

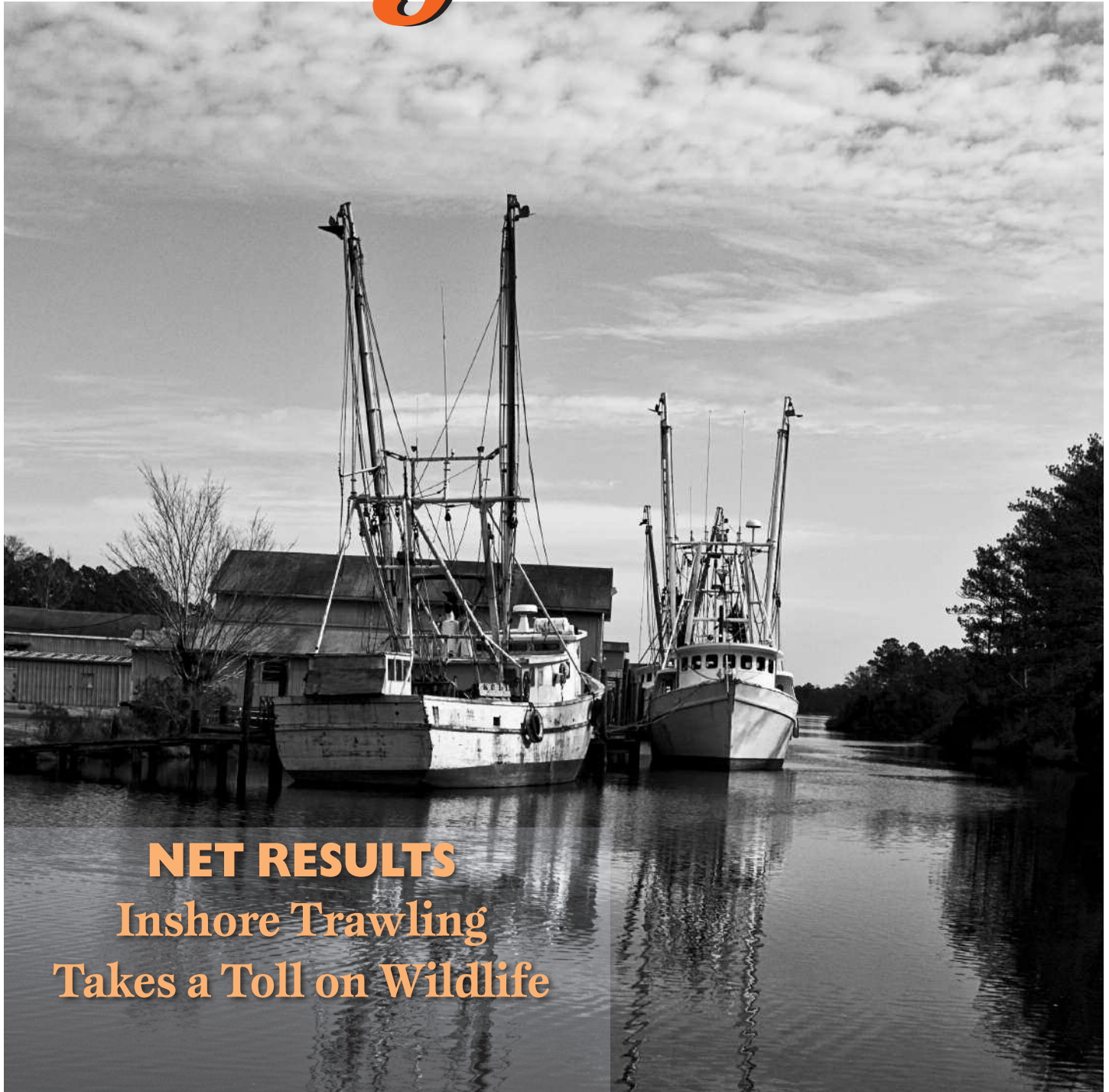


North Carolina  
**WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**

# Journal

WILD LIVES  WILD PLACES

Spring 2014



## **NET RESULTS** Inshore Trawling Takes a Toll on Wildlife

### **The Rule of Law**



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# Poems, Prayers, and Promises

by Tim Gestwicki, Chief Executive Officer

**Here's to the land of the longleaf pine,  
The summer land where the sun doth shine,  
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,  
Here's to "Down Home," the Old North State!**

**Here's to the land of the cotton bloom white,  
Where the scuppernong perfumes the breeze at night,  
Where the soft southern moss and jessamine mate,  
'Neath the murmuring pines of the Old North State!**

**Here's to the land where the galax grows,  
Where the rhododendron's rosette glows,  
Where soars Mount Mitchell's summit great,  
In the "Land of the Sky," in the Old North State!**

**Here's to the land where maidens are fair,  
Where friends are true and cold hearts rare,  
The near land, the dear land, whatever fate,  
The blessed land, the best land, the Old North State!**



This is the official North Carolina State toast, as adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1957. The prose offers an ode to North Carolina—one that generations of Carolinians, as well as newcomers, can value and boastfully recite. It's interesting that the emphasis and focal point of pride is based around natural resources. North Carolina holds its head up high when it comes to natural resources. Our majestic mountain ranges, our shimmering coastlines and waterways and the wildlife we cherish—all of these are well deserving of a toast that conjures up visions of a chamber of commerce-like tourism pamphlet.

