

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

Activities of the Environmental Concerns Committee

February 2008

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

1. Bryan Kalb with Duke Energy and Rob Nichols with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission joined the ECC.
2. The ECC met on December 3, 2007 at the Baker Engineering office in Asheville and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission Office in Raleigh to discuss fishery habitat issues and topics to monitor or possibly address in the near future. They included, in part, a proposal to deepen the Cape Fear River at Southport, implications of amenity lakes on riverine fisheries, beach renourishment, possible changes in compensatory stream and wetland mitigation approaches, reclassification of brook trout supporting streams, and arising water availability issues in the Broad River and other basins
3. A letter of concern was drafted to the Governor of North Carolina that emphasizes the need to implement tangible water conservation efforts during the ongoing drought in order to minimize the adverse effects of low stream flows on fishery resources throughout the state. The draft will be finalized and reviewed with the Chapter President before dissemination.
4. The ECC determined that a motion be made at the annual meeting to make a donation to the Save Our Hemlocks organization, which is implementing measures to control the hemlock wooly adelgid. This exotic species is causing extensive mortality of hemlocks in western NC. These trees are important to the quality, particularly thermal regime, and productivity of trout streams. If a donation is made, the ECC would prepare and disseminate a press release to highlight the Chapter's commitment.



David McHenry, ECC Chair