### **TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Trawl Door Restaurant Hwy. 55 Oriental, NC

### AUGUST 20, 1998

### AGENDA

10:00	Welcome & Call to Order Chairman Earl Bell			
10:05	Introductions ALL			
10:10	Acceptance of Minutes from 6-19-98 Meeting in Louisburg, NC	Chairman Bell		
10:15	ALONG THE RIVER'S EDGE: LOWER TAR-PA Water Quality Conditions (Suzanne Hoover, NC Division of Water Quality Natural Heritage Features (John Alderman, NC Wildlife Resources Con- Local Projects: TBA	ality)		
11:30	Old Business 1- Tar-Pamlico Environmental Education Team 2- Attendance/Participation	MJ Jennings Joan & Guy		
11:45	New Business/Public Comment 1- New Appointment to Coordinating Council (Replacement for Boyce Cheek)			
	2- PLANS FOR NEXT MEETING			
12:00	Adjourn (lunch on your own)			

### **TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Trawl Door Restaurant Oriental, NC August 20, 1998

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Earl Bell at 10:15am. Self-introductions were made and a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting (6/19/98) was made by Joe Shearon and seconded by Dan Wynne. The motion carried with the minor change of amending the meeting date from 6/14/98 (as it appeared in the minutes) to 6/19/98, the actual date of the meeting. See Attachment A for those in attendance. Excused from the meeting were: Dorothea Ames, Jeff Furness and Mary Jane Jennings.

Chairman Bell introduced Suzanne Hoover from the NC Dept. Of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Division of Water Quality (DWQ). Ms. Hoover, part of the Planning and Assessment Unit of the Planning Branch, gave an in-depth presentation on water quality conditions in those sub-basins defined as being part of the Tar-Pamlico lower basin. The presentation completed the second of two such presentations. See Attachment B. Ms. Hoover reported that the DWQ samples on a monthly basis at ambient monitoring stations. Sampling includes: the benthos for benthic (bottom dwelling) insects; fish communities for data on the types, numbers and age classifications of fish; fish tissue, which is filleted, ground and measured for contaminants; and lakes assessments which reveal the trophic status (or nutrient enrichment) of water bodies. See Attachment C for 1997 sampling results in the lower Tar-Pam.

Following Ms. Hoover's presentation, Chairman Bell introduced Harry LeGrand from the NC Natural Heritage Program which is housed in DENR's Division of Parks and Recreation. Mr. LeGrand's presentation dealt with the significant natural heritage areas of the lower Tar-Pamlico River basin (See Attachment D) and the Program's role in identifying and protecting the biological resources, etc. there. NOTE: For more information on this topic please refer to APES reports #s 90-01; 92-07; and 92-21.

The next speaker was Tim Baldwin who spoke on the Regional Wastewater Project, a Pamlico Co. undertaking. Mr. Baldwin told the group that the project began in 1987 when the "writing was on the wall" that there needed to be an expansion of wastewater service to the area. He explained that "while the need and the realization of that need was known" the project essentially remained dormant until 1992. At that time, however, the Bayriver Metropolitan Sewer District was formed and the 22 mile route from Oriental to the (land) application sprayfield site near Pamlico Community College, was begun. Discussion ensued about the possibility of reusing water; the cost of the project; numbers of users; and funding particulars.

### Old Business:

In-depth discussion on the Environmental Education Team for the Tar-Pamlico River Basin was tabled because of the absence of Council member, Mary Jane Jennings. Vince Bellis asked if anyone knew if the bill (containing language for the establishment of the EE Team) was being discussed in the NC Legislature. Discussion revealed that the bill was thought to be in neither the Senate or House budget and that Rep. Creech remarked that perhaps the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) could support it. Council member Joe Shearon said he would look into the matter and report back to the Council.

