

ALBEMARLE-PAMLICO ADVOCATE

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

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From The Public Coordinator

Public Participation in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study (A/P Study) is of vital importance if the program is to be successful. To mitigate pollution and the degradation of water quality, or better yet, to prevent it, requires a continuing commitment from a public that is both involved and informed. Central to this thought are two components, education and public involvement.

Educating the public to the recognition that the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds are a national heritage and an irreplaceable natural resource is a good first step. When ownership is established a natural mechanism of protection is set in motion. People tend to care for that which is their own.

Education also can be an alternative to enforcement. Although enforcement, in some instances may act as an educational tool, it does not always rectify many pollution problems resulting from the actions of individuals, problems such as the improper disposal of wastes from homes, cars and boats. At best, enforcement, when applied to situations of waste disposal, often can be infeasible or impractical. Proper disposal techniques and the nurturing of individual responsibility are better achieved through education and public participation. Most probably an appropriate combination of voluntary and regulatory programs will be needed for the effective overall management of our sounds.

The goal of public participation is to establish the public consensus that will ensure the long-term support and implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). Consensus signifies substantive agreement among four component groups: elected officials, environmental managers, scientists and the public. These groups must concur on what is technically well-founded, feasible, fair and likely to succeed. Consensus implies the willingness of participants to work together and to compromise to achieve mutual goals.

To improve the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds through governmental programs implemented over a long period of time, with the support of the people who live in the drainage basins, is no small undertaking. A series of public participation projects to help achieve that goal are a mainstay of the public involvement portion of the A/P Study. The program's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is the document that describes the coherent process for integrating the work done by public participation project contractors with that being done by the public involvement coordinator and the Citizens' Advisory Committees. The PIP is designed to provide a broad framework which can be used to tie together the individual activities of agencies, academic institutions and private organizations into a clear and comprehensive approach to public involvement. It is based on these principles:

- 1) The public has a right to know whether expenditures are producing benefits to the sounds.
- 2) Implementation of programs over a long period of time will require continued public support.
- 3) Regional efforts to restore the sounds have their foundations in local communities and county governments and these need to be part of the implementation strategies.

Copies of the PIP can be obtained by contacting Joan Giordano, Public Involvement Coordinator, A/P Study, P.O. Box 1507, Washington, NC 27889.



From The Program Director

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I joined the Study but time passes very quickly with all the different aspects of the program running simultaneously. I continue to be impressed with the commitment the administrative board members have made and your support for the program.

The mid-way point of the program's five-year duration is quickly approaching (May, 1990) and the efforts of the first two years will come into focus with the completion of a preliminary Status and Trends Report (STR) this year. This report will document the present state of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System in four key categories:

Resource Critical Areas, Water Quality, Fisheries and the Human Environment. The document will also address observed trends within these four key categories by utilizing past and current records.

After a thorough review by peer reviewers and the four administrative boards that make up the program, a STR public

From The Program Director (Continued)

version will be printed and distributed. The A/P Study will also hold public meetings throughout the Study area in the winter of 1989 to gather public comment on the document. These comments, along with others, will be incorporated into the final Status and Trends Report which is due for completion in October, 1990.

The STR will be a very valuable element in developing the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) due in November, 1992. The CCMP will define management strategies to be utilized in protecting the invaluable resources located in this Estuarine System.



Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairman's Message

by Derb Carter, Chair
Pamlico Citizens' Advisory Committee

The next four months may be the most important, exciting, and challenging time yet for the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study. It is also a time when public awareness of and involvement in Study meetings and actions is critical.

I am writing these comments as chairman of one of the two citizens' advisory committees for the Study. As chairman of the advisory committee, I sit on the Policy Committee. These comments report on three actions taken by the Policy Committee at its last meeting which set the stage for the upcoming months.

First, the Policy Committee re-examined the purpose of the A/P Estuarine Study and endorsed a new general statement of purpose. The previous stated purpose of the Study was "to enable resource managers to better preserve the productivity of the estuarine area by expanding relevant knowledge." The new statement of purpose emphasizes that the principal objective of the Study is to prepare and implement a comprehensive management plan for Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds.

