

REPORT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY


ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 1996

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has the following to report:

- 1) On March 15, 1995, President Don Degan presented comments on the proposed rule modifications to Wetlands and 401 Certification Procedures (15A NCAC 2B .0101-0220 and NCAC 2H .0501-0507). The North Carolina Chapter stated that we support conservation of wetlands and wetland communities. Comments reiterated the need for improved cooperation with state, federal, and private agencies with expertise in aquatic resources. The comments were submitted to Mr. Ron Ferrell of North Carolina Division of Environmental Management.
- 2) On June 20, 1995, Past President Wilson Laney submitted a position statement of the North Carolina American Fisheries Society Chapter Executive Committee and Environmental Concerns Committee on House Bill 832 on critical habitat. The statement was presented to the NC Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee. The Chapter expressed opposition to House Bill 832 due the limited application of critical habitat definitions to Federally designated species. The provision would have effectively eliminated the State's right to protect species of State concern. The statement was a reinforcement of letters dated February 23, 1994, and September 9, 1994 on the revised definition of critical habitat.
- 3) A proposal to raise trout in net pens for commercial purposes within Fontana, Hiwassee, and Apalachia lakes submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) by Carolina Trout Company in Andrews was denied by TVA. Unless the proposal is resubmitted, no further action will be taken by the ECC.

The ECC is interested in hearing about issues of concern around the state. Please forward information to Roger D. Bryan, P.O. Box 241 Whittier, NC 28789.


Roger D. Bryan, Chair