

NC Policy Collaboratory/ UNC Nutrient Study

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UNC Institute for the Environment & NC Policy Collaboratory

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About the Institute



- Founded in 1998
- Campus-wide research
- Mission – research, education + service



About the Collaboratory



- Established by NC General Assembly in 2016
- Mission – utilize UNC research expertise for practical use by state and local government



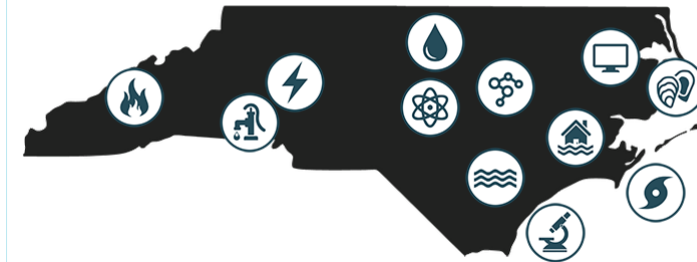
NC Policy Collaboratory

- Funded by the legislature with \$1 million in recurring annual appropriations.
- Work of the Collaboratory is overseen by an eight member Advisory Board.
- Collaboratory staff coordinates work, but projects are led by faculty and researchers.



Collaboratory Projects

Studies and Projects Across North Carolina



UNC Nutrient Study Background

- In 2016 NC General Assembly approved legislation for the “Development of New Comprehensive Nutrient Management Regulatory Framework.”
- UNC-Chapel Hill directed to conduct study of nutrient management strategies for Jordan and Falls Lakes.
- Study is funded annually at \$500,000 over a six year period. First three years of study are to focus on Jordan Lake and final three years are to focus on Falls Lake.



UNC Nutrient Study Background

Legislative language outlines specific components to be included in the study:

- 1) Review data collected by DEQ and compare trends in water quality to implementation of the elements of each of the nutrient strategies.
- 2) Examines costs and benefits of basinwide nutrient strategies in other states and the impact (or lack of impact) those strategies have had on water quality.



UNC Nutrient Study Team

- Study team is comprised of more than two dozen faculty, staff, and graduate students in:
 - UNC Institute for Marine Sciences
 - UNC Institute for the Environment
 - UNC Department of Marine Sciences
 - UNC School of Government
 - UNC Department of Geography
 - UNC Department of City and Regional Planning
 - NCSU Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering
 - NCSU Department of Soil Science



UNC Nutrient Study Projects

- Project components include:
 - Reviewing water quality data and conducting new sampling
 - Evaluating reservoir vulnerability to harmful algal blooms
 - Identifying major sources of nutrients and sediments
 - Analyzing nutrient mitigation and regulatory measures
 - Evaluating innovative financing mechanisms
 - Scanning nutrient management strategies from other states
 - Engaging with stakeholders throughout the watershed



UNC Nutrient Study Projects

- www.jordanlakeobservatory.unc.edu



UNC Nutrient Study Projects



Next Steps

- Interim Update to NC General Assembly due by December 31, 2017.
- Final report on Jordan Lake due by December 31, 2018.



Next Steps

- Targeted study briefings to stakeholder groups in the watershed.
- Day long Public Forum on the UNC Nutrient Study planned for March 2018 in Chapel Hill.