

# SCDES eNews

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October 2025 | [View as Webpage](#)



SC DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

## **Congratulations to the Winner of our 2026 Coastal Photography Contest!**

SCDES is thrilled to announce the winner of this year's **Coastal Photography Contest — "Jumping for Joy!"** by **Lorraine Holcombe** of Murrells Inlet. Captured at Huntington Beach State Park, Lorraine's photo beautifully captures the joy and natural beauty of South Carolina's coast.

Thank you to everyone who participated and shared your stunning views of our state's coastal treasures!



We can't wait to showcase **"Jumping for Joy!"** on the **2026 South Carolina Tide Chart** — coming soon! Be on the lookout for the new Tide Table poster and future opportunities to share your photography highlighting South Carolina's incredible coastal landscapes.

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## Shellfish Monitoring Season Begins Along South Carolina Coast

SCDES is in full swing for shellfish monitoring season, which runs from **Oct. 1 through May 15**. Officers with our Shellfish Sanitation Program are visiting 450 monitoring stations along the coast, sampling water quality. By carefully testing these areas, we play a critical role in protecting consumers from illnesses that can be linked to shellfish consumption. Learn more at [des.sc.gov/shellfish](https://des.sc.gov/shellfish).



### SCDES Seeks Public's Help in Reporting Invasive Giant Salvinia Plant in Lake Wateree

SCDES is seeking the public's assistance in reporting sightings of the invasive giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) plant that's been identified in Lake Wateree. Because of its destructive impact on aquatic ecosystems and interference with boating, fishing and recreation, giant salvinia is prohibited in the United States by federal law.

Giant salvinia is an invasive floating fern originating from Brazil. It can double its coverage in less than a week, forming dense mats that



### SCDES Communications Team Wins IABC/SC Palmetto Award for Social Media Excellence

The SCDES Communications Team received an Award of Merit at this year's International Association of Business Communicators S.C. Palmetto Awards!

The team's entry, "The First Post: How SCDES Built a Social Media Presence from Scratch," was recognized in the Social Media category, highlighting their collaborative effort to build meaningful connections and share the story of how SCDES protects and enhances South Carolina's environment.

outgrow and replace the native plants that provide food and habitat for animals and waterfowl. Giant salvinia mats create navigation issues and cause problems with water quality.

**Anyone who believes they've located the plant should contact SCDES's Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program:**

- **Email:** [invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov](mailto:invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov)
- **Phone:** [803-898-0033](tel:803-898-0033)
- Or [click here](#) to submit an online sighting report

The SCDES Communications Team includes **Laura Renwick**, Director of Communications; **Lesley Jones**, Director of Strategic Outreach; **Katherine Yon**, Director of Creative Services; **Jade Reynolds**, Internal Communications Strategist; and **Junellyn Miles**, Graphic Designer.

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees and to the talented communications professionals across South Carolina who continue to inspire and elevate the profession!



### **Join Adopt-a-Beach and Help Keep our Coast Pristine**

Do you enjoy spending time at South Carolina's beautiful beaches? If so, we encourage you to join the SCDES Bureau of Coastal Management's Adopt-a-Beach Program!

Through this program, which is part of SCDES's Marine Debris Initiative, partners help protect South Carolina's beaches by hosting cleanups and sharing valuable debris data with SCDES all year long.

Ready to make a lasting impact? Visit [des.sc.gov/adoptabeach](https://des.sc.gov/adoptabeach) to get started!

### **SCDES Accepting Public Input on Proposed Phase I Beachfront Jurisdictional Lines**

SCDES has published proposed updates to the [State Beachfront Jurisdictional Lines](#) for Phase I beaches as part of the agency's 2024-2027 jurisdictional lines review cycle. These jurisdictional lines enable SCDES to

### **SCDES to Hold Meeting Introducing Draft Santee River Basin Plan**

SCDES is holding a public meeting to introduce the draft Santee River Basin Plan:

**Nov. 18, 2025, 5:30-8 p.m.**  
**Santee Cooper Main Office**  
**1 Riverwood Drive, Moncks Corner**

implement laws and regulations that support the state's beachfront management goals, and protect vulnerable shorelines, properties, and natural ecosystems.

The proposed line updates are for Phase I beaches, which include **Daufuskie Island, Hilton Head Island, Bay Point Island, St. Phillips Island, Little Capers Island, Pritchards Island, Fripp Island, Hunting Island, and Harbor Island.**

The public is encouraged to review the updated jurisdictional lines and provide feedback through Jan. 15, 2026. View the proposed lines and learn more at [des.sc.gov/beachlines](https://des.sc.gov/beachlines).

The draft plan was developed by the Santee River Basin Council and is the seventh of eight River Basin Plans completed over the last four years for each of the eight planning basins in the state. The draft Santee River Basin Plan includes an assessment of current and future water availability in the basin and documents water management strategies that can help ensure water is available for all future uses in the basin for the next 50 years.

