

# ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ADVOCATE

... the newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study

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## How the A/P Study works

*As the A/P Study's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is developed over the next year, it is important that the public understand the flow of authority and information within the Study. The chart below depicts the agencies and committees involved.*

### US EPA

Funds 17 studies nationwide through its National Estuary Program. Must approve final CCMP.

### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Study is operated out of NC Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. Must approve CCMP.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

Made up of 12 members representing various interests. Must approve final CCMP before it goes to EPA and State. Study's primary decision-making body.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Made up of 23 members representing various resource management agencies and other interests. Recommends actions to PC on scientific and management issues and oversees daily operations of program.

### STUDY STAFF

Randall Waite, Director; Jennifer Steel, Technical Coordinator; Joan Giordano, Public Involvement Coordinator; support staff. Conducts day-to-day operations of Study and is responsible for producing drafts of Study documents.

### CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMS.

Two committees of 30 members each, one for Pamlico region, one for the Albemarle, representing a wide array of interest groups. CACs provide a conduit for public input on the direction of the Study.

## THE ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ESTUARINE STUDY

Initiated in 1987, the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study is a five-year program of research and education on the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and the rivers that feed them. The Study is charged with developing a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to help guide long-term environmental protection of the estuary. The schedule for the drafting, review and publication of the CCMP is as follows:

PROGRAM GOAL	PROJECTED COMPLETION	STATUS AS OF SEPT. 1991
CCMP target Environmental Goals set	June 1991	Approved
CCMP workgroup meetings	December 1991	Scheduled
First draft of CCMP	March 1992	On schedule
Public review of draft	May 1992	On schedule
Revisions to CCMP draft	June-August 1992	On schedule
Second draft of CCMP	September 1992	On schedule
Public review of CCMP draft	September 1992	On schedule
Final revisions to CCMP	October 1992	On Schedule
Final CCMP approved and published	November 1992	On Schedule
Implementation Summit	December 1992	On Schedule

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;

## CCMP workgroups named, meeting dates set

### WATER QUALITY

#### Sediment, NaCl, Bacteria

Anne Carter	PCAC
Cecil Settle	TC
Bill Cobey	PC
Yates Barber	ACAC
Tom Burns	ACAC
Paul Lilly	ACAC
Luther Daniels	PCAC
Sharon Gibbs	PCAC
David Sides	TC

#### DO, Nutrients

Jim Turner	TC
Sheila Smith	ACAC
Scott Tulloch	PC
Al Howard	ACAC
John Van Duyen	PCAC
Tom Ellis	TC
John Stallings	ACAC
Wayland Sermons	PCAC

#### Bio. Integrity, Toxics

Earl Rountree	ACAC
Vince Bellis	PCAC
B.J. Copeland	TC
Webb Fuller	ACAC
Thomas Holland	ACAC
Rann Carpenter	PCAC
Derb Carter	PCAC
George Everett	TC
Bill Queen	PC

### HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

#### Population Growth

Don Flowers	ACAC
Joe Hollowell	ACAC
Bill Richardson	ACAC
Dick Leach	PCAC
David O'neal	PCAC
John Costlow	PC
Roger Schechter	TC
Bob Holman	TC
Todd Miller	PCAC
Ann Brooks	TC

#### Cultural Integrity/ Public Involvement

Sybil Basnight	PCAC
John Spagnola	PCAC
Shelby Mansfield	ACAC
Jeanne Meiggs	ACAC
Grace Evans	PCAC
Don Bryan	PC
Mike Orbach	TC
Rich Pepino	TC

### CRITICAL AREAS

#### SAV, Fish Habitat

Bill Piland	ACAC
Phillip Hinton	ACAC
A.B. Whitley	ACAC
Beth Burns	PCAC
Tim Hodge	PCAC
Eddie Smith	PCAC
Bud Cross	PC
Mitchell Norman	TC

#### Wetlands

Larry Saunders	TC
Iredell Hassell	ACAC
Joe Stutts	ACAC
David Watson	ACAC
John Greene	PCAC
Roger Lyons	PCAC
Dan Windley	PCAC
Mike Gantt	PC
Ernie Carl	TC