Good call by the members of the General Assembly back then. The question is: Will the current General Assembly be able to hoist a glass and with good conscience reflect on a job well done in protecting our heritage and our future? Will we get a game fish bill passed to protect the state's coastal speckled trout and red drum? Will we get conservation tax credits reestablished for landowners wanting to preserve their lands forever? Will we endear ourselves to the next generation by solving the issues of ash ponds, wetlands protections, and water regulations? What about increasing land and water trust funds to levels more than .1% of our state budget? Will science be allowed to be the ubiquitous yardstick for regulatory measures and agency management, or will special interests and the mighty (short-term) dollar prevail?

So here's hoping that NCWF and its supporters can raise a glass to the General Assembly after this session. Maybe with the aforementioned home grown scuppernong wine or the state beverage—milk! The drink matters not. What matters is that we work together to conserve "the blessed land, the best land"—the Old North State! Cheers! **NC WF**



# North Carolina WILDLIFE Federation Journal

WILD LIVES ■ WILD PLACES

Spring 2014

Official publication, North Carolina Wildlife Federation (Affiliate of National Wildlife Federation)

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Cover photographs: Shrimp trawlers at rest. A long tradition of inshore trawling is under new scrutiny. USFWS: kids with net. All other photographs, unless otherwise noted: [www.istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com) or courtesy of NCWF.

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BILL RUSS: VISITNC.COM



**NCWF MISSION** The mission of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation is to be the leading advocate for all North Carolina wildlife and its habitat.

**GOALS** Recognizing that wildlife includes all species of wild flora and fauna, the goals of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation are:

- To advocate the conservation and enhancement of all wildlife and its habitat.
- To advocate ethical and biologically sound hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.
- To advocate education, for children and adults, that increases public awareness of wildlife, its dependence on habitat, and the importance of both to human existence.
- In affiliation with our member organizations, to communicate, cooperate, and partner with the North Carolina General Assembly, state resource agencies, corporations, and other interested groups to advance the well being of wildlife and its habitat.
- In affiliation with the National Wildlife Federation, to support national and international issues of mutual interest.

# Unintended Consequences



North Carolina's inshore shrimp trawling industry is a long tradition—and an accidental disaster.

Be forewarned: What follows is a sobering analysis of the environmental costs of a summer North Carolina staple: A fresh shrimp dinner.

Let's jump right in. This is a quick and simple calculation taken from official shrimp harvest information here in North Carolina. Before we get to the numbers, one definition. The term "bycatch" is used to identify non-target organisms taken while in pursuit of another species. When a fish gets caught in a crab pot, the fish is bycatch. When a bird gets caught in a gill net, the bird is bycatch. When it comes to the shrimp industry, bycatch is typically juvenile finfish. In order to quantify the estimated number of fish killed as bycatch, let's analyze the shrimp harvest and the bycatch loss in the year 2012.

In 2012, North Carolina commercial fishermen harvested 6,141,300 pounds of shrimp in trawls used in inshore waters. While inshore trawling is banned in Albemarle and Currituck sounds and in designated nursery areas, trawlers cover a huge swath of big water, from Pamlico and Core sounds to river mouths and other smaller waters. For every 1 pound of shrimp harvested, 4.5 pounds of finfish and other marine organisms were caught and discarded. Expanding this equation yields an estimated 27,635,850 pounds of bycatch. That's right—nearly 28 million pounds. About half of that bycatch is made up of juvenile spot, Atlantic croakers, and weakfish, also known as gray trout. These three fish alone are some of the most popular recreational targets for anglers up and down the coast. And since every pound of juvenile finfish represents about 20 individual fish, the expanded equation yields an estimated 276,358,500 individual fish that perish as bycatch to shrimp trawls every year.

This number is staggering. Assuming a half-ton pickup truck is 20 feet long and can carry 1,000 pounds, the bycatch in 2012 would fill 27,635 of these trucks, and the line of trucks would stretch 104 miles, which is the distance from Raleigh to Winston-Salem.

No one denies that fresh North Carolina shrimp are a staple food and a cultural icon of the Carolina coast. But catching, killing, and discarding more than 275 million fish in the pursuit of 6 million pounds of shrimp simply does not make sense.



NOAA



## Trawl Trouble

The most frequently encountered bycatch example is found in commercial fishing operations involving gill nets and otter trawls. Bycatch also occurs in recreational fisheries, through the capture and release of sub-legal or non-target individuals. The best documented information about trawling bycatch comes from studies and surveys done by a number of fisheries management agencies and academic researchers at the state, federal, and university levels. The information quantifying bycatch from shrimp trawling has been around for many years. The findings are consistently similar. On average, bycatch studies in North Carolina indicate that a shrimp trawl will take 4.5 pounds of bycatch for every pound of shrimp harvested. About one half of all bycatch here in North Carolina is the juvenile stages of those three important finfish: spot, Atlantic croaker, and weakfish.

This fishery relies on what is called an "otter trawl," which is a large net stretched behind and towed by a vessel—usually called a "trawler." A trawler can pull one or several otter trawls depending upon its size and power. The otter trawl is lowered to the bottom and held open by a pair of heavily-weighted otter boards (or doors) as the net is deployed and the trawler commences to pull the net forward through the water column. A tickler chain is attached and dragged along the bottom in front of the net to stir up the shrimp from the bottom. Shrimp and anything else entering the opening of the net are captured and go to the rear of the net into a catch bag from which there is limited opportunity for escape. Turtle excluder devices are required on most trawls to allow captured sea turtles to escape from trawls and finfish excluder devices are being evaluated for mandatory requirement in trawls. Excluder devices are not foolproof and only eliminate bycatch according to how well they are utilized and operated.