The next topic focused on the attendance and participation of the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council membership. Joan Giordano, DWQ, outlined the results of a survey which queried Council members regarding their intention to remain participating members. She explained that if members chose to resign or, if they did not respond, their position on the Council was seen as vacant. Some members who fell into these categories were present, and asked that their names be removed from the vacancies listing. <u>See Attachment E</u>. After discussing the number and location of vacancies, Chairman Bell directed staff to contact the 13 members affected and give them 2 weeks to respond, a second time. Should there again be no response, he instructed that letters be sent to the appointing counties and nominating agencies asking for replacement. It was brought out that staff's efforts at contacting and querying Council members exceeded fulfillment of Article III, Section 4.A, of the TPRBRC By-laws,

Attention then turned to the replacement of Boyce Cheek as the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Regional Council delegate to the Coordinating Council. It was determined that Mr. Cheek's replacement must presently hold a county appointment {slot} on the TPRBRC. Vince Bellis agreed to represent the TPRBRC at the Coordinating Council meeting on August 28, 1998. **NOTE**: The Coordinating Council meeting was postponed until October 16, 1998 due to Hurricane Bonnie. The time and location remain the same.

In addition to appointing a replacement delegate to the Coordinating Council, the development of criteria to rate ourselves as a Council was suggested for the next meeting's agenda. The topic of riparian buffers, as an update to what is happening in the Neuse, was also suggested for inclusion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and a "dutch" lunch was served.

The next meeting will be held in Hyde Co. at the Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge on October 23, 1998 beginning at 10:30am. Following the next meeting we will have the opportunity to purchase a "dutch" deli lunch which will be catered. The cost for lunch, drink and dessert is approximately \$5.00 - \$5.50.

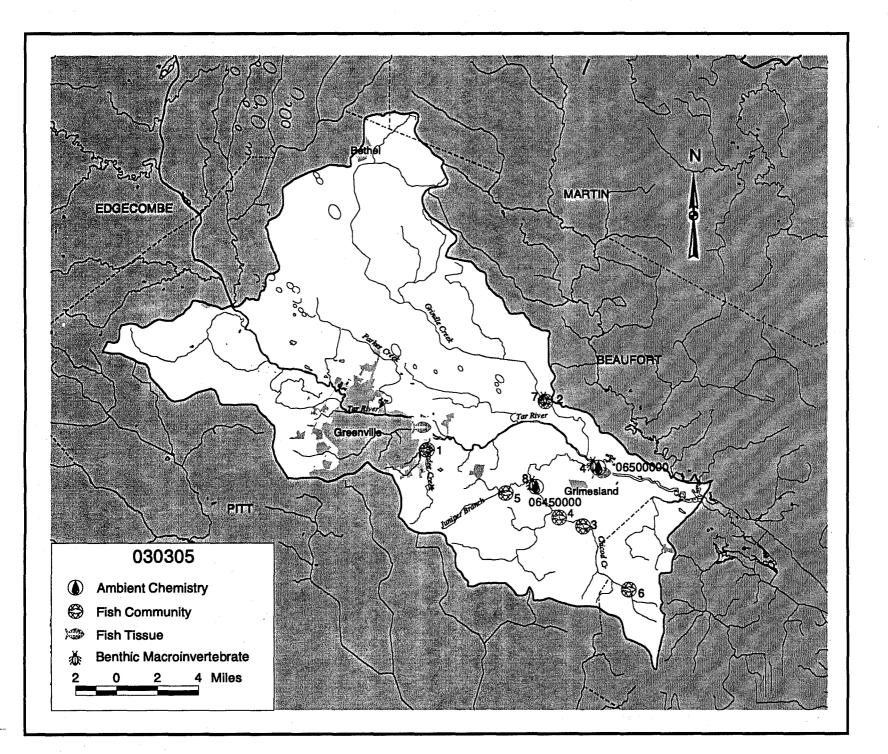
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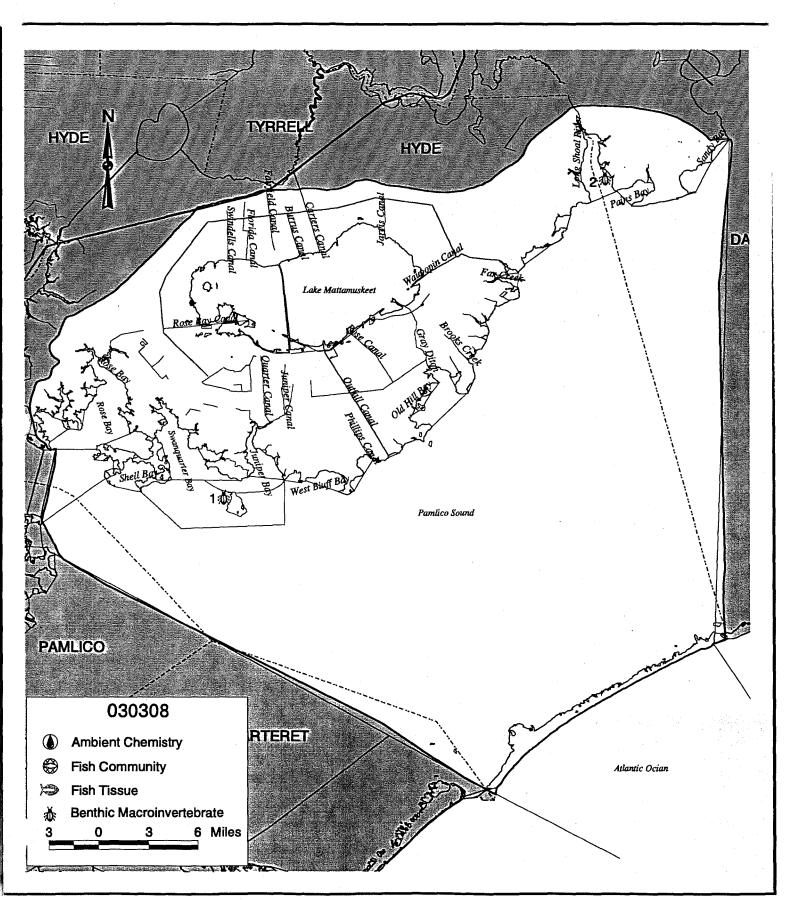
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Sampling Results for Lower **Tar-Pamlico River Basin** 

