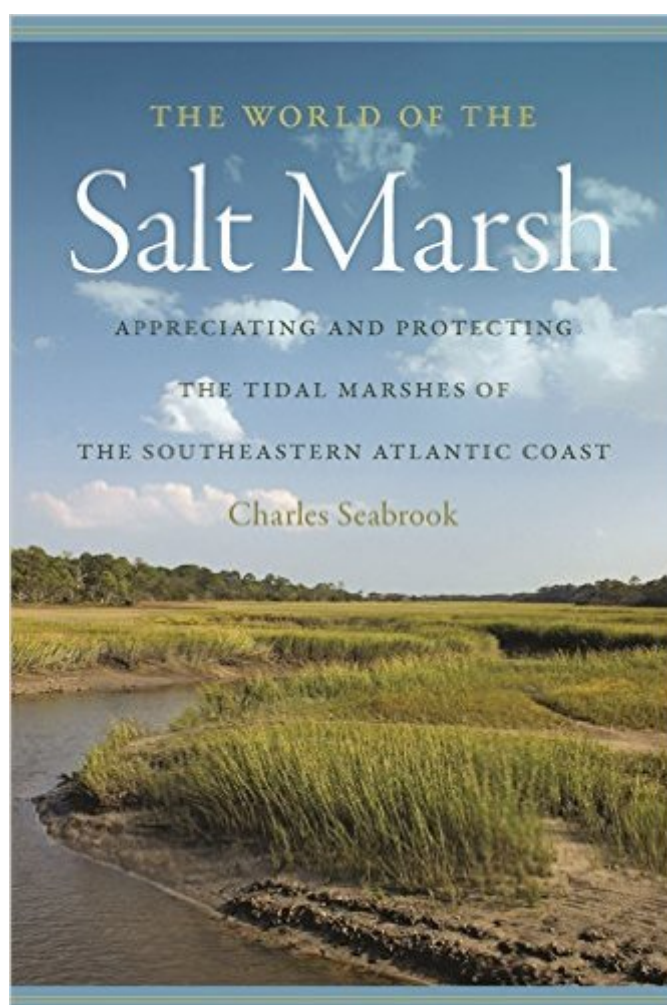


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The World Of The Salt Marsh: Appreciating And Protecting The Tidal Marshes Of The Southeastern Atlantic Coast (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book)



Synopsis

The World of the Salt Marsh is a wide-ranging exploration of the southeastern coast—its natural history, its people and their way of life, and the historic and ongoing threats to its ecological survival. Focusing on areas from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, to Cape Canaveral, Florida, Charles Seabrook examines the ecological importance of the salt marsh, calling it “a biological factory without equal.” Twice-daily tides carry in a supply of nutrients that nourish vast meadows of spartina (*Spartina alterniflora*)—a crucial habitat for creatures ranging from tiny marine invertebrates to wading birds. The meadows provide vital nurseries for 80 percent of the seafood species, including oysters, crabs, shrimp, and a variety of finfish, and they are invaluable for storm protection, erosion prevention, and pollution filtration. Seabrook is also concerned with the plight of the people who make their living from the coast’s bounty and who carry on its unique culture. Among them are Charlie Phillips, a fishmonger whose livelihood is threatened by development in McIntosh County, Georgia, and Vera Manigault of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, a basket maker of Gullah-Geechee descent, who says that the sweetgrass needed to make her culturally significant wares is becoming scarcer. For all of the biodiversity and cultural history of the salt marshes, many still view them as vast wastelands to be drained, diked, or “improved” for development into highways and subdivisions. If people can better understand and appreciate these ecosystems, Seabrook contends, they are more likely to join the growing chorus of scientists, conservationists, fishermen, and coastal visitors and residents calling for protection of these truly amazing places.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you love the "Low Country" like I do you will undoubtedly enjoy Charles Seabrook's book. In this book he covers not only the natural side of this irreplaceable natural resource, but also the lifestyle and history of the people. The book is an excellent general resources for the region not too heavy in any one area, but does a good job of covering a little of everything.

I only wish that I had known what I know now having read this wonderful book. Growing up on John's Island, SC near the salt marshes along the Stono River, I often wondered what the names of the sea animals and plants are, how they lived and interacted in the marsh environment, and how they survived hurricanes and pollution. This book, while replete with technical information, was easy to read, and answered all of these questions and much more. A must read for everyone living along the coast.

New to the Lowcountry, Seabrook's book has been instrumental in our understanding of life here and of living here. Not near finished with the work yet, but appreciative of the depth of his knowledge of the area and his skill in writing about it.

Charles Seabrook's book has a full appreciation of salt marshes and the environmental, social and political issues involved with them. It is extremely well written and intelligent. Not too technical but not dumbed down either. It is an important addition to the library of wetland books. Midwest Independent Research, mwir-earthscience.blogspot.com.

This book may be noted author Charles Seabrook's best effort yet - a combination of both a riveting story of personal experiences entwined with the natural beauty of the southeastern US coast, and, a field guide to all its flora and fauna. But be prepared: recent decisions by government and industry you may find shocking, as I did, that may portend a tragic ending to one of the richest ecosystems in the world. Only time will tell.

For anyone with even the slightest interest in the southeastern coast of the United States, this book is a must-read. Seabrook combines his personal experience, having grown up on Johns Island, South Carolina, with his writing skills as a newspaper journalist to produce an exceptionally readable report on the health of the coast. The reader gains valuable insight into the workings of estuaries and the freshwater rivers that feed them. Seabrook's portrait of the marsh environment

and the enormous pressures on it from coastal development as well as climate change leaves an indelible mark.

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