

Report to the North Carolina Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society

Activities of the Environmental Affairs Committee

February 1991

Since the creation of the Environmental Affairs Committee by the Executive Committee, members have worked toward finalizing a report to the Chapter on environmental permitting processes as they affect fishery habitat. All committee members have received a draft copy of the report and are providing editorial comments. The final report will be completed in the near future.

The Environmental Affairs Committee met in Raleigh on February 18, 1991 to discuss the draft report and a wide range of other issues. From these discussions, the committee proposes the following recommendations to the Chapter:

1. The Executive Committee and the Environmental Affairs Committee should jointly develop a committee mission statement which outlines goals and objectives. If warranted by this statement, the Chapter may wish to establish the Environmental Affairs Committee as a standing committee. This action would require a change in Chapter by-laws.
2. If the Chapter desires to become involved in commenting on environmental issues, protocol should be established for communicating these comments to interests involved in the issues.

3. Two important issues are at hand related to protection of fishery habitat and the Environmental Affairs Committee recommends that the Chapter take the following actions:

A. The Chapter should contact the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) concerning trout stream designations. Currently, for exclusion of riparian areas adjacent designated trout waters from COE general permits, COE uses N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission trout waters designation. This designation can only extend to public trout streams which leaves riparian areas adjacent privately controlled streams open to alteration under COE general permits. The North Carolina Division of Environmental Management (DEM) also has a trout waters designation which includes public and private waters. The Chapter should support using the DEM trout waters designation when determining exclusions from general permit provisions.

B. All COE Nationwide general permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are scheduled to be reviewed for reauthorization very soon. The Chapter should contact The Southern Division of AFS and the parent society of AFS to encourage AFS review and comment on these permits.

4. The Environmental Affairs Committee has identified as a possible future project an investigation of enforcement efforts of permitting agencies. The committee views this topic as important with regards to fishery habitat protection and may

explore further to determine if the Chapter can have an influence on enforcement efforts of permitting agencies.

Pete Kornegay, Chairman

Scott Van Horn, Co-Chairman

February 26, 1991