

"I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

A black and white photograph of a narrow river flowing through a dense forest. The water is calm, and the surrounding trees are reflected in it. The sky is visible through the canopy.

The Present

55% of North Carolinians strongly agree and 28% somewhat agree that “protecting air and water is very important for attracting good jobs to the state”

Public Policy Polling April 19-20, 2011

How Much is Clean Water Worth?

- Commercial and Recreational fisheries contribute \$1.75 billion to NC's economy (DENR 2011 Report)
- WRC reports \$1.5 billion spent in NC on Fishing related activities (2011)



Value: Tar-Pamlico River

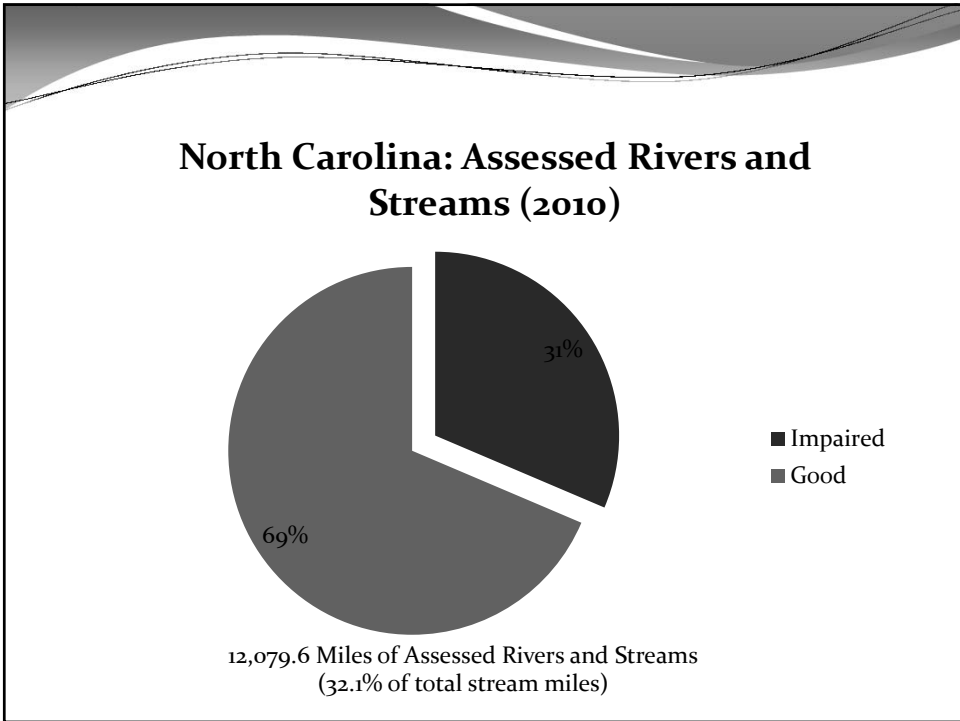
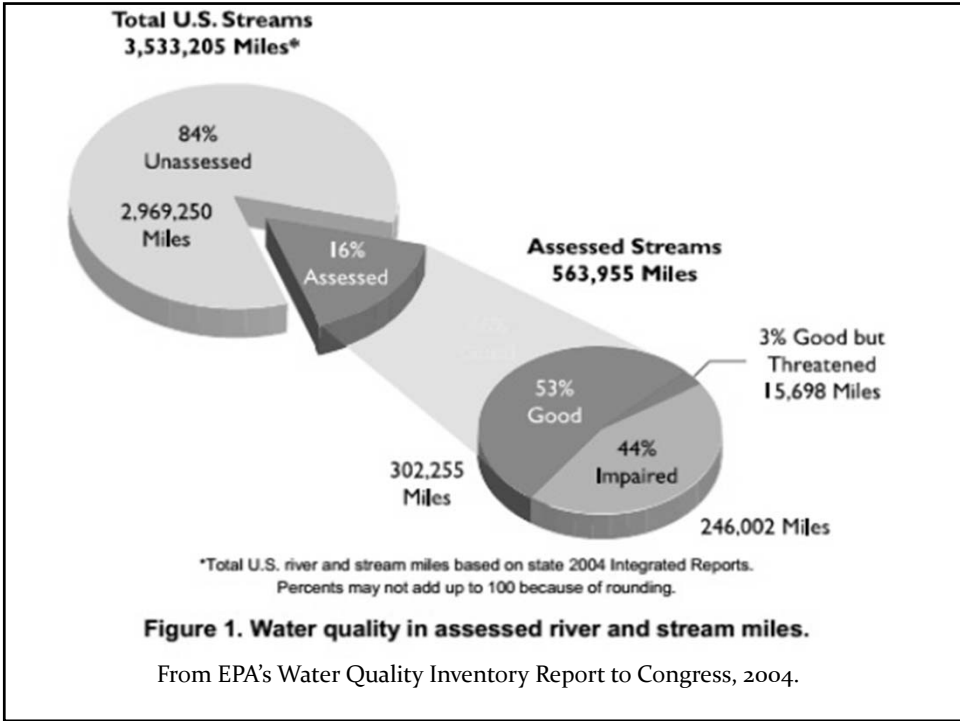
- Greenville and Washington river utilization initiatives
- Business support for access to clean water
- Source of drinking water for $\approx 200,000$ (surface water)

