

# ASSAULT ON CLEAN WATER THREATENS NORTH CAROLINA

**DESPITE THE FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY OF CLEAN WATER**, politicians in Washington are trying to dismantle the Clean Water Act, which has kept our nation's waters clean for nearly 50 years. This bedrock environmental safeguard is a central tool used by state and local governments to shield and protect clean water needed for healthy communities and families. Without it, polluted waters would threaten North Carolina's local economies, communities, and way of life.

Allowing open dumping into upstream waters spells trouble for everyone downstream. Pollution dumped by industry flows from smaller streams into our rivers and lakes, across state lines and downriver, contaminating waters used by families and communities for drinking and recreation. The best way to protect clean water is to stop harmful pollution at its source, before it reaches our waterways.

If the administration's proposal becomes law, more than half of the stream miles in the United States are at risk.<sup>1</sup> In the South, this proposal puts at risk the drinking water sources for over 32 million people, or seven out of ten southerners.<sup>2</sup> A host of upstream waters such as smaller streams and wetlands would be at risk of pollution and fill under the proposal. Estimates show it would end protections for most of the 110 million acres of wetlands in the contiguous United States.<sup>3</sup>

## WHAT'S AT STAKE IN NORTH CAROLINA?

This proposal threatens to remove protections from drinking water sources for 200 million Americans,<sup>4</sup> including the drinking water for three of every five North Carolinians.<sup>5</sup>

Under the proposal by the administration and supported by industrial polluters, more than 49,000 miles of streams that flow into North Carolina's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters would be at risk for pollution if the Clean Water Act is cut as the administration suggests.<sup>6</sup>

## CLEAN WATER IS BIG BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

 **\$5.4 MILLION**  
IN TAXES FROM TOURISM INDUSTRY PER DAY

 **\$2 BILLION**  
FROM LOCAL BREWERIES

 **\$1.97 BILLION**  
FROM LOCAL WINERIES

 **\$1.5 BILLION**  
SPENT ON FISHING

 **\$3.3 BILLION**  
SPENT ON WILDLIFE RECREATION

 **\$2.1 BILLION**  
BROUGHT IN BY OCEAN ECONOMY

 **\$188 MILLION**  
FROM SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

annually in benefits to Americans, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat and supporting hunting and fishing.<sup>9</sup>

Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife, and North Carolina's vibrant recreational industry. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011 \$3.3 billion was spent on wildlife related recreation in North Carolina, including \$1.5 billion on fishing, and more than 3.5 million people participated in wildlife-related recreational activities in North Carolina.<sup>10</sup> The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that, in 2015, North Carolina had the 2nd highest participation of recreational saltwater anglers in the U.S. with 1.5 million anglers.<sup>11</sup>

North Carolina's coastal counties are reliant on clean water. Collectively, North Carolina's ocean economy contributes \$2.1 billion to our state's value and supports 43,385 jobs annually. The seafood industry accounts for \$188 million of that total value and supports 1,300 livelihoods.<sup>12</sup>

In 2015, over 42 million pounds of shellfish were brought to shore by commercial fishermen, generating \$62,324,000 for



Millions of acres of wetlands in North Carolina that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.<sup>7</sup>

At least sixty-five percent of North Carolinians get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that may lose critical Clean Water Act protections under the administration's proposal.<sup>8</sup>

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

By EPA's own estimates, their proposal will put at risk at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million



North Carolina's economy. North Carolina had the highest commercial landings revenue and volume in the South Atlantic region with 66 million pounds of fish caught and \$95 million in revenue.<sup>13</sup>