Hachment

Subbasins 030305 -> 030308 From just upstream of Greenville down to the Pamlico Sound

Within coastal plain ecoregion Includes freshwaters, swamp waters and estuarine waters

## Lower Tar River

## **Contains Greenville**

**Landcover is approximately 60%** Crop Forest/Wetland and 33% Cultivated

Large influx of animal operations in last five years (poultry and hogs)

### **Benthic Macroinvertebrates Benthic and Fish Data** Subbasin 05

- 6 sites sampled in '97
- **Results range from Fair (Chicod Creek) to Excellent (Tar River @ Grimesland)**
- Fish Community
- 2 sites (Hardee Cr. and Grindle Cr.)
- Good and G-F (respectively)
- Some sites improved since 1992
- **Fish Tissue**
- Some elevated mercury levels

### Subbasin 05 Phytoplankton

- Blooms reported in holding impoundment of GUC (water from Tar River)
- Included species that may cause taste and odor problems in drinking water Not unusual in such impoundments

# Subbasin 05 - Special Studies

### **Chicod** Creek

- To monitor improvements from BMP implementation
- Chemical and biological sampling conducted from 1993 - 1997
- Efforts complicated by Fran and beavers implementation little difference observed following BMP

## Ambient Data

**1 station -- Tar River at Grimesland** 

No significant violations

Nutrients slightly elevated

## **Tranters Creek and Tributaries** Subbasin 06

- Includes Robersonville
- Land cover is approximately 64%
  Forest/Wetland and 32% Cultivated Grop
- Many streams exhibit typical swamp conditions

## **Benthic and Fish Data** Subbasin 06

**Benthic Macroinvertebrates** 

- 1 site near Washington (lower point on Tranters Creek)
- '97 rating of Good-Fair
- Some estuarine taxa collected
- Fish Community
- 1 stream too small to rate; other Good 2 sites (trib. to Turkey Sw. and Horsepen Sw.)

Significant Hg contamination (15 of 37 samples) Fish Tissue

## and Tribs including Pungo R. Subbasin 07 - Pamlico River

- Includes Washington, Aurora and Bath
- Land cover is approximately 26% Cultivated Crop, 56%Forest/Wetland and 18% Water
- Waters are primarily estuarine and tides are wind driven

Pfiesteria is common is this subbasin, especially in middle section of the river

### Subbasin 07 Lakes

## **Pungo Lake - Hyde County**

- Surface area: 3,000 acres
- Mean depth: 3 feet
- Classification: C Sw NSW
- Trophic status: dystrophic
- Recharged solely by groundwater and precipitation
- Within Pungo National Wildlife Refuge

