

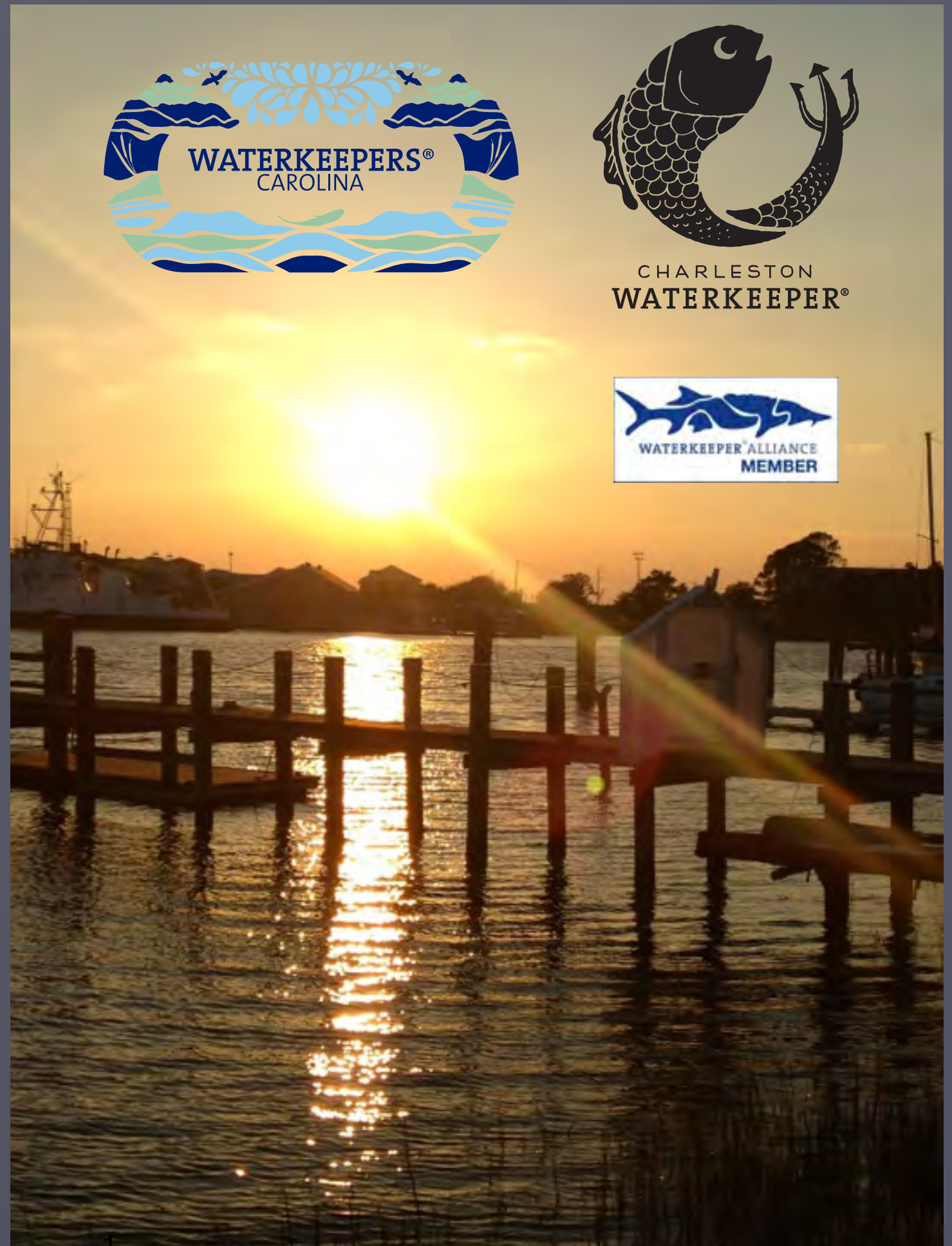
Protecting Tidal Creeks: Riverkeeper Perspectives

