



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

WHEREAS, estuaries are the coastal area where a river meets the ocean, creating a uniquely rich environment that supports more life per square inch than any other ecosystem on earth; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is blessed with an abundance of natural estuarine beauty, from the Eastern Shore to the Chesapeake Bay to the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, 41% of the state's GDP is derived from the Chesapeake Bay Estuary Region; and

WHEREAS, preserving estuarine habitats and fish populations is crucial to sustaining the Virginia commercial fishing industry, which generates more than \$722 million annually and supplies 19,000 local jobs, as well as recreational fishing, which generates more than \$306 million each year; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring our estuaries ensures outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduces the costly impacts of natural hazards, and supports local jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program play critical roles in the stewardship of Virginia's estuaries; and

WHEREAS, National Estuaries Week is an opportunity to recognize the commercial, economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of estuaries to the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize as September 19-26, 2015, as **NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jewell M. Stanger in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth