

Third draft released; management actions listed

The following is an item-by-item listing of the recommended management actions in the third draft of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

The third draft is out for public review through mid-October. The review period will culminate with a series of public meetings around the watershed October 12-19. The meeting schedule and how to obtain a full copy of the CCMP are listed on page 4 of the *Advocate*.

Water Quality Action Plan

Goal: Restore, maintain or enhance water quality in the Albemarle-Pamlico region so that it is fit for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

Objective A: Fully implement a basinwide approach to water quality management.

Management Action 1: Develop basinwide plans to protect and restore water quality on each river basin by 1999, coinciding with the Division of Environmental Management Water Quality Section's basinwide schedule. The plans should include planning for basinwide wetland protection.

Management Action 2: Establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and associated control strategies for all impaired streams in the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Management Action 3: Have all discharge permits renewed on a simultaneous schedule by river basin by 1999.

Management Action 4: Consider the potential for long-term growth and its impacts when determining how a basin's assimilative capacity will be allocated.

Management Action 5: Improve the scientific models for understanding the estuarine system, human impacts on the system, and the viability of alternative management strategies.

Management Action 6: Continue long-term comprehensive monitoring of the A-P system to assess its health and to target problems.

Objective B: Reduce basinwide nonpoint source loading of sediments, nutrients, and toxins.

Management Action 1: Develop and implement a nonpoint source pollution control strategy for each river basin by 1999 as part of the basinwide management plans.

Management Action 2: Expand funding to implement nonpoint source pollution control plans, particularly for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) through the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program. Develop a broader Water Quality Cost Share program by 1995. Expand the cost-share program to include wetlands restoration. Increase targeting of cost share funds to problem areas.

Management Action 3: Continue to research alternative septic systems and other new BMPs to control nonpoint pollution.

Management Action 4: Strengthen current enforcement programs dealing with ground and surface water quality violations from nonpoint sources.

Management Action 5: By 1995, require all logging operators to submit a notice of intent to harvest prior to harvesting operations. Notice would be filed with the state forester.

Management Action 6: By 1995, enhance stormwater runoff control by developing new regulations as needed and by strengthening existing ones to protect water quality in all waters of the state.

Management Action 7: By 1995, implement an interagency state marinas policy that addresses marina siting and integrates BMPs through permitting and better education.

Objective C: Reduce basinwide loadings of pollution from point sources.

Management Action 1: Promote pollution prevention planning and non-discharge alternatives, where feasible, for all point sources to reduce the volume and toxicity of discharges.

Management Action 2: Expand and strengthen the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting enforcement program. Increase site inspections and review of self-monitoring data to improve facility compliance by 1995.

Objective D: Reduce the risk to aquatic life and human health from existing toxic contamination.

Management Action 1: Increase efforts to assess and monitor the extent of estuarine sediment contamination, fish and shellfish contamination, and water quality violations; and to identify the causes and sources of these problems.

Management Action 2: Continue to issue fish advisories as necessary to protect public health. Improve communication and education about the risks associated with consuming contaminated fish and shellfish.

Management Action 3: Remediate toxic contamination where necessary and feasible.

Objective E: Evaluate indicators of environmental stress in the estuary and develop new techniques to better assess water quality degradation.

Management Action 1: Continue to monitor and evaluate environmental stress indicators, including algal blooms, fish kills, and fish and shellfish diseases.

Management Action 2: Improve techniques for evaluating the overall health of estuarine waters.

Management Action 3: Develop and adopt better indicators of shellfish contamination as soon as possible.

Vital Habitats Action Plan

Goal: Conserve and protect vital fish and wildlife habitats and maintain the natural heritage of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Objective A: Promote regional planning to protect and restore vital habitats in the APES region.

Management Action 1: Develop ecosystem protection and restoration plans for each river basin in the APES region by 1999. Such plans should set coordinated priorities for habitats and critical areas, and target areas most vital to the survival of wildlife, fisheries and natural heritage.

Management Action 2: Develop and maintain accurate maps of wetlands, fish habitats, and natural communities, as well as occurrences of federal and state-listed endangered species and their habitats.

Management Action 3: Expand programs for the advanced identification of wetlands on a regional basis.

Objective B: Maintain, restore, and enhance the function and values of vital habitats as necessary for the survival of wildlife, fisheries, and natural heritage of the region.

Management Action 1: Bring areas with the highest priority for protection into public ownership and/or management. Expand funding for public acquisition of important natural areas.

Management Action 2: Promote private stewardship of vital habitats through incentives and technical assistance to landowners, local governments, and other interested parties.

Management Action 3: Enhance the ability of state and federal agencies to enforce existing wetland regulatory programs by 1995.

Management Action 4: Strengthen regulatory programs to protect vital fisheries habitats, which include submerged aquatic vegetation, shellfish beds, and spawning areas, by 1995.

Management Action 5: Enhance the capacity of existing efforts to restore wetlands and vital fisheries habitats. Develop and implement a wetlands restoration program by 1995.

Management Action 6: Establish an effective wetlands mitigation program to compensate for unavoidable permitted wetlands losses by 1995.

Fisheries Action Plan

Goal: Restore or maintain fisheries and provide for their long-term sustainable use, both commercial and recreational.

Objective A: Control overfishing by developing and implementing fishery management plans for all important estuarine species.

