



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

ESTUARIES WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Catherine's Sound, Savannah River Estuary, Altamaha River Estuary, Ogeechee River Estuary, Satilla River Estuary, and the state's coastal sounds and inlets are all integral to the State of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** Estuaries and sounds are home to countless fish, plant, and wildlife species, making them essential to our vibrant coastal economy; and
- WHEREAS:** Preserving estuary habitats will protect our fish and shellfish populations, further safeguarding Georgia's commercial seafood industry; and
- WHEREAS:** Millions of tourists visit Georgia's coast each year, and the state's tourism industry generates more than \$60 billion annually; and
- WHEREAS:** Restoration projects create more than twice as many jobs as the oil, gas, and road construction industries combined; and
- WHEREAS:** Protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to our local and national economy, because they sustain our fisheries, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the impact and cost of natural hazards and storms, and support local jobs; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 14-21, 2019 as ESTUARIES WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14th day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF