installed
Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	103	Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.	
Consider requesting sustainable practices in city’s request for proposals and bids.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory		Environmental Sustainability	104	Consider requesting sustainable practices in city’s request for proposals and bids.	
Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	105	Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.	
Evaluate feasibility of safely of adding electric vehicle charging stations.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	106	Evaluate feasibility of safely of adding electric vehicle charging stations.	Dominion presented at committe, will be coming back with more information
Make IOP’s environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city’s brand.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Communications	107	Make IOP’s environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city’s brand.	

Secure more related media coverage.	Community	Environmental	Environmental Advisory		Short	Actionable		Communications	109	Secure more related media coverage.	
Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable	\$\$	Communications	110	Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.	In progress
With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	111	With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach	
Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes “Do No Harm” messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Communications	112	Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes “Do No Harm” messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.	Linda Tucker provided more context. Eric to review. Pickup next month.
Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$	Communications	113	Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.	Eric and Cindy working on developing a page for the EAC - QR codes - look at Folly Beach - more specific for EAC issues
Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory		Communications	114	Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.	Started with Breach Inlet signage in Spanish for NO SWIMMING, Danger
Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	115	Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.	
Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department’s annual calendar.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	116	Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department’s annual calendar.	Investigating - Douglas asking Karrie about earthday event - Speaker series Fall 2025 Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium’s Searise sign project.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	117	Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium’s Searise sign project.	EAC Agenda October - New Business Item
Pursue promising “natural defense” strategies.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	120	Pursue promising “natural defense” strategies.	
Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Actionable		Septic & requested Management	134	Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.	
Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable	\$\$\$	Septic & Sewer Management	135	Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.	
Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory		Septic & Sewer Management	136	Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.	
Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community's identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory		Environmental Sustainability	140	Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community's identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.	
Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Marsh Preservation	142	Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).	Ongoing - Laura Lovins has inquired on membership
Consult with groups like Charleston’s M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	143	Consult with groups like Charleston’s M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.	

Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan’s Island.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	144	Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan’s Island.	
With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	145	With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.	
Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	146	Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.	
Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of “rain gardens” and dry ponds.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	147	Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of “rain gardens” and dry ponds.	
Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	148	Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.	
Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	149	Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.	
Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable		Stormwater Management	150	Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.	
Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	152	Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.	
Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island’s interior.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Litter Management	153	Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island’s interior.	
In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: •♻️Cleanup bucket tree •♻️No Toys Left Behind” bin • Bench for visitors to help them collect their things	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory	\$	Litter Management	155	In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: •♻️Cleanup bucket tree •♻️No Toys Left Behind” bin • Bench for visitors to help them collect their things	
Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Litter Management	157	Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.	Review Green Group Report Card. Doug to send out. Consider business engagement to reduce packaging concerns. ASK some resturant folks to attend meeting and talk though this recommendations
Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	158	Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.	
Consistent message on welcome signs to “Leave Only Footprints” and “See Beach Rules at www.iop.net .”	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Communications	159	Consistent message on welcome signs to “Leave Only Footprints” and “See Beach Rules at www.iop.net .”	See Beach Rules at www.iop.net on sign board at connector
Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable	\$\$	Communications	160	Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.	
More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net “Beach Rules” – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.	Community Enrichment Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Communications	161	More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net “Beach Rules” – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.	

Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Stormwater Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	194	Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.	
Develop a public education program on resilient strategies.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	198	Develop a public education program on resilient strategies.	Pick up next month (August)to get more context
Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Marsh Preservation	199	Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.	
Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable	\$	Septic & Sewer Management	200	Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.	
Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	205	Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	
Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Stormwater Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Recreational Offerings	207	Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.	
Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable	\$\$	sewer & septic	208	Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.	
Incorporate marsh management plan.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Marsh Preservation	209	Incorporate marsh management plan.	
Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	210	Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	
Maintain policies and procedures to ensure that beaches, marshlands and marinas are protected and preserved.	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Forecasting	219	Maintain policies and procedures to ensure that beaches, marshlands and marinas are protected and preserved.	
Monitor DHEC/OCRM testing of ocean waters impacting the island	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	228	Monitor DHEC/OCRM testing of ocean waters impacting the island	
Create a public awareness/education program aimed at protecting the sensitive ecosystem of a barrier island, to include protection of dunes and marshes and their vegetation, as well as the importance of removing animal waste and trash from the beaches	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Medium	Actionable		Communications	229	Create a public awareness/education program aimed at protecting the sensitive ecosystem of a barrier island, to include protection of dunes and marshes and their vegetation, as well as the importance of removing animal waste and trash from the beaches	
Investigate the potential for establishing, or acquiring, City owned, undeveloped green spaces	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Long	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	231	Investigate the potential for establishing, or acquiring, City owned, undeveloped green spaces	
Pursue enforcement of ordinance(s) aimed at protecting loggerhead turtle nesting activities and sites	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory		Wildlife Stewardship	232	Pursue enforcement of ordinance(s) aimed at protecting loggerhead turtle nesting activities and sites	
Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	233	Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation	
Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	234	Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.	

Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Maintenance		Marsh Preservation	237	Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.	
The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a “team approach” to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	244	The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a “team approach” to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years	
In conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Aspirational		Septic & City Management	245	In conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island	
The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	249	The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used	
Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Exploratory		Litter Management	250	Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island	
Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards	Comprehensive Plan	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Environmental Advisory Committee		Short	Actionable		Septic & Sewer Management	266	Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards	

\$ (< \$50,000)  
 \$\$ (\$50,000 - \$100,000)  
 \$\$\$ (> \$100,000)

Short (< 1 year)  
 Medium (1 - 5 years)  
 Long (> 5 years)

Aspirational: long-term vision with no clear policy or action recommended  
 Exploratory: policy or action to explore and consider further  
 Actionable: clear policy or budgetary action that can be taken immediately  
 Maintenance: upkeep of existing practices, policies, or activities

**From:** [Riddle, James](#)  
**To:** [Laura Lovins](#)  
**Cc:** [Douglas Kerr](#); [Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025  
**Date:** Monday, October 6, 2025 6:05:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[inky-injection-inliner-6f42d488d348cfd86bff9497caf9f6a.png](#)  
[inky-injection-inliner-209b06d63f3139b7bbda7129634c80da.png](#)

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[EXTERNAL]



External (james.riddle@woolpert.com)



Laura

Sorry for the delayed response, I was at a conference last week but assume you received my auto-reply. Sounds good on your interpretation of the results.

We could consider another round of sampling with the remaining reagent, but we would need additional fee if you wanted to send the samples to Luminultra for MST testing. Our original budgeted fee for a second round of samples was intended to be used if our first round of bacteria concentrations were low and therefore didn't warrant MST testing. Since we measured high concentrations and ran the MST testing with our initial samples, my intent was to deduct the labor that would have been used for a second round of samples from our overall invoice.

Let me know how you would like to proceed.

FYI - the unused reagent is \$17/sample so not a big amount if it was discarded

James

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**From:** Laura Lovins <[lurasue@gmail.com](mailto:lurasue@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 2:14 PM  
**To:** Riddle, James <[James.Riddle@Woolpert.com](mailto:James.Riddle@Woolpert.com)>  
**Cc:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>; Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

---



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Good afternoon James,

Thanks so much for getting this information back to us so quickly!

The test results seem very straightforward at this point, so the only question I have is:

1) since we still have 3 more Fluidon test vials that could be used for a second sample, and we budgeted to potentially do two (2) rounds of testing that could include the MST testing for 3 species, could we schedule the second sample during a rain event day at low tide on or before November 10th? That would be 60 days from the initial dry weather sampling, and could give us another research marker for this project.

Let me know your thoughts - I know it's a bit harder to predict a rain event day, but I think with a 60-day window, it should be possible.

Thanks,  
Laura Lovins

On Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 9:44 AM Riddle, James <[James.Riddle@woolpert.com](mailto:James.Riddle@woolpert.com)> wrote:

Douglas/Laura

Attached are the results from the microbial source tracking. Great news!

The results from samples at both Outfall 25 and 36 produced ND (non-detect) results for the presence of microbes from humans. The results are highly technical, but Tab 1 is where we typically focus. As you'll see, no ruminant (deer) related microbes were detected. The only species we evaluated with a quantifiable measurement (see ROQ designation in Column J) was for dogs at Outfall 25.

These results indicate that the high E Coli bacteria concentrations that we sampled at these two outfalls are not related to human sources, such as malfunctioning septic systems. Let me know when you would like to setup a call to discuss further.

James

---

**From:** Riddle, James  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** 'Douglas Kerr' [dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)  
**Cc:** Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>; Laura Lovins <[lurasue@gmail.com](mailto:lurasue@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

Thanks Douglas, we'll be in touch

---

**From:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:15 PM  
**To:** Riddle, James <[James.Riddle@Woolpert.com](mailto:James.Riddle@Woolpert.com)>  
**Cc:** Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>; Laura Lovins <[lurasue@gmail.com](mailto:lurasue@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

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Signed accepted proposal attached.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr  
City Administrator  
City of Isle of Palms  
P.O. Drawer 508  
Isle of Palms, SC 29451  
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(c) 843-666-9326  
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---

**From:** Riddle, James <[James.Riddle@Woolpert.com](mailto:James.Riddle@Woolpert.com)>



**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 2:43 PM

**To:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>; Laura Lovins <[lurasue@gmail.com](mailto:lurasue@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

[EXTERNAL]



External ([james.riddle@woolpert.com](mailto:james.riddle@woolpert.com))



Douglas/Laura

Enjoyed talking to you last week. Attached is the proposed amendment to conduct the MST analysis for the two recommended samples at 25<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> street.

I'm also attaching a sample spreadsheet showing the type of results that we will receive from LuminUltra. The results are not very intuitive, so our intent would be to have a similar call to last week to help you understand the final results.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. If everything looks ok, I'll need a signed version like last time to move forward.

Thanks

James

---

**From:** Riddle, James

**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:34 AM

**To:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>; Laura Lovins <[lurasue@gmail.com](mailto:lurasue@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>

**Subject:** FW: IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

Douglas/Laura

Attached and below are the results from our bacteria testing yesterday. Our results provide a distinct picture of where further analysis is and isn't warranted based on the pre-screening. We recommend MST analysis for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> street samples.

I'm driving to Florida after lunch today so I'll have lots of open time for a call if yall are available to discuss.

James

**James Riddle, PE**

Vice President

Program Director | Water Market

D: 803.214.5920 | M: 803.422.4048

[james.riddle@woolpert.com](mailto:james.riddle@woolpert.com)

**Woolpert**

807 Gervais Street - Suite 102 | Columbia, SC 29201

[woolpert.com](http://woolpert.com)

---

**From:** Rivera-Gonzalez, Blanche <[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@woolpert.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:36 AM

**To:** Riddle, James <[James.Riddle@Woolpert.com](mailto:James.Riddle@Woolpert.com)>

**Subject:** IOP - Outfall Sampling - 9/10/2025

Sampling of outfalls at Isle of Palms was conducted yesterday (9/10/2025) afternoon, and we received the lab results this morning. Please find the results attached.

**Weather Condition:**

- Overcast to partly sunny
- Average temperature = 80°F
- Last rainfall recorded: 9/8/2025
- Low tide
- Dry sampling

**Outfalls Sampled:**

1. 36<sup>th</sup> (SW-17):

i. E.Coli (/100mL):

$1.07 \times 10^5$

2. 25<sup>th</sup> (SW-13):

i. E.Coli (/100mL):

$8.05 \times 10^4$

3. Myrtle Avenue:

i. E.Coli (/100mL):  $\leq 2$

Following sample collection, MST filtering was performed for potential DNA analysis.

**Blanche "BiBi" Rivera-Gonzalez**

EIT I Water Resources

843-631-8816

[Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@Woolpert.com](mailto:Blanche.Rivera-Gonzalez@Woolpert.com)

**Woolpert**

4900 O'Hear Avenue, Suite 202, North Charleston, SC 29405

[woolpert.com](http://woolpert.com)