## Subbasin 07 Benthic and Fish Data

## **Benthic Macroinvertebrates**

- 15 sites sampled
- Some not rated, some rated using draft estuarine criteria
- Most sites exhibiting "moderate" impacts; Pungo River @ Sandy Point site received a better rating
- Fish Community
- 2 streams sampled (Durham Cr. and Acre Sw.) Rated Fair and Good-Fair



Elevated nitrogen and coliforms in Some elevated copper levels (in areas with heavy boat traffic) Pungo River

### Fish Kils

- 19 significant kills from '93 '97
- Most kills in subbasin 07
- Most kills involved Atlantic menhaden
- Causes in upper basin associated with low d.o. and waste spills
- Causes in lower basin associated with low d.o algal blooms, and fish stress and disease
- Pfiesteria like organisms identified at 3 kills in lower Tar-Pamlico



- Pamlico River near Cove Point had highest biovolume, density and chlorophyll a
- At same site, Pfiesteria found in 53% of the samples collected from '93 - '97
- In '94, Kennedy Creek contained extensive mats comprised of nuisance blue-green

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## **Pamlico Sound**

Contains Swanquarter and Engelhard Dominated by water area Wind driven tides

**ORWs and HQWs** Includes Lake Mattamuskeet and the Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge

## Benthic and Fish Data

## **Benthic Macroinvertebrates**

2 sites

Water quality good exhibiting no impacts

**Fish Tissue** 

Limited # of results from Lake Mattamuskeet showed elevated Hg

### Subbasin 08 Lakes

# Lake Mattamuskeet, Hyde County

- Surface area: 42,000 acres (largest natural lake in NO
- Mean depth: 2 feet
- Classification: SC
- Trophic status: eutrophic
- Within Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
- Recharge from precipitation and man-made camals

Attachment D.

### SIGNIFICANT NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS OF THE LOWER TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN

### N.C. NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM August 1998

### SIGNIFICANT NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS MARCH 1997

### Introduction

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program compiles the N.C. Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources' list of significant "Natural Heritage Areas" as required by the Nature Preserves Act (NCGS Chapter 113A-164 of Article 9A). The list is based on the program's inventory of the natural diversity in the state. Natural areas (sites) are evaluated on the basis of the occurrences of rare plant and animal species, rare or high quality natural communities, and geologic features. The global and statewide rarity of these elements and the quality of their occurrence at a site relative to other occurrences determine a site's significance rating. The sites included on this list are the best known representatives of the natural diversity of the state and therefore have priority for protection. Inclusion on this list does not mean that public access exists or is appropriate. Permission of the land owner is recommended in all cases. Inclusion on this list does not confer protection to a site, nor does it give it regulatory status. The list includes both protected and unprotected areas. This list of sites and their significance ratings are based on the best available information as derived from the Natural Heritage Program staff and databases. More information on these natural areas may be obtained from the Natural Heritage Program.

### **Organization of the List**

### Natural Areas

The following list of 1678 of North Carolina's most significant natural areas (sites) is organized by county, and the sites within each county are ordered by ratings of national, statewide, or regional (greater than local) significance. This list does not include sites considered to be of local importance.

### Site Significance

- A Nationally significant sites contain examples of natural communities, rare plant or animal populations, or geologic features that are among the highest quality or best of their kind in the nation, or clusters of such elements that are among the best in the nation.
- B Statewide significant sites contain similar ecological resources that are among the highest quality occurrences in North Carolina. There may be better quality representations or larger populations elsewhere in the nation, including possibly a few within the state.
- C Regionally significant sites contain natural elements that may be represented elsewhere in the state by better quality examples, but which are among the outstanding examples in their geographic region of the state. A few better examples may occur in nationally or state significant sites.

### Organization of Sites

Frequently, related sites occur in clusters. The occurrence of a site in association with other sites increases its long-term viability and ecological significance. Such clusters are designated as macrosites or megasites depending upon their size [macrosites are of 5 to 100 square miles (3,200 to 64,000 acres); megasites are greater than 100 square miles (64,000 acres)]. Standard sites are nested within these. These macrosites or megasites may contain lands which normally would not be included in a natural area but which are important for consolidating the cluster. Also, one or more macrosites may fall within a megasite.