This approach assesses environmental concerns, recognizes that existing environmental problems have specific causes, and provides for a full consideration alternative

approach to better manage our productive coastal waters. In sum, this new statement of purpose marks a clear shift in program emphasis from scientific research to identifying opportunities for more effective management.

Second, to insure that these objectives are achieved, the Policy Committee adopted a revised set of milestones by which to evaluate program progress. These milestones establish specific dates by which certain actions are to be accomplished culminating in the adoption of a final comprehensive management plan in November 1992.

Finally, the third major action of the Policy Committee was to endorse and provide for the preparation of both a preliminary Status and Trends Report and the outline of a draft management plan by the end of this year. It is these two undertakings that make the next four months so important and public involvement critical.

The preliminary Status and Trends Report due this September will assess the status of the water quality, living resources, and human environment in and around Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds; evaluate trends; and identify the probable causes of significant environmental changes. This

information will be used to develop the outline of a comprehensive management plan. This outline is the first step to the final management plan and as such will establish a direction for the remainder of the Study.

It is important that the public be involved to the maximum extent possible in establishing that direction. Public involvement is absolutely necessary to develop the public consensus for the adoption and implementation of a management plan.

At this decisive point in the A/P Study, we need your ideas, perspectives, and involvement. There will be several meetings this fall of various committees of the Study and an annual public meeting in October. Call the public involvement coordinator to request a meeting schedule and take advantage of these opportunities. We need your input.

Coming together is a beginning;

Ask An Expert

We hear so many initials used when environmental issues or agencies are discussed. What do they mean?

Anyone who has ever sat in on a meeting dealing with environmental issues and regulations may have felt like they were lost in a bowl of alphabet soup! Especially so, if that meeting involved people who were already quite familiar with the topic being discussed. In such meetings it seems that every environmental agency or regulation gets referred to by its initials only - CRC, DEM, CAMA, NRCD, EMC, - and if you don't know which is what, you'll fall quickly behind.

When this morass of letters is combined with the complexities of environmental issues, even those who are fairly involved with the matter get confused.

This article will try to identify some of the agencies and regulations that affect coastal North Carolina.

NRCD - (N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development) — NRCD is composed of all the environmental permitting, regulatory and legal divisions in the state, of which there are twelve. (There are other agencies involved in community development). NRCD has six regional offices, including one in Washington, N.C., which house staff members of the divisions necessary for environmental regulation in the state's six regions.

The Secretary of NRCD is a governor's cabinet post. William Cobey is the Secretary of the department and is ultimately responsible for the policies of NRCD. The directors of the twelve different divisions serve as the Secretary's staff.

DEM - (Division of Environmental Management) — This regulatory division of NRCD is in charge of ground and surface water and air quality management in the state. DEM staff are state employees and it is DEM's authority to decide on permit applications and conditions, and to apply fines for permit violations. DEM is also responsible for most in-state enforcement of such U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs as the Clean Water Act, unless the Division of Coastal Management (DCM, described later) is involved. *Paul Wilms is the Director of DEM.*

EMC - (Environmental Management Commission) — EMC is the citizen oversight board of DEM. Its seventeen members are chosen by either the governor or the state legislature, and the members come from

various fields related to environmental concerns (science, development, environmentalism etc.). They are not employees of regulatory divisions. EMC is the body that first approves any changes or additions to environmental regulations which DEM uses in its decisions. It also serves as the first level of appeal for anyone wishing to contest a permit decision or fine assessed by DEM.

DCM - (Division of Coastal Management) — DCM serves in a capacity similar to that of DEM, but it deals specifically with the regulations and statutes of the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA, described later). DCM acts on permits applied for within the twenty-county area of coastal North Carolina, and like DEM, performs research and background work on regulatory changes and additions.

DCM staff are state employees who generally act on "major development" permits under CAMA. They may also be involved with activities in eastern North Carolina regulated by the EPA. *George Everett is the Director of DCM.*

CAMA - (Coastal Area Management Act) — CAMA is the law which provided for the establishment of regulations and protective measures that guide the actions and decisions of the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC, described later) and DCM. CAMA was established in 1974 in response to the passing of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), which offered federal money to states that adopted their own coastal protection programs.