---

## Sec. 5-4-17. Sea turtle protection; outdoor lighting regulations.

- (a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
- (1) *Artificial light* means any source of light emanating from a manmade device, including, but not limited to, incandescent, mercury vapor, metal halide, or sodium lamps, flashlights, spotlights, streetlights, vehicular lights, construction or security lights.
  - (2) *Floodlight* means reflector-type light fixture which is attached directly to a building and which is unshielded.
  - (3) *Low profile luminary* means a light fixture set on a base which raises the source of the light no higher than forty-eight inches (48") off the ground, and designed in such a way that light is directed downward from a hooded light source.
  - (4) *Development* means any existing structure for which a building permit has been duly issued and any new construction or remodeling of existing structures when such remodeling includes alteration of exterior lighting.
  - (5) *Person* means any individual, firm, association, joint venture, partnership, estate, trust, syndicate, fiduciary, corporation, group or unit, or Federal, State, County or municipal government.
  - (6) *Pole lighting* means a light fixture set on a base or pole which raises the source of the light higher than forty-eight inches (48") off the ground.
- (b) *Development.* No artificial light shall illuminate any area of the beach other than in compliance with this section. Building and electrical plans for construction of single-family or multifamily dwellings, commercial or other structures, including electrical plans associated with parking lots, dune walkovers or other outdoor lighting for real property if lighting associated with such construction or development can be seen from the beach, shall be in compliance with the following:
- (1) Floodlights shall be prohibited. Wall-mounted light fixtures shall be fitted with hoods so that no light illuminates the beach.
  - (2) Pole lighting shall be shielded in such a way that the point sources of light will not be visible from the beach. Outdoor lighting shall be held to the minimum necessary for security and convenience.
  - (3) Low-profile luminaries shall be used in parking lots and such lighting shall be positioned so that no light illuminates the beach.
  - (4) Dune crosswalks shall utilize low-profile shielded luminaries which shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.
  - (5) Temporary security lights at construction sites shall not be mounted more than fifteen feet (15') above the ground. Illumination from the lights shall not spread beyond the boundary of the property being developed and in no case shall those lights illuminate the beach.
- (c) *Use of lighting.* It is the policy of the City for both new and existing development to minimize artificial light illuminating any area of the beach. To adhere to this policy, lighting of structures which can be seen from the beach shall be in compliance with the following:
- (1) Lights illuminating buildings or associate grounds for decorative or recreational purposes shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach, or turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.
  - (2) Lights illuminating dune crosswalks of any area oceanward of the primary dune line shall be turned off from sunset to sunrise during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.

- 
- (3) Security lights shall be permitted throughout the night so long as low-profile luminaries are used and screened in such a way that those lights do not illuminate the beach.
- (d) *Publicly owned lighting.* Streetlights and lighting at parks and other publicly owned beach areas shall be subject to the following:
- (1) Streetlights shall be located so that most of their illumination will be directed away from the beach. These lights shall be equipped with ~~low-pressure sodium bulbs and~~ shades or shields that will prevent backlighting and render them not visible from the beach.
  - (2) Lights at parks or other public beach access points shall be shielded or shaded or shall not be utilized during the period of May 1 to October 31 of each year.
- (e) *Enforcement and penalty.* Violation of any provision is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, punishable and enforceable pursuant to the provisions of section 1-3-66.

(Code 1994, § 5-4-17)

#### **Section 5-4-18. New and Existing Residential Development.**

The purpose of this section is to control light spillage and glare so as not to adversely affect motorists, pedestrians, natural areas, vistas, and land uses of adjacent properties. More specifically, this section is intended to:

- Control lighting to assure that excessive light spillage and glare are not directed at adjacent properties, neighboring areas, and motorists;
  - Protect livability and enjoyment for residents and visitors;
  - Filter and reduce glare from artificial light sources, preventing “sky and neighborhood glow”; and
  - Avoid negative impacts to wildlife from exterior lighting.
- (a) Outdoor lighting on residential structures is prohibited ~~must be shielded so that light is directed downward and does from not shining e~~ directly onto ~~any natural including~~ the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh, or other natural areas outside of the owners property.
- (b) Outdoor lighting on residential structures shall not shine directly into the yard or windows of adjacent residential uses.
- (c) Light fixtures in excess of 60 watts or 100 lumens shall use full cut-off lenses or hoods to prevent glare or spillover onto adjacent ~~lands~~properties and natural areas.
- (d) Upwardly-directed lighting shall not be used to illuminate structures, except for low-wattage architectural lighting. These lights ~~should~~must be on a timer such that they are turned off by 10:00pm every day
- (e) ~~It is recommended that A~~all exterior lighting must be rated at or below 3000 Kelvin. ~~While exceptions may exist, this limitation provides a balance of safety and security with a more amber tone of light being emitted.~~

**From:** [Elizabeth Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Kerr](#)  
**Cc:** [Laura Lovins](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling/Charleston County Materials Recovery Facility/ Fisher Recycling  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:49:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[inky-injection-inliner-6f42d488d348cfd86bff9497caf9f6a.png](#)  
[inky-injection-inliner-209b06d63f3139b7bbda7129634c80da.png](#)

[EXTERNAL]



External (elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)



Thank you for your response, Douglas. Nicole forwarded me the minutes also, that was helpful.

Yes, we would like to present at the Oct 9 Mtg.

Very Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Fisher | Owner**  
[Fisher Recycling & GlassEco Surfaces](#)  
[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)

**Office:** [\(843\) 554-6099](tel:(843)554-6099)  
**Mobile:** [\(843\) 200-0293](tel:(843)200-0293)

4214 Domino Ave, Suite D, North Charleston, SC 29405

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On Wed, Oct 1, 2025 at 8:47 AM Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)> wrote:

Elizabeth- the Environmental Advisory Committee is the one that will recommend to the Council whether or not the city continues with Fisher Recycling. They are receiving questions about the differences between what Fisher does and what the County does. They will discuss the issue again next Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Would you like to address the group? If you are not available, I can share the note below with them. I have attached the minutes of their last meeting here.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr

City Administrator

City of Isle of Palms

P.O. Drawer 508

Isle of Palms, SC 29451

(p) 843-886-6428

(c) 843-666-9326

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---

**From:** Elizabeth Fisher <[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 2:51 PM

**To:** Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>

**Subject:** Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling/Charleston County Materials Recovery Facility/  
Fisher Recycling

[EXTERNAL]



External ([elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com))



Douglas, I have spoken to the County representative. She has confirmed that they send their glass to a recycler in Atlanta. According to her, it is not being used on the property any longer. Our issue is that the glass that is being transported is highly contaminated, therefore it is very likely that the material is not adequately being recycled.

We still stand by our method of collection and 100% recyclability of our glass due to the cleanliness of the material.

Are the meeting minutes online yet? I am curious if this was discussed and how we can move forward with another year!

