



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION ESTUARIES DAY

WHEREAS: Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Catherine's Sound, and St. Andrew Sound play an integral role in Georgia's ecological, environmental, and economic development. These estuary regions are home to countless fish, plant, and wildlife species and support a vibrant coastal economy; and

WHEREAS: Preserving estuary habitats and fish populations will help improve Georgia's commercial fish industry. Currently, 90 percent of Georgia's commercial fish industry is dependent upon estuaries to survive; and

WHEREAS: Using proactive and sustainable methods to preserve Georgia's beautiful coast will allow for millions of tourists to return to visit coastal Georgia each year, thus adding approximately \$1.7 billion in total revenue to the state economy; and

WHEREAS: As the world shifts to a more environmentally sustainable outlook, restoration projects will help create many new jobs to save Georgia money in the long run as well as make our state's coast more environmentally responsible. Protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to both our local and national economy; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2012 as ESTUARIES DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to preserve and conserve our estuaries to help improve our environment and economy.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Cl. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF