

REPORT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1993

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) was not active in 1992 until a meeting was called on December 3, 1992. At this meeting, members discussed the fate of the report entitled "Current Status of Environmental Permitting Processes in North Carolina as Related to Protection of Fisheries Habitat" and discussed various topics of interest with which the ECC should become involved.

The ECC met again on February 8, 1993 at the NC-AFS Annual Meeting. The following topics from the December 1992 meeting and some new items were discussed:

- 1) Members of the ECC decided that the report entitled "Current Status of Environmental Permitting Processes in North Carolina as Related to Protection of Fisheries Habitat" that was presented to the general membership at the 1992 NCAFS Annual Meeting has served its purpose, which was to educate ECC members on deficiencies within the permitting process. We will not seek to distribute the report outside of the Chapter.
- 2) David Yow, Highway Coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), will draft a letter for our President's signature thanking the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for funding his position. Other NCWRC biologists have indicated that the new position has lightened their work load considerably. In the letter David will recommend that the NCDOT fund two similar positions to cover the state more effectively.
- 3) Chair Stephanie Goudreau reported that the Parent Society of AFS has formed an Endangered Species Act Reauthorization Subcommittee within the Endangered Species Committee. The subcommittee is preparing a briefing and a policy statement. Stephanie will contact co-chairs of the subcommittee and indicate our interest.
- 4) The ECC formed an Endangered Species Subcommittee to be co-chaired by John Alderman and David Yow. The seven members of the subcommittee will examine funding options for the Nongame Section of the NCWRC and the issue of designating critical habitat as High Quality Waters.
- 5) Robert Goldstein will draft a letter for our president's signature expressing concern with harvesting sargassum for use as a poultry additive.

- 6) Gene Huntsman will explore the need to draft a letter expressing concern with coral damage off North Carolina resulting from the use of bottom gear. [Note--Gene has since indicated that this issue is most pertinent off Florida and recommended that this topic be dropped from consideration by the ECC.]
- 7) Randy Tinsley expressed concern that members of our Chapter may not know who to notify regarding a suspected environmental violation. Tom Jones will draft a guide that will be published in the summer newsletter.

The ECC presently consists of 20 members, with 7 of these also serving on the Endangered Species Subcommittee. After a year of relative inactivity, the ECC plans to be more active in 1993-1994 by addressing the above issues and others as they become pertinent.

Stephanie E. Goudreau, Chair
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