Very Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Fisher | Owner**

[Fisher Recycling](#) & [GlassEco Surfaces](#)

[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)

**Office:** [\(843\) 554-6099](tel:(843)554-6099)

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On Fri, Sep 12, 2025 at 1:48 AM Elizabeth Fisher <[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)> wrote:

Douglas, as I mentioned, I am out of office during this time. I did not have the access to the email until today, so I am just seeing this. Mr Jim has reached out to me in emails, so I am familiar w/ his name. The one error I do see if his statement: **It's important to understand that neither the private contractor (Fisher Recycling) nor Charleston County "fully" recycle glass.**

In fact that is not true, we do recycle 100% of the glass we collect. I can only speak to what I know about the county facility from my end, not what Moskos claims is happening at their end.

Was this addressed at the meeting yesterday? We can put together a letter to the EAC council that me explain our position better in order to maintain the very successful and well received program.

I am not back in the country until 9/18. I can, however, ask Chris if he is able to represent us.

Very Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Fisher | Owner**

[Fisher Recycling & GlassEco Surfaces](#)

[elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com](mailto:elizabeth@fisherrecycling.com)

**Office:** [\(843\) 554-6099](tel:(843)554-6099)

**Mobile:** [\(843\) 200-0293](tel:(843)200-0293)

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On Wed, Sep 10, 2025 at 4:02 PM Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)> wrote:

Elizabeth- could you please read the message below and let me know if you believe any of this to be untrue? As I mentioned last week, this issue is on the agenda for the EAC to consider tomorrow.

Thanks, Douglas

Douglas Kerr

City Administrator

City of Isle of Palms

P.O. Drawer 508

Isle of Palms, SC 29451

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**From:** Jim Smiley <[smileyj@isleofpalmssc.net](mailto:smileyj@isleofpalmssc.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 3:23 PM

**To:** Laura Lovins <[LLovins@iop.net](mailto:LLovins@iop.net)>; [ecicora@gmail.com](mailto:ecicora@gmail.com); [spopson@comcast.net](mailto:spopson@comcast.net); Katie Miars <[kmiars@iop.net](mailto:kmiars@iop.net)>; Douglas Kerr <[dkerr@iop.net](mailto:dkerr@iop.net)>; Mary Pringle <[marybpringle@gmail.com](mailto:marybpringle@gmail.com)>; [lmarrs13@gmail.com](mailto:lmarrs13@gmail.com); [lspiotta26@porterguad.edu](mailto:lspiotta26@porterguad.edu); Todd Murphy <[TMurphy@iop.net](mailto:TMurphy@iop.net)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Glass Recycling/Charleston County Materials Recovery Facility/ Fisher Recycling

[EXTERNAL]



External ([smileyj@isleofpalmssc.net](mailto:smileyj@isleofpalmssc.net))



Dear Environmental Advisory Committee,

A recent exchange of emails with Mayor Pounds and Laura Lovins,

Chair of Council's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), led me to wonder whether the Mayor or Ms. Lovins are fully informed to justify recommending that the Isle of Palms spend \$10,000 each year to subsidize a private, for-profit company (Fisher Recycling) which offers a redundant service. When I asked Mayor Pounds to justify the annual \$10,000 expenditure, he responded with a single one liner, "Seems like a question for our Environmental Committee but as I understand it the County doesn't fully recycle the glass which is why the committee sought an alternative.". Laura Lovins responded that "We (the EAC) revisited this project/expense earlier this year when there were questions about a possible change in recycling of glass and it was determined that the current plan and expense is still a good use of City Funds to keep glass out of our landfills.".

It's important to understand that neither the private contractor (Fisher Recycling) nor Charleston County "fully" recycle glass. Glass recycling is a multistep process which begins with collecting and sorting. Charleston County operates a taxpayer funded MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) commonly referred to as a single stream operation. It is an advanced automated sorting facility where recyclables come in as a single stream and are sorted into their components (glass, paper, aluminum, steel, etc.) The sorted glass is then hauled to a 3rd party in Georgia (Strategic Materials, recently acquired by Sibelco) where the glass is recycled by converting it to cullets used in the manufacture of new glass products. A similar process occurs with Fisher Recycling, except they have no need for an MRF, since Isle of Palms residents and businesses do the sorting for them by diverting their household waste glass from the blue roll out carts used by the County into the chartreuse green collection containers used by Fisher Recycling,

and we pay Fisher \$10,000 per annum for the privilege. It should be pointed out that each Isle of Palms household is also taxed \$150.00 per year by Charleston County to offset the cost of operating the County MRF.

Christina Moskos, Program Manager for the Charleston County Environmental Management department, reported to me that for calendar year 2024 the Charleston County MRF hauled 8,346.5 tons of glass to the glass reprocessing plant in GA. Ms. Moskos also reported that all (100%) glass received by the County MRF was recycled, none of the glass was repurposed as road beds, no glass has been used for roadbeds in some years and none ended up in landfills.

Elizabeth Fisher, owner of Fisher Recycling, reported that her company hauls 600 tons of glass per year to the same glass reprocessing facility in Georgia after culling out an estimated 5 to 10% which her company repurposes in the manufacture of epoxy countertops. Fisher Recycling she wrote, "picks out all the pretty colors and we send the rest to Strategic Materials in Georgia".

So the question for me became one of understanding how the Environmental Advisory Committee's apparent understanding of what the County MRF does with the glass it receives is so different from

what the Charleston County MRF says it does with the glass it receives. In going back and reading the EAC agendas and minutes for 2025, I discovered that as a part of the agenda packet for the 04-10-25 EAC meeting there was included an email from Elizabeth Fisher dated 04-08-25 in response to a question from Douglas Kerr asking to be advised about the County MRF facility. Ms. Fischer wrote " Sure, Doug and thank you for reaching out, The Glass situation at the county has remained the same. The market for Glass is extremely limited and what is truly being "recycled" is still being used as road bed cover at the recycling plant. If any trucks are hauling glass to the end market, [it] is extremely contaminated and not good quality recycling. By the city participating in this program you are continuing to offer your citizens [an] outlet to keep glass out of the landfill."

Puzzlingly, there was no similar memo sent to the management of the Charleston County MRF. From my point of view, prima facie evidence tends to point to the EAC being biased against use of the County facility. This view is reinforced by statements made in the EAC meeting to the effect that the City is attempting to change resident behavior toward placing their waste bottles and jars in the Fisher green collection bins rather than attempting to change behaviors relative to encouraging greater and better use by residents of the blue roll out carts that the County uses.

