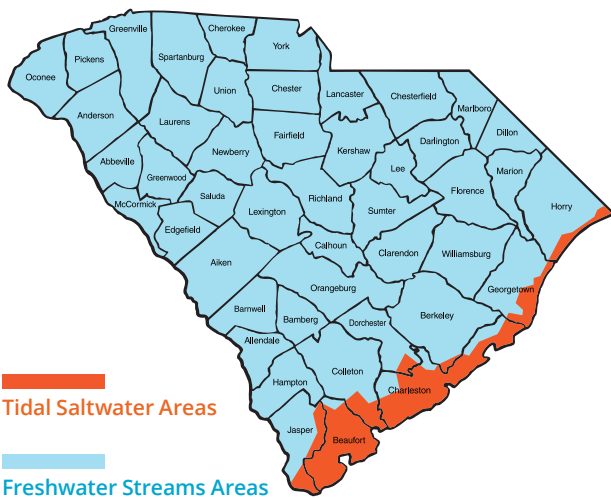


## What is SC Adopt-a-Stream?

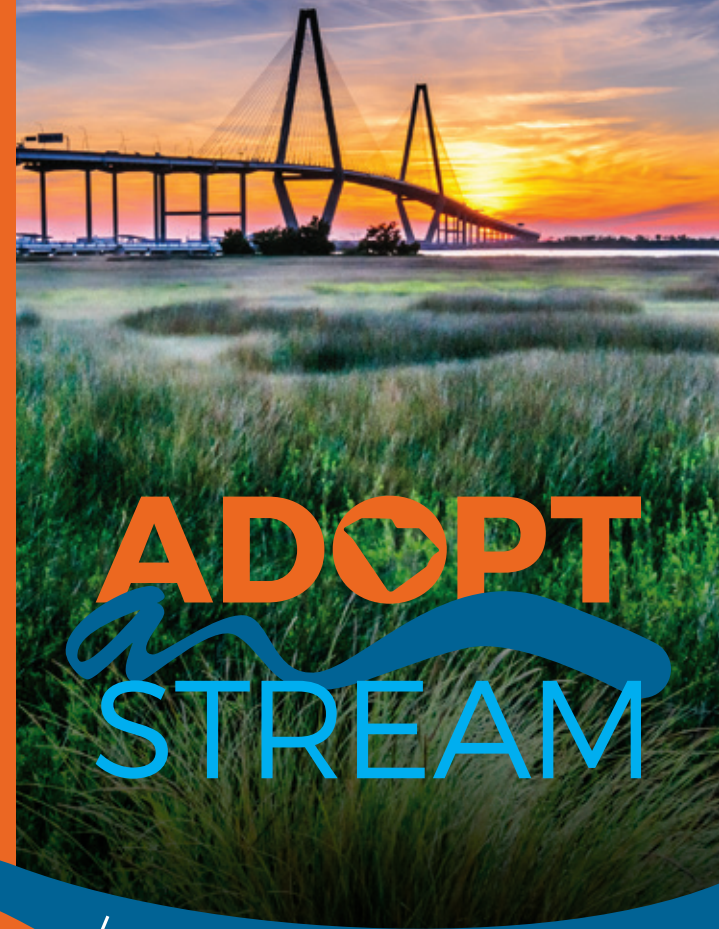
SC Adopt-a-Stream is a statewide, volunteer water quality monitoring program that educates and certifies citizens in protocols for collecting water quality data. The program has a meaningful impact on citizen science because the data generated by SC Adopt-a-Stream volunteers helps to screen for water quality issues, show trends in water quality over time and can be used for educational purposes.

SC Adopt-a-Stream was founded on the belief that people who spend the time to get to know their streams and waterways, through recreation or data collection, will want to work to protect them. The program is a fun, easy way to make a positive impact in your community and help the overall health of South Carolina waterways.

SC Adopt-a-Stream offers two types of programs: one for tidal saltwaters East of Hwy 17, and one for wadable, freshwater streams throughout the rest of the state.



The SC Adopt-a-Stream program is led by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Clemson University Center for Watershed Excellence.



