

# 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.

The drinking water for nearly 20 million people in the South and 2 million miles of streams across the United States will be at risk if the administration's proposal becomes law.<sup>1</sup> The proposed rule would allow unlimited pollution dumping in a host of upstream waters, such as smaller streams, tributaries and millions of acres of wetlands. Estimates show this would eliminate safeguards for up to 60 percent of stream miles and end protections for most of the 110 million acres of wetlands in the contiguous United States.<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT'S AT STAKE IN NORTH CAROLINA?

This plan would remove protections from drinking water sources for 117 million Americans. This includes the drinking water for at least half of North Carolinians.<sup>3</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

Under the proposal by the administration and supported by industrial polluters, more than 55 percent of North Carolina's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction.<sup>4</sup>

At least fifty 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>5</sup>

More than 7,000 miles of streams that feed into North Carolina's drinking water sources would be at risk for pollution if the Clean Water Act is rolled back as the administration plans.<sup>6</sup>

Thousands of acres of wetlands that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk if the federal government moves forward with its plan.

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

By EPA's own estimates, their proposed rule will put at risk at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to Americans, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat and supporting hunting and fishing.<sup>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</sup>



In 2015, over 42 million pounds of shellfish were brought to shore by commercial fishermen, generating \$62,324,000 for 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>11</sup>

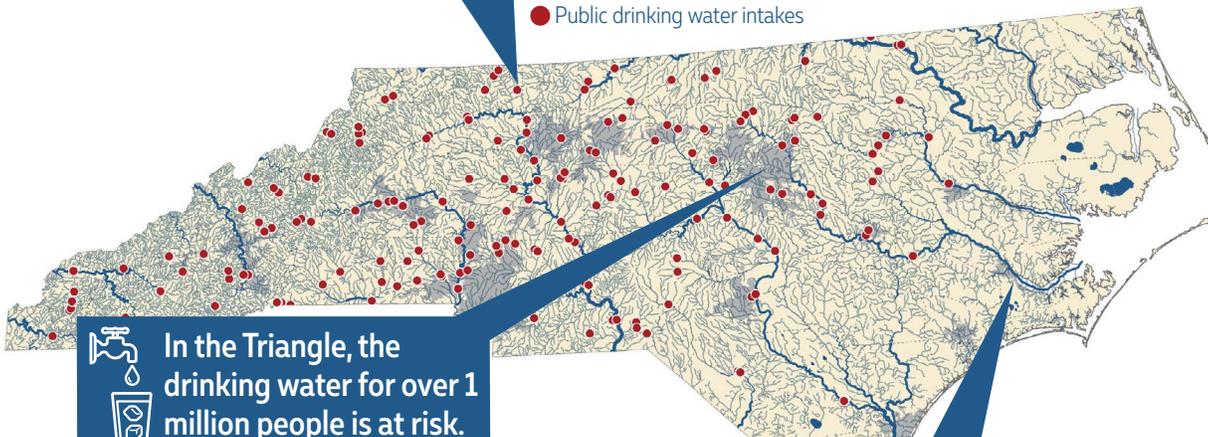
People visit North Carolina for our beautiful coast and Outer Banks, unique rivers and streams, waterfalls, and ample fishing opportunities. Each day, \$5.4 million is generated in taxes from tourism in North Carolina.<sup>12</sup>

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>13</sup> Similarly, the wine and grape industry adds \$1.97 billion to our economy and sustains 10,296 livelihoods.<sup>14</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). 2009. Analysis of the Surface Drinking Water Provided By Intermittent, Ephemeral, and Headwater Streams in the U.S. Accessed at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009\\_12\\_28\\_wetlands\\_science\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_results\\_state.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009_12_28_wetlands_science_surface_drinking_water_surface_drinking_water_results_state.pdf). Stream miles calculated using EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/index-17.html>. AND EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams - Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html>.

<sup>2</sup> EPA, Water: Rivers and Streams – Streams. AND U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 – 2009. Page 37. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-2004-to-2009.pdf>.

<sup>3,4</sup> EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

<sup>5</sup> Calculated using EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water. AND U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. Interactive Population Map. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>.

<sup>6</sup> EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army. 2015. Economic Analysis of the EPA-Army Clean Water Rule. Page 53-54. 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>8</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. Pages 5-8. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/ffw11-nc.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2015. Fisheries Economics of the United States. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA. Page 13. Accessed at <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/16121>.

<sup>10</sup> Jane Harrison, Amy Pickle, Tibor Vegh, and John Virdin. 2017. North Carolina's Ocean Economy. Duke University and Sea Grant North Carolina. Pages 8,12. 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>11</sup> NMFS, Fisheries Economics, Pages 132,150.

<sup>12</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>13</sup> Fruit Growers New. 2017. <https://fruitgrowersnews.com/news/north-carolina-wine-grape-industry-approaches-2-billion/>

<sup>14</sup> Brewers Association. 2016. Economic Impact by State. Accessed at <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.