Management Action 1: Develop and implement management plans for fisheries that are important to recreational and commercial fishing interests. These plans would include recovery objectives for severely depleted stocks by 1999.

Management Action 2: Modify the existing marine fisheries license structure to improve data collection on landings, fishing effort, and demographics, and to generate increased revenues for fisheries management.

Objective B: Reduce bycatch in fisheries.

Management Action: Continue and expand development of bycatch reduction gear and practices, and require their use as practicality is demonstrated. Aim to reduce bycatch in the inside trawl, long-haul seine, pound net, and gill net fisheries by at least 50 percent by 1995.

Objective C: Promote the use of best fishing practices that reduce bycatch and impacts on fisheries habitat.

Management Action: Initiate a cost-share program for "BFPs" in commercial fishing by 1995.

Stewardship Action Plan

Goal: Promote responsible stewardship of the natural resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico region.

Objective A: Promote local and regional planning that protects the environment and allows for economic growth.

Management Action 1: Support local planning by providing funding and economic incentives to local governments to integrate environmental and economic planning by 1999.

Management Action 2: Provide local governments affordable and accessible data from the state Geographic Information System for use in planning and public education within the region by 1996.

Management Action 3: Implement a comprehensive, coordinated and proactive approach to managing the state's public trust waters by 1996.

Objective B: Increase public understanding of environmental issues and citizen involvement in environmental policy-making.

Management Action 1: Develop an organizational framework that would foster public education and involvement in decision making on estuarine issues by 1995.

Management Action 2: Create innovative environmental education opportunities for adults, and for young people outside of school.

Management Action 3: Produce and distribute on a widespread basis information on estuarine ecology and management issues, including cultural and economic aspects of the issues.

Management Action 4: Increase opportunities for citizens to communicate with members of environmental agencies and policy-making commissions.

Management Action 5: Enhance opportunities for local public involvement in issues affecting the estuary.

Management Action 6: Expand involvement in the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Program and make the program more interactive with regulatory agencies.

Management Action 7: Create a citizen ombudsman position within DEHNR.

Objective C: Ensure that students, particularly those in K-5, are exposed to science and environmental education.

Management Action 1: Support the development of a comprehensive environmental science and education curriculum.

Management Action 2: Provide for teachers at all levels ongoing opportunities to gain renewal credits in workshops on environmental and estuarine education.

Implementation Action Plan

Goal: Implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan in a way that generates the greatest level of environmental quality while using the most cost-effective and equitable strategies.

Objective A: Coordinate public agencies involved in resource management and environmental protection in the Albemarle-Pamlico region to implement the recommendations of the CCMP.

Management Action 1: Reconvene the APES Management Conference to include a coordinating council and regional advisory committees by 1994.

Management Action 2: Coordinate implementation of the CCMP.

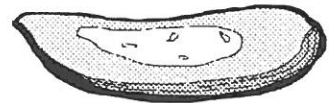
Objective B: Assess the progress and success of implementing CCMP recommendations.

Management Action 1: Develop an annual "progress review" to assess the success of implementation by the Management Conference and other involved organizations.

Management Action 2: Assess the health of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary and the success of implementation strategies in protecting the environment.

SOUND BITES

news and notes about environmental issues in the Albemarle-Pamlico region



PUBLIC HEARINGS SET ON THIRD DRAFT

Five public hearings will be held to receive comment on the third draft of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Written comments on the Plan can also be submitted through October 19.

The schedule for the public hearings is:

Oct. 12 - Morehead City

Crystal Coast Civic Center, Arendell St.

Oct. 13 - Greenville

Willis Building, 1st and Reade Sts.

Oct. 14 - Raleigh

Archdale Bldg (Ground Floor), Salisbury St.

Oct. 18 - Edenton

Swain Auditorium, Court St.

Oct. 19 - Kill Devil Hills

Holiday Inn, Virginia Dare Trail

To receive a copy of the full CCMP, or to find out more information about the meetings, contact Joan Giordano, APES Public Involvement Coordinator, at (919) 946-6481.

To submit written comments on the plan, send them to:

CCMP Comments

Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study

POB 27687

Raleigh, NC, 27611-7687

WORKSHOPS HELD FOR FISHERMEN

UNC Sea Grant and the N.C. Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service is sponsoring a series of three workshops to get input from commercial fishermen on potential options for limiting entry into state fisheries.

While no proposals for limiting entry are under official consideration, declining stocks in some species have prompted interest in the idea. The purpose of the workshops is to get advice from fishermen on how, or if, limited entry could be implemented effectively in North Carolina. Findings from the workshops will be presented to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

The first workshops in August reviewed limited entry systems in use in other states, and a second set in September examined the impacts that different systems might have on North Carolina fishermen. The third set of workshops, planned for late November-early December, will recap findings from the earlier meetings and gather recommendations from fishermen on further action.

The workshops will be held in six coastal areas. Contact Kathy Hart of UNC Sea Grant at (919) 515-2454, or Mike Orbach of the Duke University Marine Lab at (919) 728-2111, for details on dates and locations.

ADVOCATE MAILING LIST

To change address or get on or off the Advocate mailing list, write to APES Advocate, 1424 Carolina Ave., Washington, NC, 27889.

THE ADVOCATE...

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