



29 March 2004

Ken Jolly, Program Division Chief
US Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

Re: Introductions of Nonnative Species to North Carolina

Dear Mr. Jolly:

Please find attached a resolution approved by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (NCAFS) regarding the introduction of nonnative species. In our professional opinion, the introduction of nonnative aquatic species without thorough evaluation can result in degradation of aquatic ecosystems and their associated fisheries. The Environmental Concerns Committee of the NCAFS identified this issue to be a significant concern to the membership and developed the resolution. The resolution was presented to the NCAFS membership, voted on and approved at its annual meeting on 14 February 2003.

The NCAFS has a diverse membership. Its 139 members represent fisheries scientists from academic institutions, state and federal management agencies, and private institutions. Most NCAFS members are also members of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The AFS was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. The AFS promotes scientific research and enlightened management of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment by the public.

Sincerely,

Mallory G. Martin, President
North Carolina Chapter, American Fisheries Society
645 Fish Hatchery Rd
Marion, NC 28752
828-659-3324
martinmg@wnclink.com

cc: Larry Conner, President, Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Ira Adelman, President, American Fisheries Society
Ghassan Rassam, Executive Director, American Fisheries Society