**To harvest one pound of shrimp using an otter trawl, 4.5 pounds of non-target fish and other bycatch are killed and discarded.**

The top of the otter trawl is held together by a head rope of various lengths depending on the size of the net. The head rope defines the size of the otter trawl. On smaller boats the head rope is usually less than 50 feet long and only one otter trawl is pulled. However, on the larger trawlers being used today in our inshore waters, four otter trawls with head rope lengths of 60 feet are pulled at the same time, sweeping 240 feet of bottom. These trawlers often run side by side, greatly increasing the coverage of bottom. Six trawlers pulling four 60-foot otter trawls each cover 1,400 feet of bottom, which is over a quarter mile. The pull usually lasts an hour or until the catch bags are full. Powerful hydraulic winches pull the otter trawls onto the vessel. The catch bags are dumped into sorting bins where the shrimp are taken out and everything else (the bycatch) is washed overboard or shoveled into the water.

Nothing much survives the compressing pressure of the hour long-pull in the catch bag and the long exposure to air during the sorting. So, to harvest one pound of shrimp using an otter trawl, 4.5 pounds of non-target fish and other bycatch are killed and discarded.

## The Hidden Tragedy

Those figures are alarming to contemplate, but think about this: What is the impact of discarding 276 million immature spot, Atlantic croaker, and weakfish every year? Intuitively one would arrive at the conclusion that it cannot be good and is most likely harmful to fisheries stocks. Pamlico Sound is the place where most North Carolina shrimp are harvested and this large, shallow-water sound is also one of the most productive nursery areas on the East Coast. Immature fish thrive and grow in these protected waters until they reach the size where they can survive in the ocean. One measure we do have that indicates shrimp trawling has a negative impact on finfish is the status of these fish. Spot are in the "concerned" category, Atlantic croaker are also in the "concerned" category, and weakfish are listed as "depleted." The impact of the tremendous loss of juvenile finfish in our nursery areas to shrimp trawling has not been completely evaluated. It must be fully assessed if we are to continue the current practices. As stewards of the priceless marine resources with which we have been blessed, we must take the conservative course when harvesting this bounty. Our management measures must do no harm and be within the sustainable capacity of the resource as demonstrated through clear and convincing scientific evidence and evaluation.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) have just concluded a year-long review of the shrimp Fisheries Management Plan as it relates to bycatch. Even in the face of overwhelming evidence that the level of bycatch in the shrimp trawling industry is unacceptably high and public demand that efforts be made to reduce this bycatch, the MFC failed to adopt any meaningful restrictions on trawling gear, seasons, locations, or procedures that would reduce bycatch. No

clear target or timetable for reduction of bycatch or evaluation of the impact of bycatch on sustainability of finfish stocks was adopted.

Reduction of bycatch is not rocket science. All states on the Atlantic Coast, except North Carolina, have seen the destruction from otter trawls and have prohibited or greatly restricted the use of otter trawls in inshore waters. North Carolina has shown some concern over the adverse impact of trawling by outlawing trawling in Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound, and all designated nursery areas. All states on the Gulf Coast have eliminated otter trawls in inshore waters or restricted otter trawls to a size not to exceed a 50 foot head rope. Many options exist to reduce bycatch to levels that will not endanger the sustainability of Spot, Atlantic croaker, and weakfish and could initiate recovery of these important fishery stocks without eliminating the shrimp trawling industry. The single most effective action to accomplish this objective would be to limit otter trawls to a 50-foot head rope size and limit the number of trawls to two per boat. Such action would preserve small boat shrimpers' access to shrimp resources and would move the large trawlers from inshore waters to off shore waters where they can operate efficiently outside nursery areas and where bycatch may not be as harmful.



## Gamefish Bill Advances

House Bill 983, the 2013 Fisheries Economic Development Act, was introduced in the 2013 Session of the N.C. General Assembly. Being a revenue bill it is qualified for consideration in the short session beginning May 14, 2014. This bill would provide game fish status to speckled sea trout, striped bass, and red drum in inshore waters. These fish comprise less than 2 percent of the commercial fisheries landings annually in North Carolina and the total annual landings value of these fish is less than \$2 million. However, they are superior sport fish in coastal waters of North Carolina and provide the majority of recreational angling in our state while bringing enormous value to local and state economies.

Recreational fishing for these three species contributes \$140 million annually to North Carolina's economy through expenditures of recreational anglers and creation of service and supply jobs to support the recreational fishing industry. If game fish status occurs, these three species could only be taken with rod and reel and could not be bought or sold. The bill also increases resident and non-resident annual and short-term recreational fishing licenses to provide funds for research and management.

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation supports passage of this bill. Large commercial fishing states such as Texas and Florida have implemented similar game fish status to no detriment of their commercial harvest. Our neighbor to the south, South Carolina, has implemented these reforms and now has an enviable red drum fishery. Game fish status is a good step towards reforming North Carolina marine fisheries management for the best interests of the marine fishery resource and the economy of the state. **NC WF**

# policy MATTERS

Major moves in Washington and Raleigh will affect wildlife across North Carolina.



