



## Virtual Field Trip<sup>1</sup> to the Rachel Carson Estuarine Research Reserve

*Science by the Sea*<sup>®</sup> (SBTS) provides Virtual Field Trips (VFT) from the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort, North Carolina to classrooms in the United States. The goal of the SBTS VFT is to meet specific standards identified by the instructor while exposing students to the unique ecosystem found throughout the Reserve. The following provides a synopsis of the protocol used for the VFT:

### **Prior to the Virtual Field Trip**

- 1:** Instructor emails a list of the standards to be addressed during the VFT and provides a convenient date/time for a phone call with SBTS. [Email: sciencebythesea97@gmail.com]
- 2:** Instructor and SBTS complete a phone call to discuss the standards to be addressed, the expectations, and the logistics during the VFT. The VFT date and time are scheduled. The mode of communication is also determined (i.e., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime).
- 3:** SBTS provides the instructor with a few PowerPoint slides (including slide notes) that can be used to introduce students to the VFT and the Reserve.
- 4:** Instructor introduces students to the VFT and facilitates students to generate questions they would like to have answered during the VFT. Questions should pertain to the requested standards in relation to the Reserve's ecosystem, environment, etc.
- 5:** Instructor emails a list of the questions (with student's first name) to SBTS prior to the VFT. (Additional slides may be added to the instructor's SBTS PowerPoint slides if deemed appropriate to assist in understanding the standards addressed with the student questions.)

### **During the Virtual Field Trip**

- 1:** Instructor cues the VFT for the classroom with the PowerPoint slides (previously provided by SBTS).
- 2:** The phone call connection is made and, after a brief introduction by SBTS of the Reserve location, students take turns asking their questions. My Reserve location for the VFT is based on the standards and questions being addressed by the class and may include: the Reserve's maritime forests, beaches, dredge spoil systems, tidal flats (sand/mud), oyster reefs, or marshes.

<sup>1</sup>There are no fees for the *Science by the Sea*<sup>®</sup> Virtual Field Trip Experience and the duration of the phone call is typically between 20 and 30 minutes.