So, I ask again, how does my City justify the

expenditure of \$10,000 dollars per year to subsidise a redundant private service?

May I respectfully suggest that before recommending another year's service with Fisher Recycling, the EAC do its own investigation. If you are able, visit both the Fisher and the County facilities, talk to representatives of each, ask the hard questions and become truly informed. If you find that I have been misled, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jim

--

James W. Smiley  
16 44th Avenue  
Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451  
(843) 364-7337

### Interpretive Sign Update:

- Check out the upcoming oyster roast fundraiser flier from Islander 71 - Saturday, Nov. 1, starting at noon.
- We also have three close-to-final designs of the bird signs and the cornerstone overview sign available for EAC review.
- The cornerstone sign is titled "Explore the Inner Coast," a reference to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the surrounding natural areas and wildlife that are the project's focus.
- Susan came across the "Inner Coast" name in the title of a naturalist guide: "Life Along the Inner Coast." While not a common term locally, it fits the project well and should make visitors curious to learn more.
- Possible tweaks: Enjoy the Inner Coast, Experience the Inner Coast, Discover the Inner Coast - happy to get feedback on these from the EAC.
- EAC members can relay any suggested edits or changes on any of the signs to Susan & Laura. We value your thoughts & expertise.
- Medium-sized bird signs have increased in size from 18 x 24 to 22 x 26 so they reach down to the recommended base height for those in wheelchairs. (Large signs will be 24 x 36, and small signs 12 x 16.)
- We hope to complete the rest of the designs in the next 2-3 weeks and will share those by email with EAC members, who can respond back to us with individual feedback.
- We are behind our expected schedule - signs may not be installed until after Thanksgiving.



## **Resilience Collaboration Meeting – Sept. 30, 2025**

Laura Lovins, Cindy Marrs, and Sean Popson met with Jenna Stephens, Zoning Administrator/Environmental Planner for Folly Beach, and Rebecca Fanning, Director of Resilience & Natural Resource Management for Sullivan's Island to discuss potential opportunities to collaborate and share ideas on resilience strategies.

Jenna shared that active projects for Folly Beach (FB) are beach renourishment, living shorelines and dune infiltration. These were accomplished through mitigation strategies that align with the town and enable eligibility for future grants. FB also initiated a storm water project through a SCIP grant. FB uses inserts in water bill once or twice a year to keep residents informed of programs such as the yard certification program for resilient residential landscaping. Island newsletters are employed to provide pesticide information.

Folly Beach utilizes a consultant with ELKO Consulting (Nicole Elko, a coastal geologist) to develop a resilience plan that encompasses marsh management and sea level rise. They started with low hanging fruit such as impervious driveways. Public hearings are held to garner public input and support for potential projects. ELKO is helping with "Folly 2050," a planning exercise which includes a drainage study and marsh study, with the objective of developing actionable ideas.

It was recommended that Nicole with ELKO Consulting present to EAC or IOP Council to discuss strategic opportunities and identify low hanging fruit. Both Jenna and Rebecca also recommended engaging Catherine Min (from SC Resilience Office) to provide Resilience 101 training to EAC and Council members.

Establishing an IOP resilience position that could fill other gaps was encouraged. Is there an opportunity for an existing position that could assume the resilience role as a stretch goal? The resilience positions for both FB and Sullivan's Island cover a range of duties such as zoning and permit reviews. The position would enable IOP to stay on top of changes through their attendance at conferences, resilience collaborative/task force with Molly Caggiano and the Beach Advocates programs. Staffing for other positions such as code enforcement and total filled positions for FB and Sullivan's Island was also discussed. Jenna noted that enforcement is important to ensure compliance. For example, they fine residents \$500 per tree removed (if not approved) and that money (now \$100,000) goes into a fund that is used for replenishing trees.

It was also noted that Patria St. John, Kiawah town planner, is a useful resource that can provide town comparison matrices to better understand how IOP initiatives align with other coastal communities. She has a useful format, which she is willing to share, to educate Council members on environmental issues.

Meeting concluded with agreement that there should be future collaboration with these communities to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned.



**ISLANDER 71**  
FISH HOUSE AND RAW BAR

# THE FIRST SHUCK

## OYSTER SEASON KICKOFF ROAST FOR THE LOCALS

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST**  
**BENEFITING IOP PUBLIC DOCK ECO-EDUCATION PROJECT**

### **NOON 'TIL THEY'RE GONE**

All voluntary donations benefit the IOP Public Dock Eco-Education Project — creating displays about our salt marsh, waterways, and wildlife so residents and visitors can learn about (and help protect) the lowcountry.

***SUGGESTED DONATION: \$30***



**PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE!**



# EXPLORE THE *Inner Coast*



Find more information  
about this project and the  
resources used at [IOP.net](https://iop.net)

City of  
*Isle of Palms*  
South Carolina

## *Isle of Palms provides access to essential waterways and wetlands*

Positioned where the busy Intracoastal Waterway meets the bend of Morgan Creek, Isle of Palms Marina offers provisions and support for “Inner Coast” travelers. It also serves as a gateway for local explorers to a brilliant expanse of salt marsh, tidal creeks, rivers and other barrier islands.

The Isle of Palms public dock and boardwalk opened in 2024 for everyone to enjoy. You can stroll, swing, fish, birdwatch or set off on a paddling adventure at no charge. On the lower level, there’s an ADA-accessible launch for kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

Paddle sports provide a low-impact way to connect with nature – and the island’s history. Native Americans, including the local Sewees, once visited barrier islands by canoe to hunt boar, bears and deer. They also harvested fish, conchs, crabs, oysters and clams from the shore. Isle of Palms was even called “Hunting Island” on early colonial maps.



### **Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway**

Before you is the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, which runs for 1,100 miles, toll-free, from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida. It was completed in 1940 by connecting natural inlets, saltwater rivers, bays and sounds, with manmade canals. It allows sheltered navigation for transportation, commerce, recreation, dredging and security.



### **IOP Marina**

Island residents voted in 1999 for the City of Isle of Palms to buy this marina to continue public access to the water. In addition to the dock, the site now includes Islander 71 restaurant, the IOP Marina Outpost, Barrier Island EcoTours, boat charters, rentals and more. Morgan Creek also features two neighboring marinas – one for the island’s Wild Dunes community and one for residents of Dewees Island, which is only reachable by boat.