**BIPARTISAN SPORTSMAN'S ACT INTRODUCED** • North Carolina's U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, introduced the *Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014*, a bipartisan, comprehensive Senate sportsmen's bill. The legislation includes policies to enhance opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation; reauthorizes key conservation programs; and helps boost North Carolina's and the nation's outdoor recreation economy.

In North Carolina, access to lands and waters for hunting and fishing is one of the most pressing issues facing sportsmen. Hagan and Murkowski's bill includes the *Making Public Lands Public Act*, which requires that 1.5 percent of funding from the Land and Water Conservation fund to be dedicated to improving access to public lands for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. In North Carolina, lack of access is a particular problem on National Forest lands, including Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie and Croatan.

Outdoor recreation is an important economic driver in North Carolina, supporting 192,000 jobs and contributing more than \$19 billion annually to the state's economy, which is one of the reasons the N.C. Wildlife Federation endorsed the bill. The *Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act* also includes:

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Reauthorization.** Over the last 20 years, this program has funded more than 1,600 projects that conserved more than 20 million acres of wetlands in North America. From 2009-2013, North Carolina received \$7 million for projects that protect and enhance wetland habitats and promote access for outdoor recreation. NAWCA is also cost-effective, with every dollar of federal funding traditionally generating three dollars in non-federal money.

**The Permanent Duck Stamp Act**, which allows states to issue electronic duck stamps that enable hunters to participate in duck season while waiting for the physical stamp to arrive in the mail.

Additionally, Hagan announced that the U.S. Departments of Interior and Homeland Security have agreed to release funding sequestered from the Sportsmen Trust Funds to North Carolina and other states. Money for the Trust Funds is derived from excise taxes levied on motorboat fuel and hunting and fishing equipment. These funds are then distributed back to the states to pay for projects and programs important to outdoor recreation activities. "The Sportsmen Trust Funds should never have been subject to sequestration, and I am pleased this vital funding will be released to the states," said Hagan. "Sportsmen and women pay an excise tax to specifically fund projects that enhance outdoor recreation, conserve wildlife habitats and provide hunting and boating safety education. Today's announcement demonstrates what can be accomplished when politics are put aside for the good of sportsmen and women."

The Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Safety Trust Funds, commonly known as the "Sportsmen Trust Funds," are important funding sources that states use to restore and manage fisheries and wildlife habitats, open and maintain recreational access, provide hunter and boating safety education, and for important infrastructure such as public boating ramps.

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**JORDAN LAKE RULES SHOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT** • The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has passed a resolution holding that the rules creating the Jordan Lake Water Supply Nutrient Strategy should not be delayed due to the urgency to address deteriorating water quality in Jordan Lake given the great pressure for development in the watershed and its adverse impact on Jordan Lake and its important natural resources and recreational values. Earlier, on a split vote, the General Assembly delayed implementation of measures to address water quality issues in Jordan Lake for further evaluation and exploration of measures and technologies to improve water quality in the lake for a period of three years. That action also included more than \$1.6 million in funding for experimental aeration equipment.

The Federation opposes the suspension of water quality rules for Jordan Lake for a number of reasons. These funds are important to other land and water conservation projects and funds for these purposes are scarce, and the existing rules constituting the Jordan Lake Water Supply Nutrient Strategy have not been given adequate time to show positive results in terms of improving water quality of the lake. Further delay of these rules will exacerbate deteriorating water quality in Jordan Lake, and the experimental technology has not been proven to be successful in large bodies of water such as Jordan Lake.

NCWF will support all efforts to overturn the unwise action to suspend water quality rules on Jordan Lake in terms of Federal review by the USEPA or legal action.

**FARM BILL PASSAGE IS GOOD FOR HABITAT AND WILDLIFE** • Within the vast Farm Bill—some refer to it as the “greatest conservation law you’ve never heard of”—is a large array of programs that relate to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The U.S. Farm Bill addresses critical agricultural program needs as well as food stamps, nutrition programs, and farm insurance. It makes significant investments and improvements in natural resource conservation, rural development, alternative/renewable energy sources research, best management practice implementation, wetlands protection and wildlife habitat preservation. For decades farmers have committed to adopt land management practices that have successfully reduced soil erosion and protected wetlands. This has meant acreage of upland bird habitat, waterfowl habitat, early succession habitat for game and nongame species alike. NCWF works for the conservation programs in the Farm Bill for enhancement and conservation of private lands, protecting vital places that support quail, turkey, deer, bear, waterfowl, song birds, grouse, and fish species such as largemouth bass, mountain trout, and striped bass.

The February passage of a five-year Farm Bill includes over \$57 billion of funding for conservation programs and ensures that popular and effective farm bill conservation programs will continue.

The major highlight of the bill for NCWF and our partners is that it includes a link between conservation compliance and crop insurance, ensuring that in exchange for receiving crop insurance premium subsidies, farmers will have to practice basic soil and wetland conservation measures on environmentally sensitive land. The inclusion of this important provision is a huge win for wildlife. Not only does it save taxpayer dollars from being used to subsidize environmentally harmful practices, but it will help to prevent the destruction of millions of acres of wetlands and the erosion of millions of tons of soil.

Other highlights of the bill include: an innovative new regional conservation partnership program to protect critical areas of conservation need; an increase of potentially millions of dollars of funding to help farmers create wildlife habitat on working lands; mandatory funding for on farm renewable energy programs; and continued funding for successful conservation easement programs.

