

Information Item: 15-05 Annual Progress Reports on the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Agriculture Rules

Explanation:

The Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0238 and .0256, respectively) require that the Basin Oversight Committees (BOCs) report to the EMC each year on implementation progress. For crop year 2014, the BOCs received and approved annual reports from the 17 Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in the Neuse basin and the 14 Tar-Pamlico LACs. The reports showed cumulative nitrogen loss reductions of 46% and 51% from baseline through 2014 from Agriculture in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico respectively. Relative to reductions reported last year, this equates to a 9% increase in nitrogen loss reduction in the Neuse and a 10% increase in reduction in the Tar-Pamlico Basin. These increases in nitrogen loss reductions are primarily the result of cropping shifts to low nitrogen crops and adjustments to the types of crops entered into the accounting tool. Separate report documents are provided for each basin from the respective BOCs. Staff will also present additional background information on the agriculture accounting methodology and best management practices.