



City of St. Augustine



La Lealísima y Valerosa Ciudad de San Agustín de la Florida

1565 - 2015

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, estuaries are some of the most productive ecosystems providing critical habitats for a variety of plants and animals including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS, estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, Florida estuaries are vital to our state's jobs, tourist industry and economy, with more than 75 percent of the nation's commercial and recreational fish species spending part or all of their lives in an estuarine habitat; and

WHEREAS, celebrating National Estuaries Week highlights critical habitats within Northeast Florida's vibrant ecosystems, provides scientific education about estuarine environments, and offers collaboration opportunities for resource management; and

WHEREAS, the natural areas within the GTM Research Reserve and Northeast Florida Aquatic Preserves provide a multitude of opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy the beauty of our natural resources and learn about the many functions of the coastal and estuarine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, National Estuaries Week is an annual celebration of the vibrant coastal areas where the rivers meet the seas, and celebrating this week presents an opportunity to learn more about these coastal ecosystems and how to protect them;

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine does hereby proclaim September 17-24, 2016 as **National Estuaries Week**, and urges all citizens to participate in activities and educational programs to learn more about estuaries.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 12th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen and the four hundred and fifty-first year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

2016-24

Nancy E. Shaver, MAYOR

"Most Loyal and Valorous"

Title conferred upon the Presidio of St. Augustine by King Philip V of Spain, November 26, 1715