Overall conservation funding was cut and a national sod-saver inclusion was left out of the bill, but all said, we believe that the final 2014 Farm Bill is a very good compromise bill that will undoubtedly be a net benefit to our nation’s soil, water, and wildlife.

Thanks to all of our North Carolina partners and those around the country who worked so hard on this bill for more than three years.

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**DAN RIVER DISASTER** • February 2, 2014, saw the third-largest coal ash spill in this country commence when the Duke Energy Dan River plant’s ash pond discharge pipe ruptured, causing estimates of up to at least 39,000 tons of ash waste to be leaked into the Dan River near Eden, North Carolina. Coal ash is the waste product that remains when coal is burned for electricity production. It is usually collected in a holding pond or basin in a wet state. Coal burning residue—ash—contains heavy metals such as arsenic, iron, and selenium.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service examined ash sludge extending for more than 70 miles downstream from the plant. The spill is initially estimated to cost at least \$70 million in damage to fish, wildlife, and other related aspects of the economy, according to some professional estimates. Damages include:

- The cost of losing a “healthy, self-sustaining ecosystem” with diverse fish and wildlife.
- The lost revenue throughout the economy from a reduction in outdoor activities such as fishing, boating and swimming.
- Lower property values along the lake or river.
- The value of contaminated fish and wildlife that otherwise would have been consumed.

There are 33 ash ponds at 14 active or retired sites in North Carolina that are still in some type of use, either receiving waste from working coal-fired plants or holding tons of burned coal ash accumulated over the decades at Dan River and other retired plants.

“Duke Energy is working as quickly as it can toward a long-term fix for the remaining ash ponds, starting with those at Dan River and other coal plants that have been retired,” stated Duke Energy’s CEO. NCWF and others hope and expect this to be an aggressive fix including removal of ash basins near waterways.

As of press time for the North Carolina Wildlife Journal, the outcomes of the spill and clean up efforts are still underway. Federal grand jury subpoenas were issued to Duke Energy and N.C. Department of Natural Resources over the spill and related coal ash litigation between the two parties. In addition to what is going on at the state level, an EPA ruling is expected later this year on how this waste product will be treated across the country.

NC  
WF

## Here is how the NC delegation voted on the Farm Bill

### Senate

Hagan (D) .....Y  
Burr (R) .....N

### House

Butterfield (D) .....Y  
McIntyre (D) .....Y  
Price (D) .....Y  
Cobble(R) .....Y  
Ellmers (R) .....Y  
Holding (R) .....N  
Hudson (R) .....Y  
McHenry (R) .....Y  
Meadows (R) .....Y  
Coble (R) .....N  
Foxx (R) .....N  
Pittenger (R) .....N  
Jones (R) .....(did not vote)



# *We're looking for* **CONSERVATION HEROES!** **2014 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards**



## **North Carolina WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

Each year the North Carolina Wildlife Federation presents the prestigious Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards, an effort to honor individuals, governmental bodies, organizations, and others who have exhibited an unwavering commitment to conservation in North Carolina. These are the highest natural resource honors given in the state. By recognizing, publicizing, and honoring these conservation leaders— young and old, professional and volunteer—the North Carolina Wildlife Federation hopes to inspire all North Carolinians to take a more active role in protecting the natural resources of our state.

The nomination period for the 2013 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards is open through July 1, 2014. These awards are presented each year at a gala banquet. Award recipients receive a handsome statuette and certificate. On the opposite page is the official nomination blank. Additional forms are available by request. For more details or to download a form, go to [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org).

### **CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Overall outstanding effort and achievement in any field of natural resources conservation.

### **WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Accomplishments in the management, study, or restoration of wildlife, fisheries, or habitat.

### **SPORTSMAN of the Year**

Exemplary efforts by an individual to encourage good sportsmanship and/or outdoor ethics.

### **LAND CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding effort by individual, organization, or agency in the arena of land conservation, such as private or public land acquisitions, management, or conservation.

### **WATER CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding effort by individual, organization, or agency in the arena of water conservation, such as water pollution control, stream/river protections, wetlands and/or estuarine protections, or aquatic wildlife conservation.

### **FOREST CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding effort by individual, organization, or agency in the arena of forest conservation or the conservation of forest wildlife.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR of the Year**

Outstanding environmental education effort by an individual or organization.

### **YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding conservation effort by a person under the age of 18.

### **CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR of the Year**

Outstanding effort within communications profession to create public awareness of wildlife and natural resources or to examine a particular related issue.

### **CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION of the Year**

Outstanding accomplishment by an organization in affecting a particular issue during the year, or for raising awareness about conservation and/or wildlife habitat.

### **LEGISLATOR of the Year**

Outstanding effort by a member of the North Carolina legislature in support of conservation.

### **MUNICIPAL CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding conservation effort by any federal, state, or local government entity, including efforts to aid the public's ability to enjoy natural resources.

### **BUSINESS CONSERVATIONIST of the Year**

Outstanding effort by any firm, business, or industry that has displayed an unwavering commitment to conservation or the public's ability to enjoy natural resources.

### **HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION**

#### **INSTRUCTOR/ORGANIZATION of the Year**

Outstanding accomplishment by an individual or organization in the state's Hunter Safety Program.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY of the Year**

Outstanding effort by any local, state, or national agency responsible for managing natural resources.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES SCIENTIST of the Year**

Outstanding scientific effort by an individual working for governmental agencies, educational institutions, or related enterprise.

