

# **Stockton Student Is 1 of 7 in N.J. Working for State Department of Environmental Protection**

Arianna Efstatos of Egg Harbor Township, N.J. Studies How Wetlands  
Can Help Keep Carbon from Harming Earth's Ozone Layer

***For Immediate Release; with Arianna Efstatos photo***

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Wetlands comprise nearly a quarter of the state's total area, and "are one of, if not the most efficient land types when it comes to sequestering carbon," Efstatos said. "Studies have shown that just one square mile of salt marsh habitat removes about 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year. This is the same amount released by a Hummer driving over two MILLION miles."

The Egg Harbor Township, N.J. resident points out: "All around our coast and bordering lakes and rivers, we see wetlands - a great example is Forsythe Wildlife Refuge not far from Stockton's campus. So much of it is drained and converted for other uses, but now that we are learning more about their carbon sequestering power, there are more efforts to preserve them."

The opportunity came about as a result of a career fair she attended at the DEP headquarters in Trenton.

"I believe there were three primary reasons I received the internship offer: my pending BS Environmental Science degree, GPA, and my minors in biology and mathematics," she said. "They like to see students come in with experience from multiple disciplines, rather than