



April 25, 2017  
North Carolina Sea Grant  
850 Main Campus Drive, Suite 105, Toxicology Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695  
(919) 515-9104  
Fax: (919) 515-7095

RE: NCSG Core Funding Grant Proposal — 'The missing link? The role dissolved organic nitrogen plays in structuring phytoplankton community composition in the Neuse River Estuary, NC'

Dear North Carolina Sea Grant,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Yadkin Pee Dee Riverkeeper and fully support the above referenced research project. Yadkin Riverkeeper is a membership based watershed protection non-profit based in Winston-Salem. Like the Neuse, the Yadkin suffers from an overload of nutrients, primarily dissolved organic nitrogen and phosphorus, which in turn produces high levels of chl-a in our major lake-High Rock.

Our members fish, swim, paddle and drink from the Yadkin Riverkeeper and on their behalf we have been a part of the High Rock Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Technical Advisory committee for nearly a decade. Working alongside the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin Association, we are committed to maintaining good water quality that promotes the economic viability and environmental health of communities in the Yadkin Pee Dee valley.

Over the past decades constituent municipalities, public, and private agencies on the Yadkin have invested substantial resources to measure and assess how best to alleviate excess nitrogen loading to the Yadkin River. An improved understanding of how these nutrient reductions have impacted water quality in the Neuse River Estuary is of great interest to our organization.

The proposed work is timely given the recent expansion of poultry farming in the basin and increasing septic sources both in the river and estuarine watershed. We are greatly concerned that these proposed operations and continued development will undermine our efforts at nutrient load reductions and may lead to a recurrence of harmful algal blooms due to changing nitrogen source loading.

The determinations and understandings from this research project will provide substantial insight into how changes in nutrient loading, as changes in nitrogen source loading from largely inorganic forms to largely organic forms, may stimulate phytoplankton primary productivity and change community composition.

We strongly encourage your consideration of funding this research project because the findings could, additionally, provide insight for nutrient management strategies in coastal systems in North Carolina that have reached or will reach impairment in the near future from excessive and changing nutrient load.

If you have any questions, or need any further information, please contact me at 336-705-2397.

Best,  
Will Scott  
Yadkin Riverkeeper