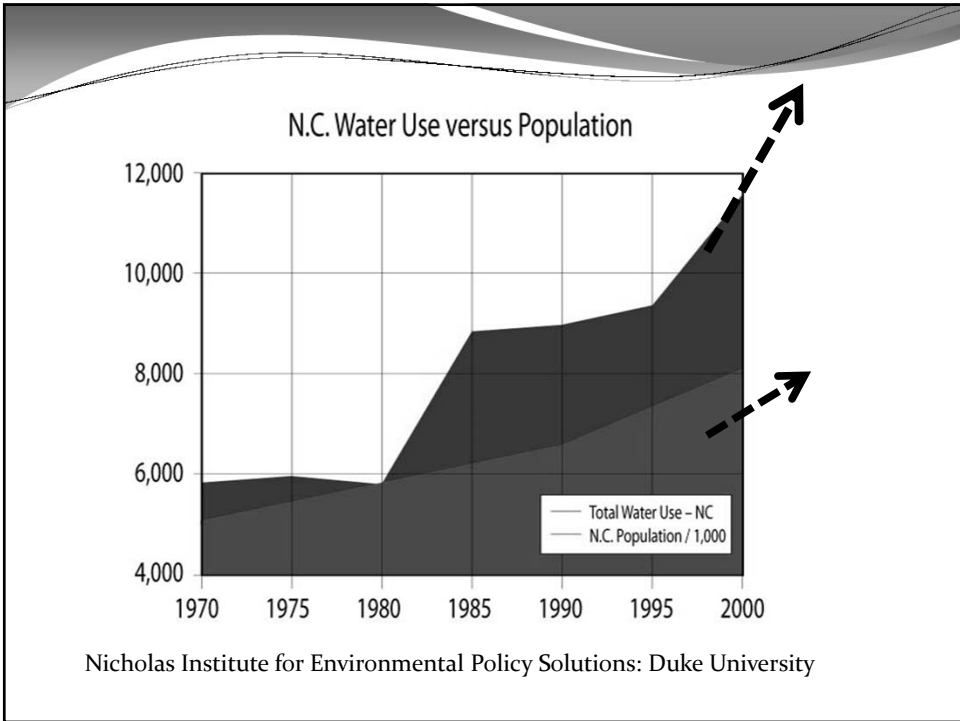
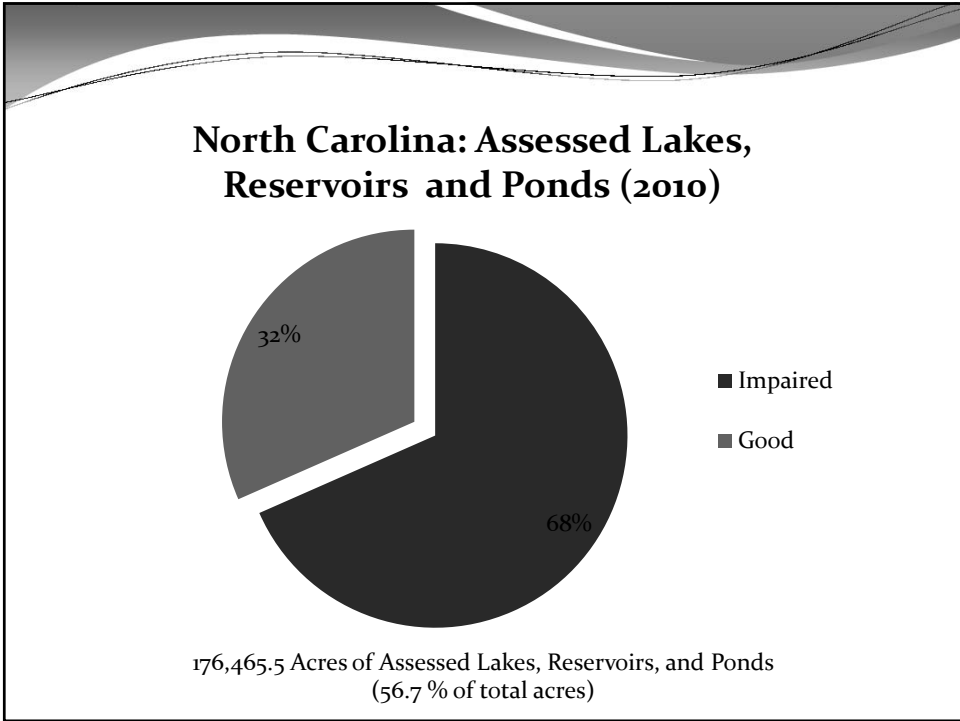