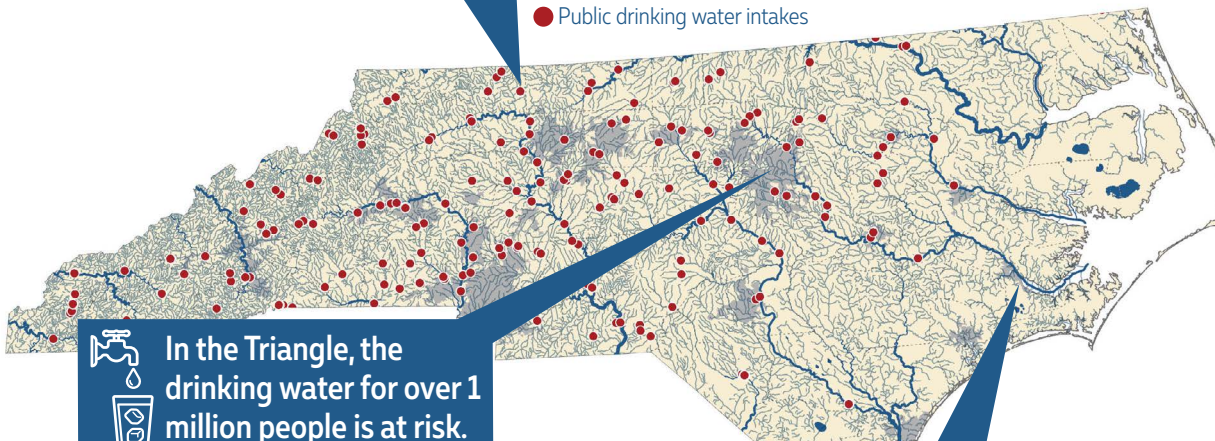
People visit North Carolina for our beautiful coast and Outer Banks, unique rivers and streams, waterfalls, and ample fishing opportunities. Each day, \$5.4 million is generated in taxes from tourism in North Carolina.<sup>14</sup>

North Carolina's thriving brewing and winery industries rely on clean water. Small North Carolina breweries contribute more than \$2 billion to our economy every year and support 12,470 jobs.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, the wine and grape industry adds \$1.97 billion to our economy and sustains 10,296 livelihoods.<sup>16</sup>

## NORTH CAROLINA'S COMMUNITIES ARE INTERCONNECTED WITH WATERWAYS

Most people in North Carolina get their drinking water from surface water intakes connected to rivers and streams.

● Public drinking water intakes



In the Triangle, the drinking water for over 1 million people is at risk.



Pollution dumped upstream travels downstream and eventually flows into our coastal waterways, estuaries, and the ocean, putting billions of dollars of revenue at risk.

For more information please visit [ProtectSouthernWater.org](https://ProtectSouthernWater.org)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2013. Water: Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html>.

<sup>2,4,5,8</sup> Calculations from EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). 2017. Accessed at <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/sfdw/f?p=108:1::NO::>; AND U.S. Census Bureau (USCB). 2017. National and State Population Estimates. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2017/estimates-demographics.html>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 – 2009. p37. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-2004-to-2009.pdf>

<sup>6,7</sup> EPA and U.S. Department of the Army. 2018. Economic Analysis for the Proposed Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States". p219-221. Accessed at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/wotusproposedrule\\_ea\\_final\\_2018-12-14.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/wotusproposedrule_ea_final_2018-12-14.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> EPA and U.S. Department of the Army. 2015. Economic Analysis of the EPA-Army Clean Water Rule. p53-54. Accessed at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final\\_clean\\_water\\_rule\\_economic\\_analysis\\_5-20-15.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final_clean_water_rule_economic_analysis_5-20-15.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation - North Carolina. p5-8. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-nc.pdf>.

<sup>11,12</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2015. Fisheries Economics of the United States. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA. p13, 132, 150. Accessed at <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/16121>

<sup>12</sup> Jane Harrison, Amy Pickle, Tibor Vegh, and John Virdin. 2017. North Carolina's Ocean Economy. Duke University and Sea Grant North Carolina. p8,12. Accessed at [https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant\\_docs/products/2010s/NC\\_Ocean\\_Economy\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant_docs/products/2010s/NC_Ocean_Economy_White_Paper.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> TNS TravelsAmerica and U.S. Travel Association. 2017. Tourism Economic Fast Facts. Accessed at <https://partners.visitnc.com/contents/sdownload/69272/file/2017-Economic-Impact-Fast-Facts.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Fruit Growers New. 2017. <https://fruitgrowersnews.com/news/north-carolina-wine-grape-industry-approaches-2-billion/>

<sup>16</sup> Brewers Association. 2016. Economic Impact by State. Accessed at <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.