### **IOP Connector**

Opened to auto traffic in 1993, the Isle of Palms Connector rises to a vertical clearance of 65 feet so tall ships on the Intracoastal Waterway can pass underneath. Each October, the Isle of Palms Connector Run and Walk for the Child provides participants a chance for stunning views while the connector is closed to automobiles.



### **Salt Marsh**

South Carolina features the most salt marsh of any state: close to 350,000 acres. Salt marsh wetlands help define the Lowcountry landscape and culture. They also store carbon, protect our properties, and are vital for fish and wildlife that support coastal economies. But these ecosystems are at risk from rising seas, development, pollution and the growing number of residents and visitors.



### **Protected Lands**

Protected areas up the coast include the state’s Capers Island Heritage Preserve and Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Both provide critical undeveloped space for sea turtles, dolphins, migrating birds, fish and many other plants and animals.

Photos by Mic Smith (1&2), Matt Peacock (3),  
Cindy Branscombe (4), and Kaitlyn Hackathorn (5)

Design by Kaitlyn Hackathorn



# Majestic Wading Birds

## These regal hunters rule the shallow waters

Expect to see wading birds stalking in the grass as you explore the salt marsh. With large feet and hollow bones, these stealthy predators glide atop pluff mud. Long legs allow them to hunt as tides rise. Herons and egrets spear fish with straight bills, while the ibis plucks crabs and crayfish from the mud with a curved bill. This salt marsh buffet also features shrimp, snails, frogs and insects.

During breeding season, “waders” gather in the treetops of swamps and marsh islands, where predators are rare. These colonies – called rookeries – allow them to socialize, nest and begin life anew.



Tricolored Heron  
in breeding plumage

## Protecting Waders

The popularity of wading bird feathers in fashions of the 1800s led to over hunting and put waders at serious risk. By the 1900s, conservation efforts saved several species, including the great egret, now a symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Now, these birds face modern challenges. These include development of wetlands where waders feed and nest, warming waters and declining fish numbers. You can help by respecting wetlands and designated wildlife areas. Don't disrupt wading birds. Give them space to thrive.

## How to tell these feathered friends apart

Don't be fooled: Egrets and herons can tuck in their necks to appear shorter or extend their necks to be taller.



### White Ibis

Length: 22.1–26.8 in

The white ibis has a long bill that curves downward. Its bill, legs and skin turn bright red during mating season and are pink the rest of the year. Look for white ibises traveling in large V formations at sunrise and sunset in summer.



### Great Egret

Length: 37.0–40.9 in

The great egret has a thick yellow bill and black legs and feet. When breeding, the area between the eyes and bill is green, and feathery plumes called aigrettes trail from the neck, back and tail.



### Snowy Egret

Length: 22.1–26.0 in

The snowy egret is smaller and busier than the great egret. While similar in size to the white ibis, “snowies” have a black bill and legs. Their striking yellow feet look like golden dance slippers.



### Great Blue Heron

Length: 38.2–53.9 in

With enhanced night vision, the great blue heron can stalk prey 24/7. While they can be slow-moving and statue-like, they strike quickly when the time is right. The largest heron in North America, this wader can grow to have a wingspan over 6 feet.



### Little Blue Heron

Length: 22.1–29.1 in

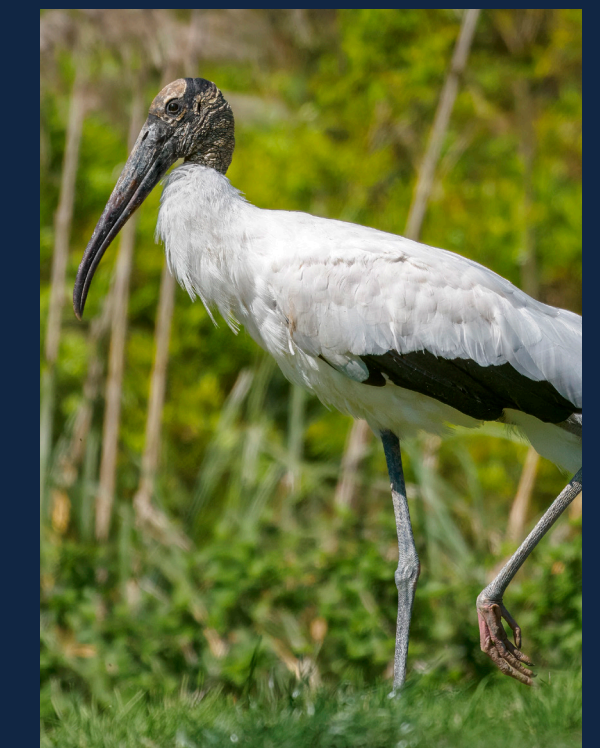
This bird is half the size of the great blue heron – and a darker blue – with a deep-plum neck and head during mating season. To maintain its plumage, the little blue heron uses a unique grooming tool – a middle toe with comb-like “teeth”.



### Roseate Spoonbill

Length: 27.9–33.9 in

Once rare in South Carolina, more “spoonies” now visit our coast. Look for them around here from spring into summer. Similar to the flamingo, roseate spoonbills get their coloring from a diet rich in carotenoids that include shrimp.



### Wood Stork

Length: 33.5–45.3 in

Along with spoonbills and ibises, storks rely on their sense of touch when they hunt. When they come in contact with prey, their bills shut swiftly. The wood stork has the fastest bill snap of all: 25 milliseconds.