The draft Santee River Basin Plan is available for review and download on the SCDES Hydrology website at [des.sc.gov/santeebasinplanning](https://des.sc.gov/santeebasinplanning).

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### **Aquatic Nuisance Plant Team Provides Insight on Invasive Plants**

Our [Aquatic Nuisance Plant \(ANP\)](#) team recently hosted our **Director Myra Reece**, Santee Cooper's Biological Services team and **State Senators Russell Ott and Jeff Zell** to explore areas of Lake Marion impacted by invasive aquatic plants like hydrilla, water primrose, and giant salvinia.

ANP works year-round to track and prevent the spread of these plants through mapping, herbicide treatments, biological controls, and public outreach.





## Dam Safety Staff Gain National Insight at Industry Conference

SCDES staff from our Bureau of Water and Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services attended the 2025 Association of State Dam Safety Officials Dam Safety Conference. The conference is recognized as the premier event dedicated to dam and levee safety issues in the United States and serves as a vital platform for state and federal officials, engineers and dam owners to share

knowledge and discuss the latest advancements in dam safety practices.



## SCDES Shares Environmental Permitting Resources

SCDES Director Myra Reece and members of the agency recently visited with homebuilders and local government officials from the Pee Dee area to discuss environmental permitting.

Representative Carla Schuessler also attended. This meeting was one of several held across the state to promote direct communication and collaboration between SCDES and the customers we serve.

The group shared information and discussed continuous improvements to different processes for issuing environmental permits, such as those related to stormwater, dams, septic



## OSWW Members Visit Local Business to Learn More about Concrete Septic Tanks

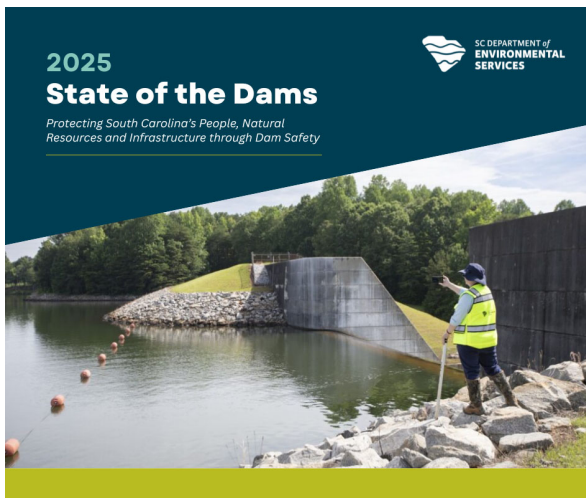
Members of our Onsite Wastewater (OSWW) Program, part of the Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services, recently visited Sharpe's Septic Tank and Well Drilling Service in Gaston to learn more about how concrete septic tanks are made.

During the visit, the team toured the facility, observed concrete being poured into forms for different tank sizes, and heard from owner Randi Hall about the full manufacturing process.

The visit also included an onsite inspection, giving the group a closer

tanks and the state's Coastal Zone Consistency review.

look at what our team evaluates during facility reviews.



## SCDES Publishes 2025 'State of the Dams' Report

This month, SCDES published its latest report detailing the status of dams throughout the state, titled [2025 State of the Dams: Protecting South Carolina's People, Natural Resources and Infrastructure through Dam Safety.](#)

Dams are a necessary part of state infrastructure but do pose risks, which is why a robust Dam Safety Program is a critical part of dam safety oversight.

## Where Passion Meets Preservation

*As the state agency that protects and preserves South Carolina's environment, SCDES seeks talented individuals to join our team. We are scientists, engineers and inspectors as well as collaborators, educators, and public servants who work to ensure all South Carolinians have a healthy environment.*

- [Commercial Hazardous Waste Facility Inspector \(EHM II\)](#)
- [401 Certification and Permitting Specialist II \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Air and Land Compliance Team Lead \(EHM III\)](#)
- [Air Quality Compliance Specialist I \(EHM I\)](#)
- [Division Director \(PM II\)](#)
- [Drinking/Recreational Water Compliance Specialist \(EHM I\)](#)
- [Engineering Associate I](#)
- [Engineering Associate II](#)
- [Fiscal Analyst](#)
- [Geologist/Hydrologist I](#)
- [Groundwater Protection Geologist/Hydrologist I](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Compliance Specialist II \(EHM II\)](#)
- [IT Security Analyst](#)
- [Law Enforcement Officer II \(Shellfish Monitoring Program\)](#)
- [Program Coordinator II](#)
- [Risk Assessor \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Security Analyst \(IT Security Specialist I\)](#)
- [Senior Accountant/Fiscal Analyst](#)
- [Solid Waste Compliance Specialist \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Stormwater Permitting Environmental Coordinator II \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Stormwater Permitting Program Coordinator I](#)
- [Water Quality Compliance Specialist \(EHM II\)](#)
- [Water Quality Compliance Specialist -Team Lead \(EHM III\)](#)
- [WQ Modeler \(EHM II\)](#)

- [Law Enforcement Officer II \(Shellfish Monitoring Program\)](#)

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