



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federation to continue "Boat the Bay" program this summer

MANTEO - Climb aboard the N.C. Coastal Federation's research and education vessel for a fun-filled ride through Shallowbag Bay. We'll explore the estuary and get to meet, face-to-face, many of its inhabitants using different catch-and-release methods. The trips are scheduled every Thursday in June starting at 9 a.m.

Participants will meet on the downtown Manteo waterfront docks, near the lighthouse. After a brief orientation and a tour of the N.C. Maritime Museum's net shed, we'll board the vessel, *Spartina*, from the docks. Captain, Ladd Bayliss, will venture into Shallowbag Bay on an investigative quest to determine why the estuary is such an important habitat, and is often referred to as the "nursery of the sea".

The boat ride will cruise by several of the federation's projects and participants will have the opportunity to learn more local restoration efforts and opportunities to get involved from Educator Sara Hallas. The program staff will pull up several baited crab pots and check for any Atlantic blue crab that may have found their way inside. All specimens will be safely released alive after inspection and identification.

If conditions allow, we'll also pull a small net on the back of the boat and take a biological survey to measure and count the fish, shrimp and other critters that call the estuary home.

The trip is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, ages 5-18. Registration is required and is non-refundable. If a trip cannot occur due to bad weather, the program will be rescheduled. A parent must be present with all children under 18 years.

Come see what an abundant ecosystem we have along the N.C. coast and learn more about some of the federation's work to preserve it.

To register, visit www.nccoast.org, or call 252-473-1607.

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