Current Conditions



Left: Courtesy Neuse River Foundation



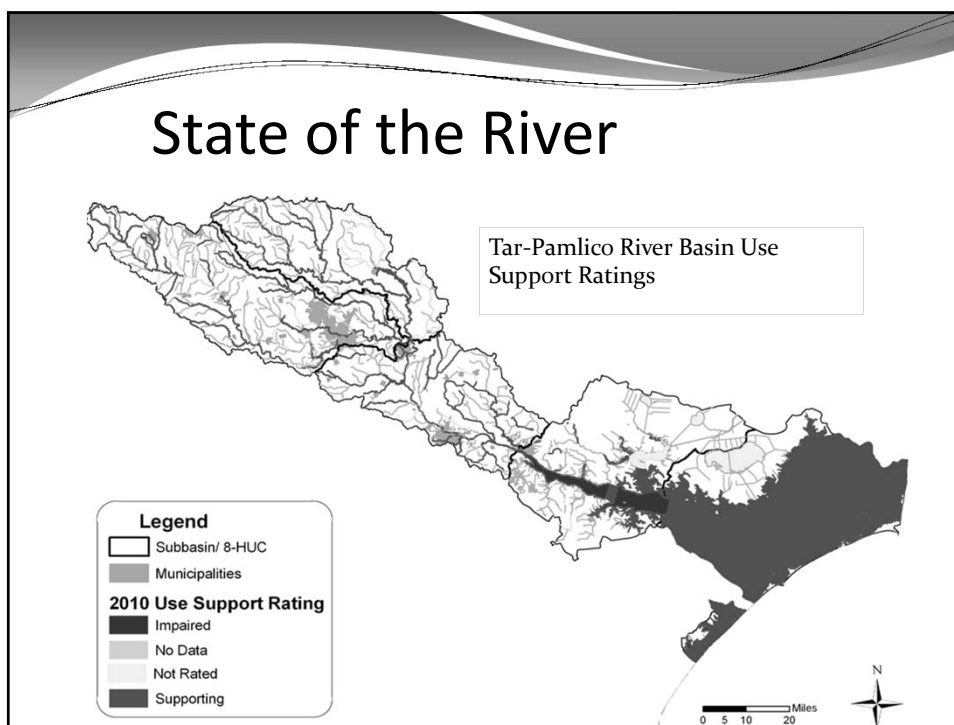


Tar-Pamlico Facts

- 180 mile river
- 4th largest in NC
- Encompasses 16 Counties
- > 6,100 square miles
- > 2,500 stream miles
- 663,000 Estuarine acres
- 3,997 acres freshwater lakes and reservoirs
- 17 miles of coastline
- > 440,000 residents
- 1989- River Declared Nutrient Sensitive Waterway (NSW)



State of the River



#1 Pollutant

- Choke spawning beds (reducing fish survival and growth rates)
- Harm fish food sources
- Fill in pools (reducing cover from prey and high temperature refuges)
- Reduce habitat complexity in stream channels.
- Reduce visibility to find prey
- Direct physical harm, such as clogged gills
- Taste and odor problems, block water supply intakes, foul treatment systems, and fill reservoirs.



Challenges

- Predicted growth & increased demand for water
- Regulatory Reform and dwindling State resources
- Climate Change and unknown changes
- Support for enforcement

Tar River Transportation Co.



Photo: North Carolina State Archives

Opportunities

- Increases in awareness by local elected leaders
- Public-private partnerships for restoration/education initiatives
- Increasing value of water
- Public support

