

# **Annual Report to the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

## **Activities of the Environmental Concerns Committee**

**January 2006**

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

1. The ECC prepared a resolution regarding the application of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Watershed Protection program in North Carolina. The program is intended to protect life and property from erosion and other threats following natural disasters. It was implemented in 2004 in western North Carolina to address stream damages incurred from two tropical storms. The resolution was drafted and presented to the membership in the December issue of the chapter's newsletter in anticipation for consideration at the annual meeting in 2006.
2. A letter of concern was drafted to encourage the Division of Land Resources to address the issue of floodplain mining along mountain streams in North Carolina. The ECC believes that the agency needs more understanding and control of this activity given the potential harm it poses to valuable trout resources and other sensitive aquatic life, including listed species, which rely upon the cool, clear mountain streams of our state. The letter is still under final review by the ECC and should be submitted to the chapter president and EXCOM in early 2006.
3. The ECC did some investigation into beach renourishment. This is an increasingly common practice along North Carolina's coast that is largely intended to combat natural erosion that threatens valuable properties. These beach projects may harm beach-dwelling vertebrate populations that are important prey for several species of inshore marine fishes. The ECC will continue to track this issue as additional research into the possible ecological consequences of this practice become available.



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David McHenry, ECC Chair