#### Critical Habitats

Jeff Smith	PCAC
Brewster Brown	ACAC
Carolyn Hess	ACAC
Clyde Hughes	ACAC
Ralph Buxton	PCAC
Tom Quay	PCAC
Fred White	TC
Richard Hamilton	TC
Bo Crum	TC

### FISHERIES

#### Productivity

Melvin Daniels	ACAC
Bill Cole	TC
Dick Brame	PCAC
Jerry Schill	PCAC
Murray Nixon	ACAC
Terry Pratt	ACAC
Frank Sommerkamp	PCAC
Dan Ashe	PC
Bill Hogarth	TC
Bill Jackson	PCAC

#### Diseases

Ernie Larkin	PCAC
Polk Williams	ACAC
Lee Brothers	PCAC
Etles Henries	PCAC
Ray Cunningham	PC
Don Hoss	TC
John Bone	ACAC
Stephanie Sanzone	TC
Joe Wright	ACAC

At left are members of the CCMP "workgroups" that will be identifying management alternatives for the A/P Study's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

The workgroups are composed of the members of the Study's four major committees: Policy Committee (PC), Technical Committee (TC), Pamlico Citizens Advisory Committee (PCAC), and Albemarle Citizens Advisory Committee (ACAC). Environmental program managers and persons with expertise in specific fields have been invited to provide advice and answer questions on potential management strategies. The managers and experts come from renowned programs and institutions including the N.C. Natural Heritage Program, state and private universities, federal agencies, private industries, and non-profit organizations.

The workgroups will meet during the first week of December on the following schedule:

**Tues., Dec. 3**                      **2:30-6:30**  
**Fisheries Productivity**  
**SAV, Fisheries Habitat**  
**Cultural Integrity/Public Involvement**

**Wed., Dec. 4**                      **2:30-6:30**  
**Fisheries Diseases**  
**Biological Integrity, Toxics**  
**Population Growth**

**Thurs., Dec. 5**                    **9:30-2**  
**Wetlands**  
**Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients**

**Thurs., Dec. 5**                    **2:30-6:30**  
**Critical Habitat**  
**Sediment, Turbidity, Salinity, Bacteria**

The Study staff will produce "issue papers" based on these meetings that outline the suggested management strategies for each concern. The issue papers will serve as the foundation for the CCMP.

All of the workgroup meetings will be held at the Washington Regional Office of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. Public participation is encouraged in this critical stage of CCMP development. Call Joan Giordano at (919) 946-6481 for more information.



## A/P STUDY RESEARCH FOCUS

**Project:** Evaluation of State Environmental Management Programs in the A/P Region  
**Project Leader:** Robert Nichols, Research Triangle Institute Report #90-02

**Goal of Project** - To categorize the environmental management and resource protection programs affecting the A-P region and evaluate their effectiveness. The purpose of the project was to provide an overview of programs to help determine how the the A/P Study's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan can best be integrated with existing environmental agencies. (It should be noted that some agencies have already independently addressed problems mentioned here.)

### Programs Evaluated -

1. point source (direct wastewater discharge) controls
2. individual and small septic system controls
3. large or community sanitary system controls
4. urban stormwater controls
5. agricultural runoff controls
6. erosion/sedimentation controls
7. marina siting and marine waste disposal controls
8. critical aquatic habitat protection programs
9. wetlands protection programs

**Evaluation Criteria** - Each of the programs received a "screening-level" evaluation asking these questions:

- is the activity one that can be effectively regulated?
- are program objectives clear?
- is there sound scientific basis for program actions?
- are program funding and staffing sufficient?
- do program incentives and sanctions deter violations?
- is the program open to public involvement?
- is adequate technical assistance available?
- is oversight agency committed to program objectives?

**Conclusions** - The evaluation found that in general the programs had an adequate regulatory structure, but often were not fully achieving their mission due to various problems. Some of the more common problems were:

- Lack of staff - Virtually every enforcement program reviewed did not have enough staff to provide adequate technical assistance to permit holders or to ensure compliance with permits. Frequent personnel turnover often compounds problems of staff shortages.
- Little control over cumulative impacts - Many state environmental programs issue permits in isolation and allow exemptions for smaller projects. This can allow impacts to accumulate without regulatory agencies having a sense of the overall effects. Fragmented authority for oversight of different aspects of an activity adds to this lack of control.
- Inadequate penalties - Penalties that pose little financial hardship, coupled with the lack regulatory staff, may give permit holders little incentive to meet permit limits. This is exacerbated by frequent appeals of penalties, and by the fact that many violators (e.g., sewage treatment plants) cannot feasibly be shut down, thus limiting the state's ability to deter violations.
- Shifting standards - Politicized debate over pollutant limits or definitions of natural areas often hampers regulatory agencies' ability to maintain consistent enforcement in the field.
- Inadequate technical assistance - Overburdened agency staff often don't have the time to give operators of small facilities important information on how to run plants or meet permits more effectively.

