

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

Activities of the Environmental Concerns Committee

February 2009

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has the following to report to the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (chapter):

1. The ECC membership has changed with Bob Brown, now retired from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Bryan Kalb with Duke Energy, Nate Bachelor at NC State University, and Rob Nichols stepping off the committee. Their contributions to the committee have been much appreciated.
2. The ECC has been reviewing information regarding the hemlock wooly adelgid outbreak in the North Carolina Mountains and the potential implications on cold water fisheries. Additional review, contact with experts, and dissemination of information to the chapter membership are planned before any request to contribute to control efforts are made to the chapter.
3. A letter of concern was sent through the chapter president to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) that encourages full and effective implementation Session Law (S.L.) 2008-143. This legislation mandates, in part, the adoption of water supply and shortage plans by local governments and formation of a Drought Management Advisory Council, which will include fishery professionals. [The letter is posted on the chapter website.](#)
4. ECC compiled fishery survey data from the New and Watauga River Basins and sent through the chapter president a petition to NCDENR to reclassify streams supporting brook trout that are currently not classified as trout supporting waters to the "Tr" standard. The ECC is planning to extend this effort to other mountain river basins in the future. [The letter is posted on the chapter website.](#)

The ECC also requests that the chapter membership continue recommending fishery-related environmental issues for the ECC to investigate and possibly address in the future.



David McHenry, ECC Chair