



Freshwater Habitat and Fish Passage Meeting

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership

11:00pm - 3:00 pm

November 30, 2016

NC Wildlife Resource Commission Office Headquarters

NCSU Centennial Campus

1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Coley Hughes, APNEP

Action Team Purpose

Assessment (River Herring, American Shad, Sturgeon)

Dr. Wilson Laney

CCMP Action Items

Jimmy Johnson, APNEP

B2.1 Facilitate the development and implementation of an integrated freshwater habitat protection strategy.

This protection strategy will complement the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP), serving as a guide for inland waters. The plan will be a combined effort between North Carolina and Virginia, and it will include actions that address anadromous fish passage to and from spawning areas.

B2.4 Facilitate the development of policies to minimize dredge and fill activities in naturalized areas and sensitive habitats.

Policies will address direct as well as indirect dredge activities. Over time, the extensive drainage network in several coastal counties has become naturalized and provides important habitats for fish and wildlife. APNEP will work with its partners to ensure that these habitats are considered in maintenance of the network.

B2.5 Facilitate protection of designated anadromous fish spawning areas and inland primary nursery areas from marina impacts.

Consistent with regulations and best practices, new projects should be directed away from or minimize impacts to specially designated areas vital to fishery resources. Marina development in inland waters, if not carefully considered and implemented, can damage valuable estuarine habitats. This action also supports retrofitting at existing facilities to improve aquatic habitat, as well as support for programs that safely dispose of onboard waste that might be discharged in open waters.

C4.1 Install fish ladders and eel-ways on existing dams and other permanent barriers.

Fish ladders and eel-ways can preserve passage across dams that are otherwise providing societal benefits like drinking water supplies or electricity. APNEP will support the

construction and maintenance of mechanisms for fish and eel passage around instream barriers.

C4.2 Facilitate the removal of dams, culverts, and other in-stream barriers.

Structures that have surpassed their designed lifespan or intended use will be targeted for removal. In-stream barriers scheduled for replacement also present opportunities to implement technologies that improve fish passage.

C4.3 Restore degraded anadromous fish spawning habitats.

Anadromous fish spawning habitat is dependent on suitable current velocities, adequate dissolved oxygen levels, and low turbidity. APNEP will work to support suitable hydrologic flows and restore submerged aquatic vegetation in streams and rivers that contain anadromous species.

C4.4 Facilitate research to improve fish passage.

APNEP will provide funding and support for research to improve fish passage. In-stream barriers will be studied to identify structures that may potentially be removed. Mechanisms for conveying anadromous species, such as fish ladders, will be considered and targeted for strategic locations.

General Discussion and Ideas

Team

Who is doing what already and where?

- Roanoke River
- Tar-Pam/Neuse River
- Cape Fear River
- Mattamuskeet Collaboration Team
- PeeDee (Habitat and Fish Contaminants)
- Others?

What other resources can we draw from?

- American Rivers
- The Nature Conservancy – Aquatic Connectivity (SALCC/SARP)
- USGS (Cooperative Research Units, Science Centers, Water Science Centers)
- NC Sea Grant/Water Resources Research Institute
- Universities

Action Items/Action Plan Discussion

Team

Team leader and additional team member requests

Team

Adjourn