**Three Major Watershed Types in SC**

1. **Mountain Rivers – Begin in the mountains**
2. **Coastal Rivers – Begin in or near the Coastal Plain**
3. **Salt Water – not rivers – St. Helena Sound and Port Royal Sound**

**ACE Basin – Brackish water, estuary, pristine water quality**

 **Ashepoo River**

 **Combahee River**

 **Edisto River**

**Edisto River (Coastal Black Water River)**

 **South Fork of the Edisto River**

 **North Fork of the Edisto River**

 **Four Holes Swamp**

 **North Edisto River**

**What is a Black Water River? Many coastal plain rivers are slow moving. Oak tree species often live in the swamp and line the banks of these rivers. The leaves of the trees contain tannin. Tannin is a chemical used in tanning leather. The leaves fall into the river as they are shed by the trees. The slow moving, moderately acid water leaches the tanning from the leaves, like steeping tea leaves in the making of tea. This gives the water its brown color. It is not dirty, just stained like tea. The color helps to hide the fish swimming in the water.**

**Beidler Forest – The Four Holes Swamp drains through it before emptying into the North Edisto River**

**Given’s Ferry is located on the North Edisto River. The tunnel that carries water from the North Edisto to the town of Charleston may be viewed to the left of the bridge. When the river is low it is easy to see; there are times when the river is high, a whirlpool is visible.**

**The Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery is an excellent resource to learn about fish in and around the Orangeburg Area. They rear Shortnose sturgeon and Carolina Heelsplitter clams.**

**What are the human influences on the watersheds?**