CAMA affects only the twenty easternmost counties of North Carolina, where the fragile ecosystems the CZMA sought to protect, are found. CAMA requires each county to adopt Land Use Plans (LUPs). LUPs are essential to prevent environmental degradation while achieving economic growth. The CRC must approve the adoption of, and any amendments to, county and municipal LUPs.

CAMA also regulates critical resource areas designated as Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) through the CRC and DCM. The state guidelines for AECs, which were developed by the CRC and adopted by rule, contain specific and detailed permitting criteria.

CRC - (Coastal Resources Commission) — CRC is the citizen oversight board for DCM and CAMA. Like the EMC, its thirteen members are appointed by political leaders, and all come from different fields related to coastal management, but are not state regulatory employees. The CRC is the first point of appeal for the DCM permit decisions under CAMA.

This list gives only a brief sketch of the agencies and regulations involved when dealing with environmental issues. As can be seen, even the most simple descriptions quickly turn complex where environmental protection is concerned. In future issues of the Advocate we will look at other agencies and regulations.

This article was originally produced by the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, under a grant by the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, and was edited with permission for inclusion here.



Keeping together is progress;

Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study Publications List

No.	Abbreviated Title	Author/Editor	Status
86-01(I)	Existing Management Programs	Brower (UNC)	Available
87-01(P)	Source Document	Rader et al. (A/P Study)	Available
87-02(P)	Workplan I	Rader et al. (A/P Study)	Draft Document Only
87-03(I)	Proceedings: Modeling Workshop	Stewart/Duffy (WRRI / SCI)	Available
87-04(I)	Proceedings: Remote Sensing Workshop	Stewart (WRRI)	Available
87-05(I)	Proceedings: Fish Disease Workshop	Stewart (WRRI)	Available
87-06(P)	Citizens' Monitoring Pilot	Lekson (PTRF)	Available
88-01/02(P)	Baseline Monitoring Network	Rader et al. (A/P Study)	Being Revised
88-03(P)	Citizen's Guidebook	Kennedy (NC Coastal Federation)	Available
88-04(P)	Status Report: March 1988	Rader (A/P Study)	Available
88-05(P)	Beaufort County Magazine	Rader (A/P Study)	Available
88-06(I)	Water Quality/Hydrology Bibliography	Dales (USGS)	Available
88-07(I)	Turtle Excluder Device	Pearce/Streer (Mariners' Marine/DMF)	Available
88-08(P)	Project Abstracts for the Period 1987-89	Holman (A/P Study)	Available
88-09(I)	Red Tide Persistence	Tyler (Versar)	Available
88-10(I)	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (Eastern)	Ferguson (NOAA)	Final Draft Stage
*88-11(P)	Can Albemarle and Pamlico Be Saved?	Taylor (Wildlife of NC)	Available
88-12(I)	Obstructions to Anadromous Fish Migration	Collier (USFWS)	Final Draft Stage
88-13(I)	Value of Recreational Fishing A/P Estuaries	K. Smith (NCSU)	Final Draft Stage
88-14(I)	Analysis of Fringe Wetlands in A/P Sounds	Brinson (ECU)	Draft Document Only
89-01(P)	Progress Report for 1989	Holman A/P Study	Available
89-02(I)	Fish Stock Assessment	Phalen (DMF)	Draft Document Only
89-03(I)	Baseline Demographic Trends	Tscherrer (ECU)	Draft Document Only
89-04(P)	Public Involvement Plan	Giordano A/P Study	Available
89-05(I)	Scoping of Water-Column and Bottom Sediments	Wells (UNC)	Draft Document Only

(I) Information Acquisition Documents

(P) Public Participation or Program Documents

(*) Not an A/P Study Document, but material is related to study.

Reprints of the above listed publications can be obtained by contacting Joan Giordano, Public Involvement Coordinator, A/P Study, P.O. Box 1507, Washington, N.C. 27889. A limited number of copies is available.

