



COASTAL STATES STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CSSF Board Recognizes Senator Ernest “Fritz” Hollings

WASHINGTON, DC – *April, 2019* - Coastal States Stewardship Foundation recognizes the life of one of the first national champions of coastal management, former Senator Ernest “Fritz” Hollings, who passed away April 6 at his home in Isle of Palms, South Carolina. We at CSSF are grateful for his career in public service that spanned nearly six decades - from the South Carolina State House of Representatives, to a term as the Governor of South Carolina, and finally as a U.S. Senator from 1966 until his retirement in 2005. Senator Hollings will be recalled by many for pushing economic and education reforms, but is remembered here especially for his role in helping to shape the modern era of ocean and coastal resource management.

Senator Hollings was tasked by the Senate Commerce Committee Chairman with formulating policies for the recommendations laid out in the Stratton Commission’s “Our Nation and the Sea” - a comprehensive plan that scaled up the issues he’d seen in Charleston, finding that pollution and other man-made impacts “already has affected the entire ocean.”

In his autobiography, “Making Government Work,” Senator Hollings described in some detail his time on the Oceans and Atmosphere Subcommittee. The process of elevating the growing threats to coastal and ocean resources involved working closely with the Nixon Administration. This notably resulted in implementation of a central recommendation of the Stratton Commission – the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) that would allow us to better understand the oceans. In 1972, the Coastal Zone Management Act was passed, authored by Hollings and others in order to prevent rapidly growing coastal populations, termed by the Senator as “people pollution,” from devastating the nation’s shoreline resources. Throughout this process, Senator Hollings grounded his national policies in the real-world impacts of growth and development he saw happening to the coastline of his home state. Senator Hollings would author other important environmental legislation including the Ocean Dumping Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and in 2000 the Oceans Act that established the Commission on Ocean Policy. Looking back, the Senator described these actions with pride and a satisfaction in “what we started.”

As the Senator acknowledged with that statement, the mission to effectively manage the nation’s ocean and coastal resources remains paramount and the legacy of the Senator lives on in many ways, including through the continued partnership between NOAA and the nation’s coastal states and territories via the Coastal Zone Management Program. This partnership, in keeping with the vision of Senator Hollings, as laid out in the CZMA, flourishes today “to preserve, protect, develop...the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations.”