



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The following is an overview of the
Water Quality for Fisheries Program 2021-22.

OBJECTIVES

Establish an Industry Working Group

Develop an inclusive Industry Working Group with representation from the Commercial and Recreational Fisheries community.

Elevate the Voice of Coastal NC Fishing Communities

Determine, from the fishing community, water quality issues that impact fisheries.

Assess Current Actions and Identify Gaps In Service

Evaluate current water quality programs and research in coastal NC.

Develop a Successful Outreach Program

Collaboratively develop outreach for coastal citizens to better understand water quality impacts on fisheries and what people can do in their daily lives to help improve coastal water quality.

BENEFITS

The above objectives meet the following prioritized benefits outlined in the 2021/22 "STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUND"

- The enhancement of education of commercial fishermen and the public concerning fish habitats, how they function, and what people can do to protect them.
- The development of tools and educational materials to help deter habitat damage and recognize/report environmental violations; and marketing initiatives on conservation methods.
- The expansion and initiation of research, education and outreach initiatives relating to current issues affecting the sustainability of North Carolina's commercial fishing industry, the North Carolina coast, and its communities.
- The development of programs that provide unbiased science-based information that enhances the sustainable use and conservation of ocean and coastal resources to benefit commercial fisheries.





WATER QUALITY PRIORITIES

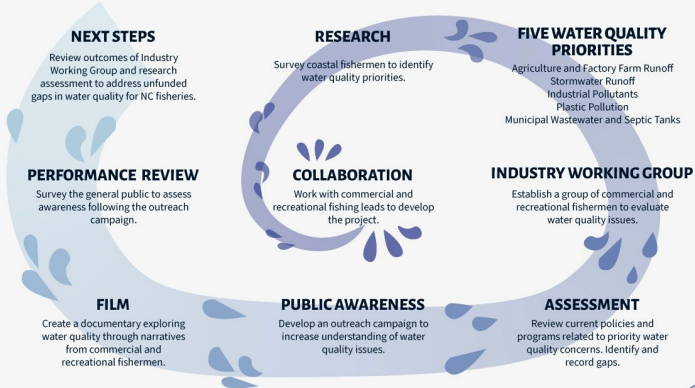
Identified by Coastal North Carolina Fishermen

- Agriculture and Factory Farm Runoff
- Stormwater Runoff from Roads, Highways, and Parking Lots
- Industrial Pollutants
- Plastic Pollution
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants and Septic Tanks

SOURCE: Coastal Carolina Riverwatch. 2021. "Commercial and Recreational Fishermen Survey." ECU Center for Survey Research, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. March 4-21.

https://surveyresearch.ecu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/315/2018/06/Carolina_Riverwatch_Summary_Report1.pdf

WATER QUALITY FOR FISHERIES



Funding has been generously provided by the Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Funding Committee and the Funding Committee for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund





INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Representatives

"Working Together to Improve Water Quality for Fisheries"

The Industry Working Group goals are to address water quality impacts on fisheries and recommend action items. The Industry Working Group has prioritized the following action items in 2021-22:

Industrial Agriculture and Factory Farming Pollution:

- Advocate for updated waste management systems for industrial agriculture and factory farming practices.
- Improve the requirements for pre-storm preparation.
- Conduct a thorough evaluation of best management practices that reduce or eliminate agriculture and factory farming pollution.
- Bridge the gap between scientists and policymakers.

Stormwater Pollution:

- Implement sustainable development techniques (wetland and forest protection, permeable surfaces, increased vegetated areas, on-site runoff treatment technologies).
- Advocate for green infrastructure policy development (standardize the use of permeable pavement, green streets, filtration systems, and nature-based infrastructure).
- Enhance the monitoring of stormwater runoff.
- Publicize successful stormwater control efforts.

Industrial Pollution:

- Reduce industrial activities that utilize harmful industrial chemicals in their process and the development of new filtration technologies.
- Advocate for policy that enforces the maximum contaminant levels for municipal water treatment facilities.
- Analyze the effects of all heavy metals on aquatic ecosystems and researching safe alternatives to industrial pollutants.
- Educating consumers on PFAS-containing products.

Plastic Pollution:

- Advocating for changes in the manufacturing process of plastics that prevent plastic pollution.
- Advocating for single-use plastic-bans and extended producer responsibility.
- Researching green chemistry (alternatives to current chemical composition of plastic) and researching the physiological effects of plastic on fish.
- Public outreach regarding human contributions to aquatic plastic pollution from land sources.

Wastewater Pollution:

- Advocating for preventative repairs and updates on current infrastructure.
- Establishing water quality standards for additional wastewater pollutants, including plastics and industrial chemicals.
- Researching wastewater treatment infrastructure for coastal regions, with high water tables and flooding, to determine effective best management practices for reducing wastewater pollution.
- Increasing community outreach support for improving wastewater treatment infrastructure.



*"Protecting Quality of Water and
Quality of Life in Coastal North Carolina"*

The primary goals of Coastal Carolina Riverwatch are:

- Elevate the voices from the coastal fishing community about specific water quality concerns that impact fisheries.
- Increase coastal ecology and water quality knowledge through educational opportunities for under-served coastal communities.
- Advocate for sustainable farmers and fisheries that support water quality improvements, while monitoring potential pollution sources and reporting results of studies that implicate polluters to the proper agencies.
- Facilitate the collaborative development of long-term solutions that prevent water quality pollution.



LISA RIDER

Executive Director
910.330.3140
LisaR@coastalcarolinariverwatch



RICK KEARNEY

Board President
919.455.0419
kearney.rick01@gmail.com



REBECCA DROHAN

White Oak Waterkeeper
919.961.3299
RebeccaD@coastalcarolinariverwatch.org

Full Water Quality for Fisheries Program Access



The 2021/22 WQ4F Program has been funded by the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Grant Program. The fund is jointly overseen by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.