

Policy recommendations from year 1 of the UNC Nutrient Study

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Introductions

“Of primary concern is the possible eutrophic tendency of the lake **Studies** have shown that... the amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous presently found in the influent are adequate to produce algae blooms in the lake. **The blooms are likely to occur during the spring, summer, and fall months in the upper reaches of the lake where the nutrients enter. ... Direct withdrawal of water from the lake can be planned to avoid undesirable water characteristics.**”

~US Army Corps of Engineers, Final EIS for New Hope Reservoir, 1971.

Overview

- Most policy analysis and advice should await results of scientific investigations
- Year 1 policy report: advice on process
- Widely framing the policy options by investigating other states and regions
 - Chesapeake Bay
 - Big US multi-jurisdictional nutrient management efforts
 - Other southeastern states
 - “Snowball” leads

Keys to success

- Start by getting the primary goals right
- There is much support for collective responsibility and accountability
- Importance of maximizing local gains and co-benefits

Process recommendations

- Science + Outreach + Governance
- Serious stakeholder engagement
- Constant concern for cost-effectiveness
- Build a strategy that can learn and adapt

Questions and comments?