### **WILDLIFE VOLUNTEER of the Year**

Outstanding effort by a citizen volunteer in the service of North Carolina's wildlife and wild places.

### **NCWF CHAPTER of the Year**

Outstanding effort by member chapter in one or more of the following areas: wildlife habitat, environmental education, youth participation, and/or community involvement in conservation issues.

### **AFFILIATE of the Year**

Outstanding support effort by NCWF affiliate.

## OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

To make a nomination, send one copy of this form, with all supporting attachments and a resume of achievements, to the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, ATTN: Awards Committee, P.O. Box 10626, Raleigh, NC 27605. Deadline for receiving applications is July 1, 2014. Please print or type all data below. This form may be duplicated.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Award category\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Nominees may be nominated for more than one category, but send a separate nomination blank for each award category. Multiple copies of supporting materials are not necessary.)*

Nomination made by \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out Official Nomination Form completely.
2. Attach a resume of achievements or nomination essay explaining why the nominee deserves the award. Attach nominee's resume if available, and information about the nominee's affiliations, past recognitions, and other references for substantiation. Full documentation is needed by the Awards Committee—the only information the Awards Committee will have is what you provide. Please be particular about the specific acts on which the nomination is based.
3. Deadline for receiving nominations is July 1, 2014.

*\*The Awards Committee reserves the right to place nominations in the appropriate categories as the case may arise. In the case of insufficient nominations in any category the Awards Committee reserves the right not to name a category winner.*



# NCWF Helps Launch Prothonotary Warbler Project

This species of warbler, the only cavity-nesting warbler found in North Carolina, was named after the “protonotarii,” officials in the Roman Catholic Church who wore brilliant golden robes. This bright yellow bird, once known as the golden swamp warbler, is the focus of an important conservation project that will begin in 2014 in Mecklenburg County.

NCWF is the proud sole sponsor of the project based around Mountain Island Lake as part of an international effort to capture, band, and mount geo-locators on these birds in order to track their specific movements and flight patterns as they migrate from North America into Central and South America. The Mountain Island Lake location is one of only two participating North Carolina sites, with work led by the Mecklenburg County Natural Resources Division. The prothonotary warbler is a species of conservation concern at the national, regional, and local levels. It is yellow-listed by the National Audubon Society and is considered a “C2” level species (imperiled as a breeder) in Mecklenburg County. The study involves capturing nesting warblers, banding them, collecting a feather sample for DNA analysis, and then fitting the birds with satellite geo locators for tracking. The



Federation will be working with North Carolina Partners in Flight Coordinator Scott Anderson, and John Gerwin, curator of ornithology at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

Prothonotary warblers primarily eat small insects and spiders, but may also eat seeds and other plant material during the winter. In appropriate swampy, bottom-land habitats, they may nest directly over the waters in wetlands.

NCWF sponsorship will support approximately 30 nests boxes to be built and installed in time for the 2015 nesting season. Mecklenburg County personnel will be training during this year to learn to safely attach the geo-locators on the birds. Banding and tagging with satellite transmitters will begin in 2015. Federation chapter volunteers will assist county personnel with the erecting of the nest boxes and with banding.

## NCWF on the Web



The NCWF Facebook page provides daily North Carolina wildlife and habitat facts, breaking news, and timely information on outdoors and wildlife-related events from the mountains to the sea. Check us out and click “Like!” to stay in touch.

And while you’re online, check out our new website at [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org). You’ll find new features and functions that will help keep you connected to wildlife—and to our growing community of chapters and individuals working for wildlife.



## Scholarships for NC College Students

Each year the North Carolina Wildlife Federation provides up to 7 grants of \$1,000 each to students enrolled and attending an accredited North Carolina college or university full-time. These students must be majoring in the areas of wildlife, fisheries, forestry, conservation or the environment. Scholarships are for graduate students and for undergraduates, and include 2-year programs. We are anxious to identify and recognize deserving students and are soliciting applications for scholarship aid. Need is a factor, and a good record of scholarship and extra-curricular involvement is considered.

In order to qualify for an NCWF Scholarship, you must be currently enrolled full-time at an accredited university or college. You must be majoring in the area(s) of wildlife, fisheries, forestry, conservation or the environment. You must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. For more information, contact NCWF at 704-332-5696.



## Camo Coordinator Honored

The N.C. Bowhunters Association honored Dick Hamilton, coordinator of the Federation's Camo Coalition, with its Conservationist of the Year award. The award was announced March 1 at the NCBA Annual Convention and recognized Hamilton's efforts to lead sportsmen on conservation policy work. Ramon Bell, past president of NCBA, stated "the honor is well deserving" and noted that the award is not given every year, "but only when we have a very deserving candidate."

Also receiving an award was Representative John Faircloth (R) of Guilford County for sponsoring the Fish and Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund legislation, which was adopted last session.



## Join Us for the 10th Annual NCWF Paddle Event

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation is hosting its annual Canoe & Kayak-a-thon on Mountain Island Lake on June 7, marking the 10th year of this event that raises awareness of aquatic ecosystems and funding to support wildlife conservation and habitat protection. Paddlers will participate in the 7-mile event on Mountain Island Lake as part of the Federation's "connecting people to nature" campaign. Paddlers who raise money for the Federation are eligible for incentive prizes. Due to the generosity of the event sponsors, 100 percent of monies raised by participants have gone to wildlife conservation and habitat protection. For more details, a registration form, and sponsor information visit [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org).