Working together is success

Third Year Technical & Public Participation in Projects

TECHNICAL SUBJECT	INVESTIGATOR/INSTITUTION	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUBJECT	INVESTIGATOR/INSTITUTION
Regional Inventory & Protection Plan for Critical Natural Areas, Wetlands & Endangered Species Habitats (phase II)	Roe - Div. of Parks & Rec. NRCDC	Community Education Outreach II	Stroud - PTRF
Hyde Co. Soil Survey	Pierce - Div. Soil/Water Conservation - NRCDC	Public Education Program in the Albemarle Sound Area	Albemarle Environmental Association
Mapping & GIS Implementation of Land Use & Land Cover Categories for the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Area	Siderelis - Land Resource Info System	Albemarle-Pamlico Public Participation: Raising Public Involvement Program for Southeastern Va.	Carlock - Va. Planning District Commission
Abundance & Viability of Striped Bass Eggs Spawmed in the Roanoke River, NC in 1990	Rulifson - ECU	Poster Series/Dumper Stickers	Nurnberg - PTRF
Food/Feeding of Larval Fishes in the Roanoke River and Western Albemarle Sound, NC	Rulifson - ECU	CAC Assistance in Press Tour, Organizing Annual Meeting & Preparing Estuarine Management Recommendations for Protecting the Albemarle & Pamlico Sounds	Kennedy - NCCF
Shell Disease in Blue Crabs, <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> , from the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary	Nogo - NCSU Engel - NOAA/Natl Marine Fisheries	Vital Issues of Protecting Water Quality - Teacher Training & Curriculum Implementation	Okun - UNC
Public Attitude Towards Water Quality & Management Alternatives in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System.	Hoban - NCSU	Leadership Development Workshops on Water Quality Impacts of Nonpoint Source Pollution	Hoban - NCSU
A Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan for the Currituck Sound Drainage Area (Part I)	Adams - NCSU	A Public Forum on Management Needs for Protecting the Estuarine Natural Resources in the Albemarle-Pamlico System.	Shaw - Div. of Coastal Mgmt. NRCDC
Federal Consistency Review for NC Estuarine Management Program	Nichols - Research Triangle Institute	Total: \$ 204,962	
The Potential for Eutrophication & Nuisance Algal Blooms in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary	Perl - UNC		
Citizen Monitoring: Albemarle Pamlico Estuary	Perlic - PTRF		
Determination of Flows & Flow Patterns in the Pamlico River & Neuse River Estuaries	Bales - USGS		
Evaluation of Off-site Changes in Hydrology & Water Quality Resulting from BMPs in the Albemarle-Pamlico Region	Bales - USGS		
Reduction of Estuarine Nutrient Loading: N & P Removal in Coastal Swamps	Kuenzler - UNC		
Heavy Metal Pollutants in Organic-Rich Muds of the Albemarle Sound Estuarine System: Their Concentration, Distribution & Effects Upon Benthic Environments & Water Quality	Riggs - ECU		
Total: \$ 756,532			



Upcoming Events

DATES FOR 1989

August 1
 August 9
 August 18
 August 22
 August 23, 24
 August 30
 August 31
 September 13
 September 14
 September 19
 October 6
 October 25,27
 November 8
 November 21

EVENT

Complete EPA Award of Funding
 Preliminary Planning Meeting - Annual Meeting
 Technical Review Sub-Committee Meeting
 Technical Committee Meeting
 CAC Meetings
 Roundtable Meeting of all Committees
 Policy Committee Meeting
 Review of Federal & State Agencies
 Annual Researchers' Review Workshop
 Technical Review Sub-Committee Meeting
 Annual Public Meeting (Tentative)
 CAC Meetings
 Technical Committee Meeting
 Policy Committee Meeting

For further information (time, location, etc.) contact the Public Involvement Coordinator, Joan Giordano, at 919-946-6481.



The Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study is a joint effort of the state, federal government and local interests, intended to facilitate effective management of the very valuable, productive resources in the major estuaries of northern and central North Carolina.

The Albemarle-Pamlico Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of the A/P Study. For questions or comments, contact Joan Giordano, Editor, 1424 Carolina Ave., Washington, N.C. 27889 or call 919/946-6481.



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