# Fantastic Catch

**How do birds snatch their food?  
Learn the tricks of local fishing experts**

## Which bird does it best?

*Each of these birds  
have adapted their  
own unique fishing  
practices.*

### Ospreys

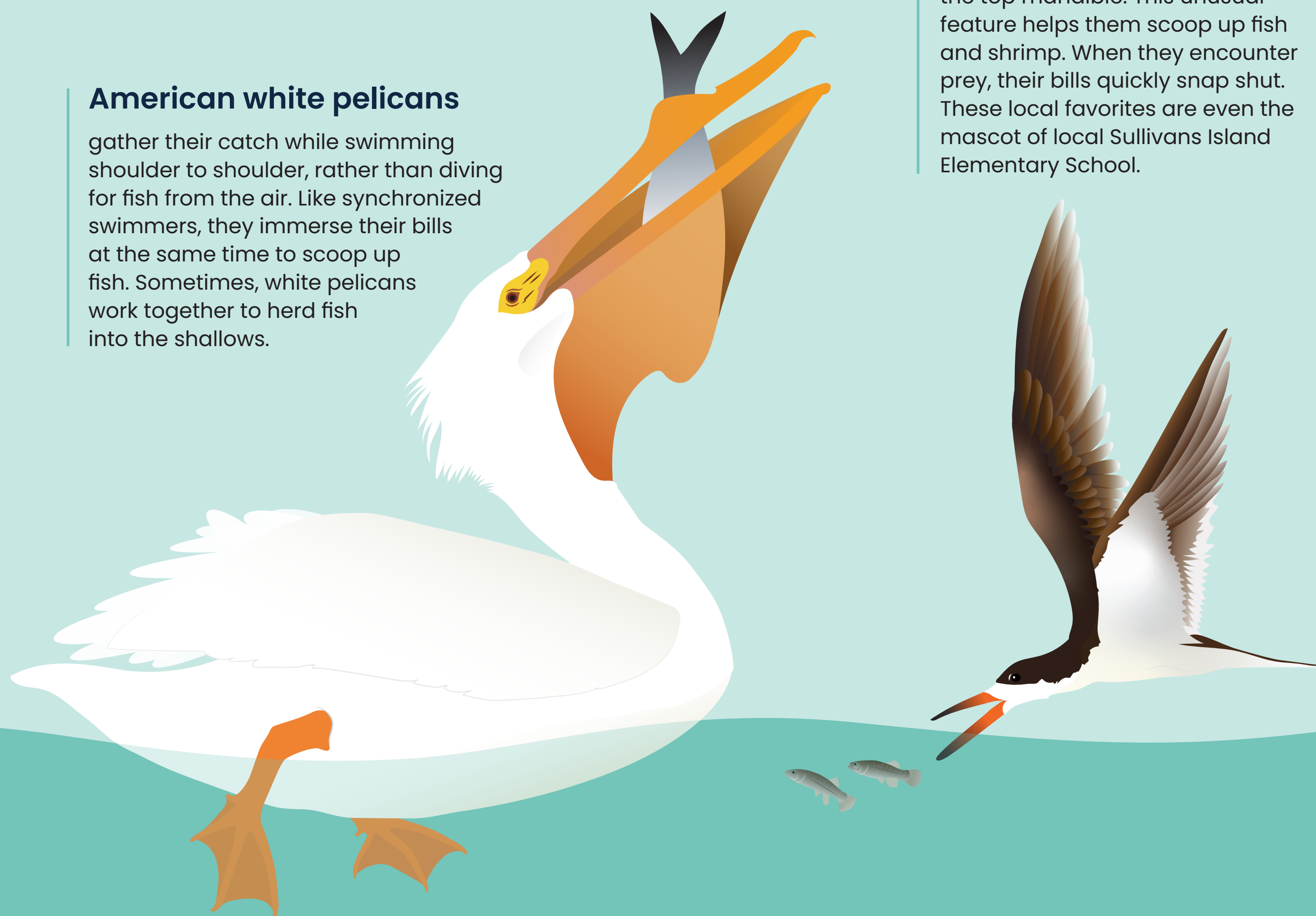
dive in talons first, cannonball style but not deeper than 3 feet. Once an osprey has captured its prey, the raptor explodes from the water and heads straight for the nest. A nesting female and three young require as much as 3-6 pounds of live fish a day.

### Black skimmers

barely skim the water's surface with the lower mandible of their bill, which is much longer than the top mandible. This unusual feature helps them scoop up fish and shrimp. When they encounter prey, their bills quickly snap shut. These local favorites are even the mascot of local Sullivan's Island Elementary School.

### American white pelicans

gather their catch while swimming shoulder to shoulder, rather than diving for fish from the air. Like synchronized swimmers, they immerse their bills at the same time to scoop up fish. Sometimes, white pelicans work together to herd fish into the shallows.



City of  
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### Brown pelicans

fly in squadrons and usually plunge into the water from as high as 65 feet. At impact, they stun small fish near the surface and scoop them up in their bills. Their expanding throat pouch can fill up to 2.6 gallons of water.



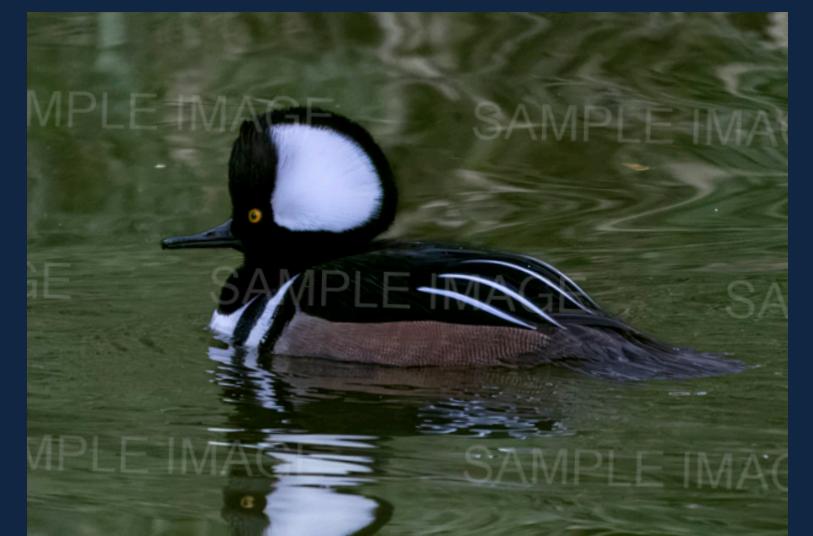
### Laughing gulls

known for their loud "ha-ha-ha" calls, will hover over a brown pelican – or sit on the larger bird's head – ready to steal fish as the pelican drains water from its bill. This food theft in the natural world is called kleptoparasitism.



### Royal terns

usually plunge-dive for prey from heights of 20 to 30 feet above water. These small, sleek seabirds use their dagger-like bills to capture fish just below the surface.



### Hooded mergansers

will visit brackish bays, estuaries, tidal creeks and ponds during winter months. These ducks use adapted underwater eyesight to forage for food while swimming and diving.



### Double-crested cormorants

are spectacular underwater swimmers. The cormorant will keep its head just above the water's surface, then dive deep and chase a fish with the help of powerful webbed feet. A hook-shaped upper bill helps make the catch.