USFWS



## CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTERS!

Our wildlife chapter activities are endless and provide something for everyone.

For more information on how you can participate, contact Christopher North at [chris@ncwf.org](mailto:chris@ncwf.org).



Capital Chapter



CROWN (Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves With Nature)



F.I.S.H. (Fayetteville Increasing Sustainable Habitat)



Gaston County Piedmont Area Wildlife Stewards (PAWS)



Habitat and Wildlife Keepers (HAWK)



Lake James Area Wildlife and Nature Society



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists



Mountain Island Lake Wildlife Stewards



Mountain WILD



Protecting, Advocating and Conserving (PACT)



South Wake Conservationists



The Albemarle Conservation and Wildlife Chapter



SCOTT BAUER: ARS.USDA.GOV

## NCWF Chapter Network is Growing!

Fayetteville Increasing Sustainable Habitat, known as FISH, jumped out of the starting gate this year with a program about pollinators in your backyard by acting president and beekeeper Gloria Lengel. The John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center is a great host for the new chapter and has fabulous facilities for future family fishing days and many more educational programs to come.

Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves With Nature, or CROWN, continued its pursuit to certify Charlotte as a Community Wildlife Habitat with programs on bats, coyotes, creating backyard habitat, and wildlife diversity in Mecklenburg County. CROWN even had a nice display booth at the Charlotte Spring Home & Garden Show this year with visiting Ranger Rick.

Two more wildlife chapters are emerging in the communities of Concord and Holly Springs. Volunteer leaders from each community are developing a strong chapter infrastructure to give a platform for local wildlife enthusiasts.

NCWF local wildlife chapters bring to bear the Federation's strengths of advocacy, education, grassroots mobilization, and policy expertise. They are designed to empower local wildlife enthusiasts—from anglers, backpackers, birders, hunters, photographers, and hikers—to have a direct and effective impact on the conservation of wildlife in their communities and the state of North Carolina. Chapters hold monthly educational programs, conduct field trips, and participate in direct, hands-on wildlife projects in their communities.

If your community is interested in forming a NCWF chapter, please contact Christopher North, [chris@ncwf.org](mailto:chris@ncwf.org) or 704-332-5696. And check out our complete list of chapters on this page for local chapters near you.



**Build it and They Will Come Mountain Wild!** In Asheville, chapter volunteers build barn owl boxes to be erected and monitored by wildlife biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Barn owls in the North Carolina mountain region are a priority species.



Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists volunteers construct osprey and great blue heron nesting structures. **NCWF**

## How do you put pipevine swallowtails in your will? Leah Dey knows.

Many of our members have chosen to name the North Carolina Wildlife Federation in their will or estate plan. No matter the size of the gift, a simple bequest assures that coming generations will enjoy North Carolina's magnificent wildlife and stunning wild places. And, any size gift will make a true difference for generations to come.

Leah Dey, a long time friend of wildlife, gardens with a simple goal: Making sure that her home is also a home for wildlife. "Because I enjoy learning about and observing the natural world, I want to do what I can to help maintain and create wildlife habitats. My garden is a certified butterfly habitat, and I'm applying for wildlife habitat certification as well. My passion is butterflies, and I provide nectar plants, larval host plants, and do what I can to protect their caterpillars as much as possible. I think butterflies have an amazing life cycle and provide a fantastic learning experience."

Leah has made her decision. "To help maintain and create other wildlife habitats, I decided to include the North Carolina Wildlife Federation in my will to have a greater positive impact on wildlife in general."



*Put your favorite wildlife and wild places in your will. It's easy and meaningful, and anyone can do it. And, any size gift will make a true difference for wildlife and habitat for generations to come.*

To learn about naming NCWF in your will, or hear about our Charitable Gift Annuity Program for you and/or a loved one, just fill out the Make A Legacy Gift section in the attached envelope. Or contact Dom Canavarro, NCWF's Development Director at (919) 833-1923, or [dom@ncwf.org](mailto:dom@ncwf.org). Mailing address is 1024 Washington St., Raleigh NC 27605. All correspondence is confidential.

# Charlie Shaw Society



NCWRC

John Robbins, owner of Greathorn Properties in Concord, and a long-time philanthropist and sportsman is the current chair of the Charlie Shaw Society. He encourages others to join him in support of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.



## Current Members

Members in the Charlie Shaw Society are our most dedicated supporters—generous members who have made a commitment to the work and programs of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation through an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more. Gifts can be made in one lump sum or in any number of smaller contributions within a calendar year, and can be directed to any Federation program that is of interest to the donor.

To learn more about the Charlie Shaw Society and benefits of membership, please visit our website at [www.ncwf.org](http://www.ncwf.org), or Dom Canavarro, Development and Operations Director, at (919) 833-1923; [dom@ncwf.org](mailto:dom@ncwf.org).

