A common habitat found here in South Carolina are coastal marshes. Coastal marshes along the oceans are where **freshwater rivers** meet, mix with a **salty ocean**, and become **brackish. They are** called **salt marshes, or tidal marshes.** Salt marshes like cool climates (winter temperatures near or below 50 degrees F). They occur in areas that are directly affected by tidal waters.

**Crawlers and swimmers**

The marsh is crawling with hundreds of kinds of invertebrates. Fiddler crabs, hermit crabs and stone crabs join snails, mussels and worms in finding food and shelter in the salt marsh.

Fish and shrimp come into salt marshes looking for food or for a place to lay their eggs. Juvenile southern flounder and shrimp are among the commercially important species that find shelter in the salt marsh while they grow.

**Fliers and Walkers**

Marine animals aren't the only ones to benefit from the marsh's bounty. Ducks, geese and wading birds large and small come to feast on grasses, fish and insects.

Mammals come too, drawn by the abundant seeds and leaves of the marsh plants or by the other animals. Pygmy mice, rats and nutria come for the plant matter while coyotes and raccoons come to eat other mammals, fish and invertebrates.