## A/P Committee News . . . . .

### CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Met: October 29, Washington (joint) Attending: 18 of 60

\*\* Re-elected Derb Carter and Ernie Larkin as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of Pamlico CAC. Re-elected John Stallings as Vice-Chair of the Albemarle CAC. Chairmanship of ACAC is not yet decided.

\*\* Members were updated by Director Waite on revised CCMP format. Format was revised following discussion over how to best present and organize the plan. CAC members express approval of revised format.

\*\* PCAC Chairman Carter emphasized that the November-January period, during which much of the CCMP will be organized, will be a very important window for CAC input, and that members needed to be more active than ever during this time.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

Met: October 11, Manteo

Attending: 8 of 11

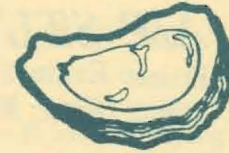
\*\* Approved revised format for CCMP, which included some suggested changes from CACs. Also tentatively approved two new research projects (pending Technical Committee review), and approved appointing a Virginia representative to PC (see page 4).

\*\* In lieu of a previously proposed "Summit for the Sounds," the PC reaffirmed its intent to hold a final Annual Meeting in 1992 to serve as a "kick off" for CCMP implementation.

\*\* PC also decided that the Study should hold workshops in February 1992 for elected officials and groups that may be affected by the CCMP (such as the agricultural community, industries, etc.) in order to present initial findings and proposed management strategies.

## Sound Bites

news, notes and information about the A/P Study



### **POLICY COMMITTEE INVITES VIRGINIAN**

At its meeting on October 11, the Policy Committee voted to add an official from Virginia to the committee. Currently there are 11 members on the PC, none from Virginia. The Study has invited Elizabeth Haskell, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, or a designee to sit on the PC for the Study's final year.

### **FISH KILL RESEARCH CONSIDERED**

A research project examining the role of a dinoflagellate phytoplankton in fish kills in the Pamlico and Neuse rivers is being considered for supplemental funding by the A/P Study.

Dr. JoAnn Burkholder, a professor at N.C. State University, has been independently researching the effects of a toxic dinoflagellate found in Water samples taken during Pamlico and Neuse kills. The organism had been observed several years ago, but was discounted as a factor in fish kills because it was not present in large numbers. However, Dr. Burkholder's research has found that even small numbers can kill fish.

Another independent research effort of Dr. Burkholder's, examining the effects of nitrate enrichment on submerged aquatic vegetation, is also being considered for funding by the A/P Study.

### **CITIZEN MONITORING MAKES LINK**

The A/P Study's Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program recently established a "remote data access link" with the state's Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) in Raleigh. By linking up with CGIA, the program can now make its data available to resource managers across the state. This effort marks the first time that remote access has been set up with CGIA.

Citizens' Monitoring is directed by Robert Blinkoff out of East Carolina University. Volunteers in the program take and test water samples weekly to help provide a broad picture of water quality in the A-P region.

Persons interested in participating in the program can contact Robert Blinkoff at (919) 757-6220.

### **TO GET ON ADVOCATE MAILING LIST**

To get on or off the mailing list, or to make a change to your address, write to *Advocate*, POB 1507, Washington, NC, 27889.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DECEMBER-JANUARY Policy . . . December 4, Washington, Holiday Inn**

The public is welcome at all Study meetings. Call (919) 946-6481 for agenda specifics.

### **THE ADVOCATE...**

is the newsletter of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, a five-year project funded jointly by the US EPA and the State of North Carolina, intended to develop an environmental management plan for the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. The Study, which will conclude in 1992, is part of the EPA's National Estuary Program. It is being conducted within the N.C. Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, POB 27687, Raleigh, NC, 27611-7687.

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