Learn. Partner. Protect. Restore.

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**A Volunteer Water Quality  
Monitoring Program for South  
Carolina's Tidal Saltwaters**

[www.scadoptastream.org](http://www.scadoptastream.org)

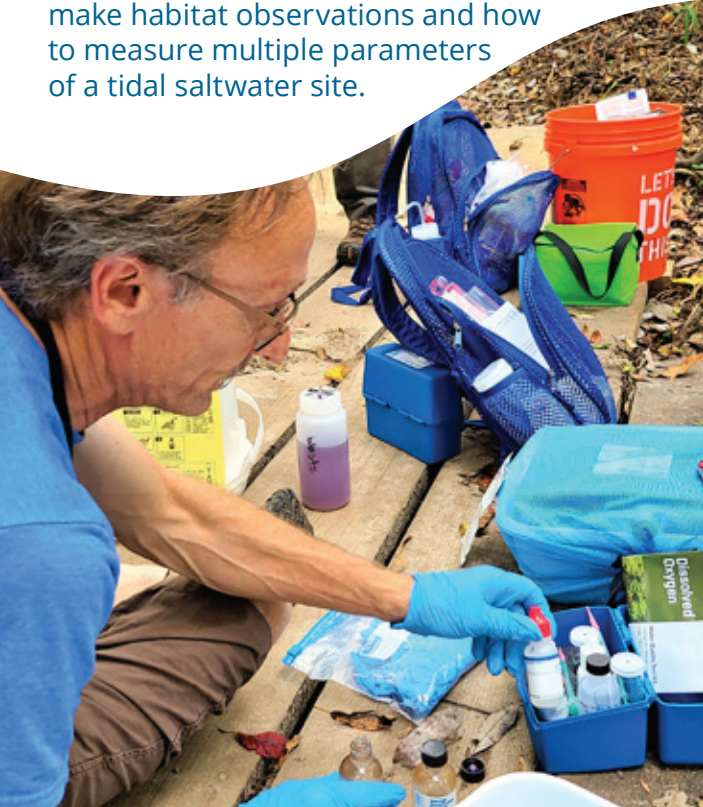
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## What Do Volunteer Monitors Do?

Adopting a site means to take on the stewardship of a portion of a waterway. You will learn all about the site and its part in the local watershed, including water and habitat quality. Volunteers learn how to collect data that can be shared with their local community, used for restoration projects and referenced for educational purposes. All program data is viewable at [www.scadoptastream.org](http://www.scadoptastream.org).

SC Adopt-a-Stream volunteers make a positive impact by monitoring a tidal saltwater site monthly. They learn how to make habitat observations and how to measure multiple parameters of a tidal saltwater site.



## What Will You Monitor?

Volunteers will train in tidal saltwater habitat surveys, as well as physical and chemical data collection.

### Tidal Saltwater Habitat Assessment



Performed monthly to include observations of the water color, odor, surface water height, and wetland conditions, including the presence of the invasive common reed, *Phragmites*.

### Physical and Chemical

Performed monthly to include water and air temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and transparency.

### NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring

Volunteers interested in biological monitoring are encouraged to get trained in monitoring phytoplankton species and blooms through a partner program hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

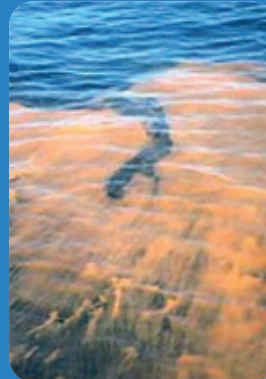


Image courtesy of NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

## Why Get Involved?

Data collected by volunteers helps track patterns and changes in the health of waterways that may not be monitored by state agencies.

SC Adopt-A-Stream focuses on forming local partnerships to expedite solutions to water quality issues.

Everyone can view current and historical data through the program's database.

Families and groups can make a deeper connection with their natural environment.

## How to Join?

Attend a FREE training! You do not need to be an environmentalist, fisherman, or scholar to become a volunteer water quality monitor.