### Bald eagles

watch for prey from a high perch before catching fish at the surface with their talons. Sometimes they use their beaks in shallow water. These pirates also steal fish from other birds, animals and even people. It's not unusual for a bald eagle to harass an osprey to drop prey in midair.

*Photos by Cindy Branscome,  
Illustrations and design by Kaitlyn Hackathorn*



# Sharing the Shore

## South Carolina beaches and marshes provide protected havens for tens of thousands of birds

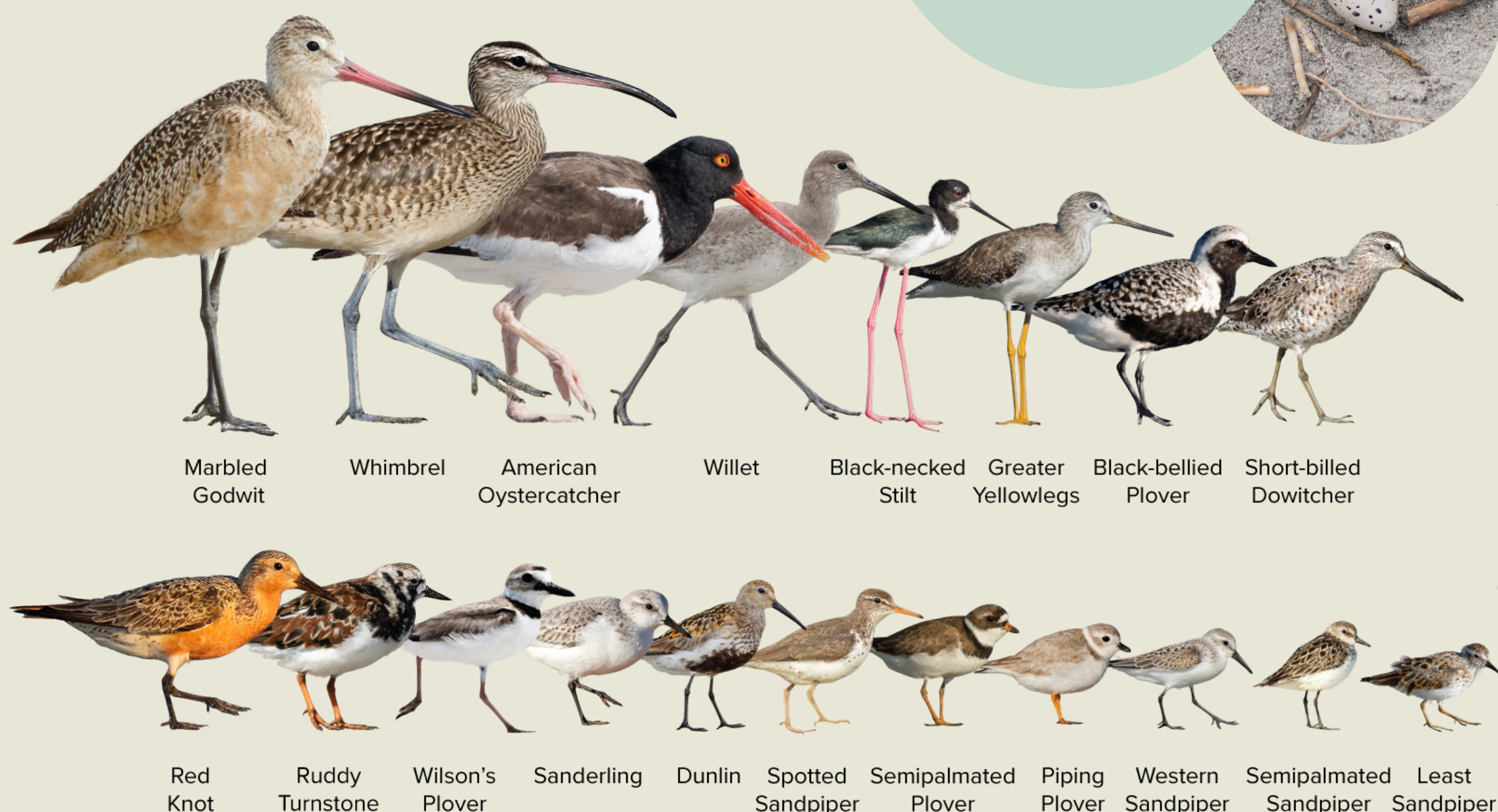
Travel up the Intracoastal Waterway and you will soon reach a 50-mile stretch of mostly undeveloped South Carolina coastline. Upwards of 100,000 shorebirds a year visit the region's private, state and federally protected lands to rest and refuel as they migrate across the globe. Others spend most or all their time along our state's coast feeding, mating and nesting. For them, this is home.

The Palmetto State offers shorebirds many habitats – salt marsh, mud flats, beaches, dunes, longleaf pine uplands and maritime forest. As people claim much of the coast for recreation, housing and commercial interests, protecting an array of undisturbed natural places remains essential to the survival of many species – including birds that are just passing through.

Give plenty of space to shorebirds as they nest on our beaches each spring and summer.



SHOREBIRDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA



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## Back from the brink, but still at risk

Protected areas of our state's northeastern shores host 15% of the American oystercatchers that live along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The striking shorebird nearly went extinct in the 1800s, as people sought their plumage and eggs, but slowly rebounded after the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918.

Now threats from humans include coastal development and plastic trash oystercatchers mistake for food, while sea level rise heightens the risk that storms and high tides will swamp their nests. One helpful human activity: the use of dredging spoils to rebuild eroded sandy islands such as Crab Bank in Charleston Harbor. Islands like these remain closed during nesting season to provide safe havens for oystercatchers and other species.



## Population crash looming up ahead

Saltmarsh sparrows breed along the north Atlantic states and typically overwinter in warmer states like South Carolina. The orange-capped bird's population declined an alarming 87% from 1998 to the mid 2020's. At that rate, they might go extinct by mid-century.

Until 1995, saltmarsh sparrows and Nelson's sparrows were considered the same species. But the more common Nelson's sparrows spend some of their time inland, while saltmarsh sparrows spend their whole lives in coastal habitats, with greater risks from sea level rise and human development. Their extreme vulnerability is an early warning sign of the uncertain future many species face.



Shorebird graphic provided by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Design by Kaitlyn Hackathorn