

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in

North Carolina

Global warming poses a serious threat to North Carolina's bountiful fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From rising sea levels, which harm North Carolina's 3,375 miles of coastal habitats to rising stream temperatures that reduce viable trout habitat, global warming impacts on natural resources threaten North Carolina's economy.

Every year, more than 3 million people spend over \$2.7 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in North Carolina. The value of barrier islands and coastal wetlands to North Carolina's economy goes well beyond recreation, providing storm surge protection from hurricanes, which are projected to intensify with climate change.

3 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk



Heather Ferguson

Estuaries Global warming has the potential to completely alter the structure and function of the nation's estuaries and coastal wetlands. Sea level rise threatens to inundate many coastal wetlands, with little room to move inland because of coastal development. Warmer water will alter the species composition and contribute to worsening dead zones and expansion of harmful invasive species.



fitzler: WomanofArap

Waterfowl With global warming likely to affect wetland habitats across North America, reproduction rates, which depend on the health of late-spring wetlands in critical breeding areas, may suffer in North Carolina and nationwide.



USFWS

Brook Trout The cold water streams of the Appalachian Mountains harbor the highly sought after brook trout. Because brook trout are unable to tolerate waters above about 72oF, climate change is projected to dramatically reduce their habitat, as well as that of other trout species across much of North America.

Economic Benefits

North Carolina's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of North Carolina's economy. In addition to providing essential services like safe drinking water and clean air, these resources sustain the state's booming hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

-Annual Participants in Wildlife Recreation:

3.4 million

-Consumer Spending:

\$2.7 billion

-Jobs Created:

47,568

-Funding for NC Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:

\$15.3 million avg. per year

Source: 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife
Associated Recreation

Call for Urgent Action

The single most important action to protect species and wildlife at risk from climate change is for our local, state, and national leaders to implement comprehensive clean energy and climate policies. These policies must cap and then reduce carbon pollution as well as safeguard America's natural resources. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the US must reduce emissions by around 80% by mid-century, and as much as possible in the near term.

State-Based Solutions:

To address the threat of global warming to North Carolina's Albemarle Peninsula, The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, is developing a pilot project for the peninsula's Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. The project will employ a range of strategies including restoring natural water flows and wetlands through mitigation and management of artificial ditches and canals, land restoration, reforestation and shoreline transition to protect existing habitat and facilitate species movement as sea levels rise, and ensure that shorelines are not subject to hard armoring.

Safeguarding Wildlife & Natural Resources

To address the impacts we are already seeing on wildlife and habitat and to confront the inevitable impacts of climate change on our natural resources, comprehensive clean energy and climate policies must include funding to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural resources upon which we all rely. These funds should be provided through the revenue generated by the clean energy and climate policies and be dedicated to the federal, state and tribal agencies that manage natural resources. This funding will protect our natural resource based economy, and create tens of thousands of new "green" jobs – restoring wetlands and streams, removing invasive species, building and restoring wildlife corridors, and protecting habitat and natural watersheds.

The following groups support passing comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year. In order to safeguard fish, wildlife, and their habitats, we urge that legislation must include both reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and dedication of allowance value for natural resources adaptation programs.

National Hunting and Fishing Groups

*American Fisheries Society
*American Fly Fishing Trade Association
*American Sportfishing Association
*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
*Berkley Conservation Institute
*Campfire Club
*Dallas Safari Club
*Ducks Unlimited
*Houston Safari Club
*Izaak Walton League of America
*Mule Deer Foundation
*National Trappers Association
*National Wildlife Federation
*Pheasants Forever
*Quality Deer Management Association
*The Wildlife Society
*Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
*Trout Unlimited
*Wildlife Forever
*Wildlife Management Institute

North Carolina Conservation Groups

Audubon North Carolina *Audubon Society of Forsyth County *Cape Fear Audubon Society *Cape Fear Friends of Wildlife *Cape Fear Garden Club *Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society *Habitat and Wildlife Keepers *Highlands Plateau Audubon Society *Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance *Johnston Co. Wildlife Association *Ladies in the Stream *North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society *North Carolina Coastal Federation *North Carolina Trout Unlimited State Council *North Carolina Wildlife Federation *North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Central Chapter *North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Mountain Island Chapter *Organization for Wildlife and Land Stewardship *PACT in the High Country *Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition *Wild South *Wrightsville Beach Sea Turtle Project

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