Joe Albea  
Jennifer Alligood  
Alen Baker  
Robert Bass  
John Benbow  
Robert Brown  
Mollie Brugh  
Sid Burton  
Pinkney Bynum  
Pam Byrd  
Susan Cameron  
Maurice and Addria Capps  
John Crutchfield  
Jerry Davis  
Roger and Sally Dick  
James Doyle

Helen Eggers  
Ray Felton  
Manley Fuller  
Carol Gestwicki  
Tim and Karen Gestwicki  
Joan Gillings  
John Hairr  
Fred Harris  
Susan Harris  
Carole Hart  
Phil and Bessie Hinton  
John Hislop  
Diane Honeycutt  
Carol Buie and Jay Jackson  
William and Deborah Jarman  
Lawrence Kimbrough

Jeffrey Martin  
Richard and Julia Mode  
Stacey and Wanda Ohm  
Patrick O'Leary  
Perry Patterson  
Greg Pechmann  
Michelle Pentecost  
Mark & Jane Ritchie  
John and Holly Robbins  
Tonda Schmunk  
Rick Smith  
Scott Smith  
Fred and Alice Stanback  
Bill Staton  
Victoria Sutton  
Joye Thomas and Karen Redfern  
Patti Wheeler

# THE Season

Jeff Beane's GUIDE TO  
NATURAL NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
1024 Washington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27605

insert  
progress  
indicia

## MAY

**May 1:** Atamasco lilies are in bloom.

**May 2-3:** Carolina Bird Club's Spring Meeting, Hendersonville, NC. Visit [www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org) for more info.

**May 3:** Striped bass run peaks on the Roanoke River. Ruffed grouse nesting peaks.

**May 3-4:** The North Carolina Herpetological Society will hold its annual Spring Meeting at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese. Visit [www.ncherps.org](http://www.ncherps.org).

**May 5-6:** Eta Aquarids meteor shower peak. This is a light meteor shower, producing about 10 meteors per hour at its peak. Best viewing is usually to the east after midnight.

**May 6:** Several trillium species are in bloom.

**May 7:** Piping plovers begin nesting on some of our more remote barrier island beaches.

**May 8:** Bog turtles are mating.

**May 10:** International Migratory Bird Day. Spring songbird migration peaks around this time, and several spring bird counts are held around the state this weekend. Contact your local Audubon chapter or the Carolina Bird Club ([www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)).

**May 11:** Peak honeysuckle bloom. First American robin broods are fledging.

**May 13:** Peak tulip-poplar bloom.

**May 14:** Longnose gar are spawning.

**May 15:** Hardwood trees are in full foliage over most of the state. Southeastern prickly-pear is in bloom.

**May 16:** Passion vine is in bloom. Mourning dove nesting peaks.

**May 17:** Our smallest reptile, the ground skink, is nesting. Unlike our four other skink species, this tiny lizard does not guard its eggs during incubation.

**May 18:** Least terns are nesting on our more remote beaches and barrier islands.

**May 19:** Alligators begin mating. Wild strawberries ripen.

**May 20:** Grassleaf rosening, Tread-softly, and Pickering's daisy are in bloom in the Sandhills.

**May 22:** Spider lilies are in bloom in Coastal Plain bottomlands.

**May 25:** Loggerhead sea turtles begin nesting.

**May 26:** Coal skinks are nesting in the Mountains and Foothills.

**May 28:** The larvae of our recently designated state salamander—the marbled salamander—are transforming; juveniles disperse into terrestrial habitats on rainy nights.

**May 30:** Green, pine woods, barking, and Cope's gray treefrogs are breeding. Wild turkey eggs are hatching.

**May 31:** Several species of dusky salamanders are nesting.

## JUNE

**June 1:** Venus' flytraps are in bloom in the southeastern Coastal Plain. Galax is in bloom in the Mountains.

**June 4:** Flame azalea, columbine, and fire pink are in bloom in the Mountains.

**June 7:** Grass pink orchid and orange milkwort are in bloom in Coastal Plain savannas.

**June 9:** Rosy maple moths are emerging.

**June 11:** Peak flight period for King's hairstreak, an uncommon butterfly found mostly in our Sandhills and southern Coastal Plain.

**June 12:** Japanese beetles are emerging.

**June 13:** Bluehead chub are spawning. Many other fish species depend on the stone nests built by these common stream dwellers for their own spawning efforts.

**June 15:** Spotted salamander larvae are transforming; juveniles disperse into terrestrial habitats on rainy nights.

**June 16:** The rare Gray's lily is in bloom in the Mountains. Carolina gopher frog tadpoles and tiger salamander larvae are transforming in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain.

**June 17:** Five-lined, southeastern five-lined, and broadhead skinks are nesting. Unlike most of our reptiles, these lizards remain with their eggs, guarding them until they hatch.

**June 20:** Peak bloom for rhododendron and mountain laurel in the Mountains. Good places to admire the show include Roan Mountain in Mitchell County and Craggy Gardens on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Buncombe County.

**June 21:** Summer Solstice at 10:51 Universal Time. It's the longest day of the year—don't waste it!

**June 22:** Sourwood is in bloom.

**June 24:** Nesting peaks for our state reptile, the eastern box turtle.

**June 24:** Northern pine snakes are nesting. These large, uncommon snakes, found mostly in our Sandhills region, lay the largest eggs of any of our snakes. Females typically spend several days digging a long tunnel ending in a nest chamber, where they will deposit their small clutch of large eggs.

**June 25:** Chickasaw plums are ripe. These tiny wild plums make fine preserves.

**June 26:** Mountain redbelly dace are spawning in mountain streams.

**June 27:** Green June beetles begin to emerge. Large emergences usually follow a rain.

**June 27:** IO moths are flying.

**June 28:** National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout. Do the world a favor and take a kid camping! Visit [www.backyardcampout.org](http://www.backyardcampout.org).

**June 30:** Loggerhead sea turtle nesting peaks.