In other cases, sites do not occur in clusters with other sites. These sites are referred to as "stand alone" sites.

Sites which occur within larger sites are grouped in this list under the name and priority rank of the larger site. The nesting of a site is indicated in this list by symbols. These symbols are:

- > A "stand-alone" site (i.e., a site or macrosite that is not nested within another site).
- => A macrosite nested within a megasite.
- => A standard site nested within a larger site (i.e., nested only in a macrosite or megasite).
- = > A standard site nested within a macrosite that is nested within a megasite.

Sizes of natural areas differ greatly. A site may be restricted to an isolated half-acre containing a remnant population of an endangered species or other unique feature. In a few cases, a site may encompass thousands of acres and support many exceptional natural resources and special-interest species, and is logically considered a large composite natural area. Thus, the same priority category may include an area as small as a single rock outcrop harboring an endangered species, or as large as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### Quad

The name(s) of the U.S.G.S. 7.5" quadrangle (quad) which shows the location of the site is given. Where the site falls on more than one quad, all quads are listed. (Quads are not given for macrosites or megasites.)

### Owner Type

The third column in the list indicates the type of landowner, whether private or government.

### **Ownership Abbreviations**

### Federal Agencies

CHER	Cherokee Indian Reservation			
COE	Corps of Engineers			
DOD	Department of Defense			
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service			
NPS	National Park Service			
USA	Other Federal Lands			
USFS	US Forest Service			

### State Agencies

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NC	Unallocated state land/NC Department of Administration
NCA	North Carolina Arborteum
NCBG	North Carolina Botanical Garden
NCCM	Division of Coastal Management
NCCUL	Department of Cultural Resources
NCDA	Department of Agriculture
NCDC	Department of Correction
NCDOT	Department of Transportation
NCHR	Department of Human Resources
NCMF	Division of Marine Fisheries
NCNG	North Carolina National Guard
NCSF	Division of Forest Resources (State Forests)
NCSP	Division of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)
NCWRC	Wildlife Resources Commission
PW	Public Waters

Local Agencies

LOCAL unit of local government

### Universities and Colleges

CATW	Catawba College
CHC	Chowan College
DUKE	Duke University
ECU	East Carolina University
NCSU	North Carolina State University
RCC	Rockingham Community College
UNCC	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
UNCCH	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
UNCW	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
WCU	Western Carolina University
WWC	Warren Wilson College

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Private	
AUD	National Audubon Society
BGF	NC Botanical Garden Foundation
FEL	Felburn Foundation
HBF	Highlands Biological Foundation
LLC	a local land conservancy
NCFF	NC Forestry Foundation
NSL	National Scout Lands (Boy or Girl Scouts)
PRV	Private owner (corporate or individuals)
SAHC	Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
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### **Protection Comments**

This column provides limited information about the current protection status of a site. Where appropriate, comments about the status of protection or the protection needs are given.

### **Protection Abbreviations**

DNP	Dedicated Nature Preserve
EAS	Protected by conservation easement
ESN	National Estuarine Sanctuary
EWA	Established National Wilderness Area
HQW	High Quality Water
MAB	UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve
ORW	Outstanding Resource Water
RHA	Registered Natural Heritage Area
RNA	US Forest Service Research Natural Areas

