

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Your Monthly Insight Into the Environmental Division



OSPREY NESTING SEASON

Fun Facts:

- Often called Sea Hawk or River Hawk
- Diurnal Fish Eating Bird of Prey
- Classified as a Large Raptor
- Habitat = Found Near Ponds, Rivers, Lakes and Coastal Waterways
- Nest Site = Sticks in Dead Trees or Erected Artificial Platforms
- Typically Uses Same Nest for Years
- Size = Up to 2 Feet in Length
- Wing Span = up to 6 feet
- Color = Brown on the Upper Parts, Greyish Head and Underparts
- Lifespan = 7-10 Years
- Diet = 99% Fish
- Nesting Period = Late February - June
- Fledges 1-3 chicks around July

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

Compliance Manager
843-228-3102

Hazardous Waste
843-228-4698

Air Quality
Asbestos/Toxics
843-228-3400

Stormwater/Water
Quality
843-228-4293

Tank Program/Training
843-228-2611

**Natural Resources
Manager**
843-228-3066

Conservation Law
Enforcement
(Game Warden)
843-228-3799

Wildlife Biologist
843-228-2663

Recycle Manager
843-228-3430

Osprey Nest Sites on MCRD Parris Island – Currently 17

Why does MCRD Parris Island Monitor the Osprey Population? Since they feed on fish, any problems with water quality or the environment will eventually affect the health and reproduction of the birds. So they are good 'health of the environment' indicators. Osprey numbers crashed dramatically following the widespread use of DDT, a pesticide deployed across America in the 1940s. The Osprey population declined by over 90% between 1950 and 1970. The Environmental Protection Agency's eventual ban on the pesticide eliminated the threat, but the large raptor population did not immediately bounce back. MCRD Parris Island facilitates population regrowth by providing nesting platforms near wetlands away from telephone wires and buildings.

For More Information: Contact 843-228-3066

