

South Carolina's Beaches and Barrier Islands Provide BILLIONS in Economic Benefits Every Year

South Carolina's beach and barrier island ecosystems include habitats such as sandy beaches, sand dunes, wetlands, and maritime forests. These habitats produce a variety of benefits to humans and the environment.



Recreation

\$1.52 billion - \$3.09 billion per year

Residents and visitors spend money to recreate in South Carolina beach communities

Coastal Protection from Wetlands

\$329.39 million - \$446.79 million per year

Wetlands provide a buffer against wave energy and storm surge as well as necessary storage area for stormwater runoff, helping to reduce impacts from flooding



Water Quality Protection

\$66.54 million - \$83.08 million per year

Wetlands serve as natural filters for sediment and pollution, helping to reduce water treatment costs and improving water quality for important wildlife habitat

Water Supply Protection

\$4.21 million - \$5.33 million per year

Wetlands act like sponges, absorbing and holding water to maintain our water supplies



Sea Turtle Habitat

\$8.80 million - \$12.55 million per year

Sandy beaches near dune systems along coastal shorelines provide critical nesting habitat for sea turtles, species that are popular in coastal South Carolina culture

Carbon Storage from Wetlands

\$1.72 million - \$5.12 million per year

Wetlands prevent carbon from being released into the atmosphere, helping to lessen the impacts of climate change