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=>PANTEGO WETLANDS	č	PRV	
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>JACKSON SWAMP REMNANTS	в	PRV	
>SUFFOLK SCARP BOGS	В	PRV	
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>HAW CREEK MEANDERS	С	PRV	
>HILLS CREEK/CAMP HARDEE WOODS	č	PRV	
>LITTLE CREEK UPLAND FORESTS	c	PRV	
>NEVIL CREEK NATURAL AREA	С	PRV	
>ST. CLAIR CREEK NATURAL AREA	С	PRV	
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=>ALLIGATOR RIVER/SWAN CREEK LAKE SWAMP	А	FWS	
FOREST		PRV	
=>PUNGO LAKE NATURAL AREAS	в	FWS	RHA, PART RNA
=>NEW LAKE FORK POCOSIN	С	FWS	
		PRV	
=>UPPER ALLIGATOR RIVER MARSHES AND FORESTS	С	FWS	
		PRV	
	_	TNC	
=>HATTERAS INLET BIRD NESTING ISLANDS	В	NCWRC	RHA
=>OCRACOKE ISLAND CENTRAL SECTION =>OCRACOKE ISLAND EASTERN END	B	NPS	RHA
=>OCRACOKE ISLAND WASTERN END (SAND FLATS)	B B	NPS NPS	RHA RHA
=>OCRACORE ISLAND WESTERN END (SAND FLATS) =>SCRANTON HARDWOOD FOREST		PRV	RNA
=>UPPER PUNGO RIVER WETLANDS	В	PRV	
=>BACK LANDING BAY	č	PRV	
=>PANTEGO SWAMP AND POCOSINS	č	PRV	
>MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	Ā		RHA/PART RNA
В			
=>SWANQUARTER BAY WETLANDS	А	FWS	RHA/PART EWA, SITE
			NAME CHANGED
=>CAFFEY BAY WETLANDS	В	PRV	
		FWS	PART RHA
=>GULL ROCK GAME LAND	В	NCWRC	
=>ROSE BAY MARSHES	в	PRV	
=>GIBBS POINT MARSH	С	PRV	
=>LONG POINT AND WYSOCKING BAY MARSHES	С	NCWRC	
	-	PRV	
=>LONG SHOAL RIVER MARSHES AND POCOSINS	С	PRV	
NUMBER AND THE TOTHER DECIDENT	5	FWS	
>LAKE LANDING JOINTVETCH SITES >OCRACOKE INLET BIRD NESTING ISLANDS	B B	PRV AUD	
FOR ACOVE INTEL BIRD NESTING ISLANDS	D	NCWRC	RHA
PAMLICO		NCWRC	
PAMILO			¢.
В			
>EASTERN GUM SWAMP	в	NCWRC	
		PRV	
>GOOSE CREEK MARSHES AND FORESTS	в	NCWRC	
>PAMLICO POINT MARSHES AND IMPOUNDMENTS	в	PRV	
		NCWRC	
С			
>BAY CITY LOW POCOSIN	C	PRV	
>NORTH MINNESOTT SAND RIDGE	C	PRV	
>NORTHWEST POCOSIN	C	PRV	
>OYSTER CREEK PINE HAMMOCKS	С	PRV	
די ד			
PITT			
A			
>BETHEL/GRINDLE HARDWOOD FLATS	А	PRV	SITE REDUCED IN
NC Natural Horitago Program Bage 2			

		BY RECENT CLEARCUTTING
B C	PW PRV	
С	PRV	
C C B	LOCAL ECU PRV USA	RHA
С	PRV	
в	NCSP	PART RHA, PROPOSED
С	FWS	DNP
C		
В	NCSP	PART RHA, PROPOSED
в	FWS	DNP RHA, PART RNA
в	PRV	LARGE PART RHA, BUT MAY BE SOLD
c	َ. م. تحت ت	
	C C C B C B C B C B C B C B B B B	C PRV C PRV LOCAL C ECU C PRV B USA C PRV B USA C PRV B NCSP C FWS PRV TNC B NCSP B NCSP B FWS B FWS

Attachment E

### **TAR-PAMLICO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

50 slots = full council 32 local government 18 interest group

44 members of record

23 responses: 20 = yes 3 = no 16 did not respond 5 prior existing vacancies

### **VACANCIES**

### Local Government Officials:

Granville Co. (county rep.) Washington Co. (municipal rep.) Wilson Co. (county rep.) Wilson Co. (municipal rep.) Vance Co. (municipal rep.) Person Co. (municipal rep.) Martin Co. (county rep.) Martin Co. (municipal rep.) Halifax Co. (municipal rep.) Beaufort Co. (county rep.) Beaufort Co. (county rep.) Franklin Co. (county rep.) Warren Co. (Municipal rep.)

### **Interest Group Representatives:**

Granville Co. - SWCD Nash Co. - Recreational Fishing Edgecombe Co. - Business/Industry Person Co. - At-Large Dare Co. - Commercial Fishing Washington Co. - At-Large Nash Co. - Agriculture

### **Prior Existing Vacancies:**

Dare Co. (county rep.) Dare Co. (municipal rep.) Halifax Co. - Rec. Fishing or Tourism Hyde Co. - Commercial Fishing Vance Co. - Rec. Fishing or Tourism