

## Episode: Edge of Life

EXPLORING NORTH CAROLINA



### USEFUL VOCABULARY

detritus

ecosystem

habitat

marsh

*Spartina alterniflora*

### CHAPTER 1 (1:33–8:03)

1. Why are marshes important?
2. Explain how species of organisms are interrelated in the marsh.
3. What do fish and shellfish get from marsh grasses and eelgrass?
4. Why are oysters important to the marsh?
5. What is the most important fishery in North Carolina?
6. Why are tides important to the marsh and to fisheries?

### CHAPTER 2 (8:03–14:03)

7. Why is the *Spartina* marsh at the base of the food chain?
8. What do birds need to survive?
9. Describe some ways in which birds feed in the marshes of North Carolina.

**CHAPTER 3** (14:03–17:52)

- 10.** Why is *Spartina alterniflora* more important to hungry marsh creatures dead than alive? What is detritus?
- 11.** Why are marshes important to turtles and dolphins?

**CHAPTER 4** (17:52–22:22)

- 12.** What do you think is meant by: “The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man”?
- 13.** How do the wild horses survive in an alien environment?

**CHAPTER 5** (22:22–23:54)

- 14.** How might you encourage responsible development in the coastal region?