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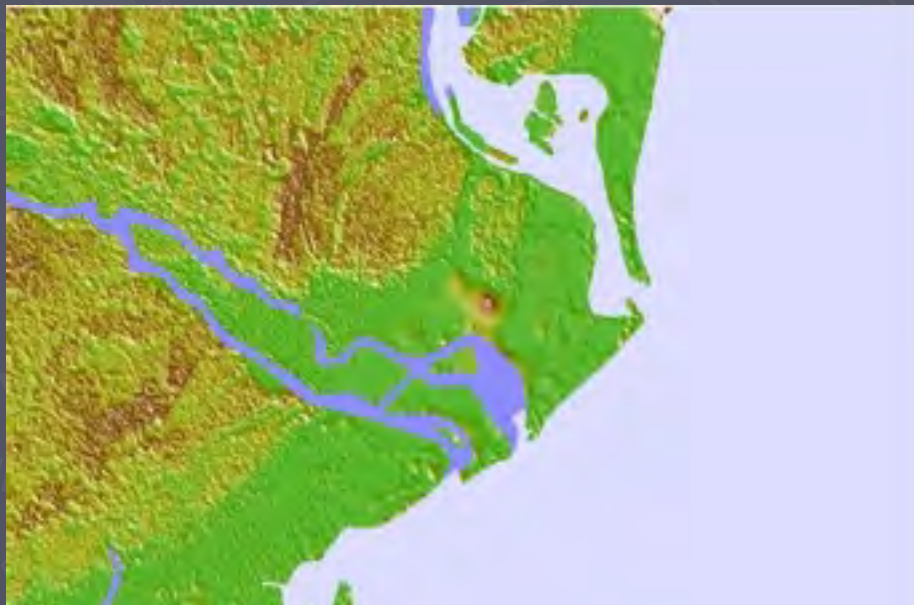




North Carolina Watersheds



South Carolina Watersheds





For more information, contact Heather Ward
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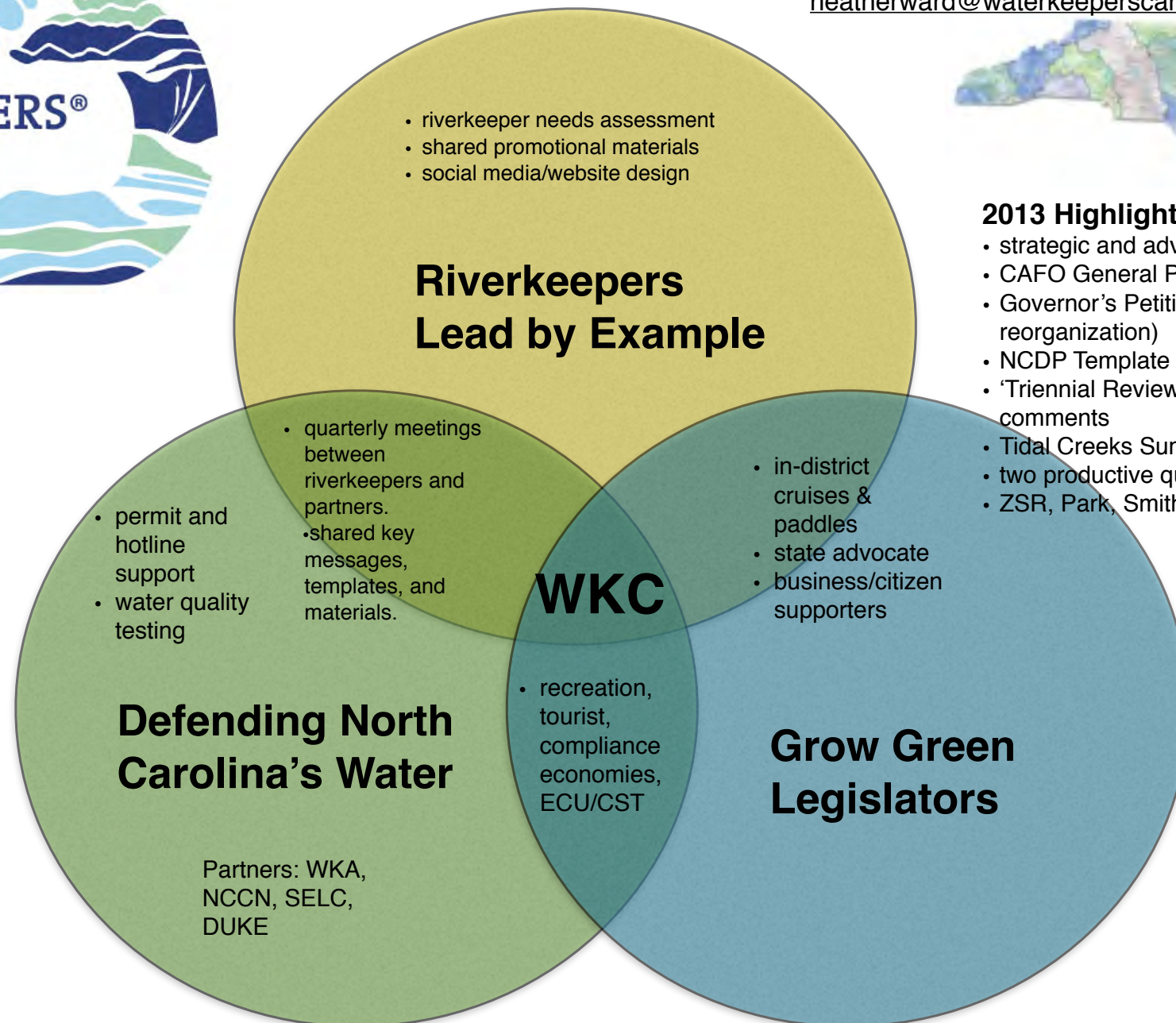


Vision

Waterkeepers Carolina sees a future when every local, state, and national policymaker understands the ecological and economic importance of North Carolina's rivers and watersheds and embraces an active caretaker role of state water resources.

Mission

Waterkeepers Carolina aims to motivate and empower North Carolina's riverkeepers and water stewards and then leverage their powerful collective advocacy at all levels of government to benefit diverse watershed communities.



2013 Highlights

- strategic and advocacy plans
- CAFO General Permit comments
- Governor's Petition (DENR reorganization)
- NCDP Template
- 'Triennial Review' public comments
- Tidal Creeks Summit
- two productive quarterly meetings
- ZSR, Park, Smith proposals

Case for Support

- collaboration
- committee & commission representatives
- grassroots community engagement
- connected networks

- state-level presence
- national support
- watershed focus
- urban/rural/advantaged/disadvantaged
- variety of skill sets
- longevity

Familiar Threats

- industrial pollution
- agricultural nutrients and pesticides
- impervious surfaces and storm water
- channelization and impoundments
- sedimentation and persistent contaminants
- bacteria
- invasive species.....

Best Management Practices

- vegetated buffers
- soft, low-slope shorelines
- natural flows and temperatures
- low-impact development
- pasture-based local/regional food production
- pooper-scooper programs.....

***Hydrologic Connectivity =
Sentinel System***





Layers



river lake road elm city nc

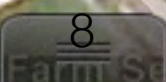
35° 50' 48" N 77° 55' 43" W · altitude 1,197 ft

Google earth



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Image USDA Farm Service Agency



North Carolina's current political environment represents additional long-term threats to surface and ground water and tidal creeks.



1. Weakened State Support for the Environment
2. Confident Industrial Goliaths and New Processes
3. Disadvantaged and Declining Place-based Communities



Regulatory Decline

- Overdue CWA Triennial Review
- H74 Regulatory Reform Act of 2013
- S151 Coastal Policy Reform Act
- S76 Domestic Energy Jobs Act
- S341 Amend Interbasin Transfer Law

2014 Short Session

- H938 Improve Wetlands Mitigation Programs
- H94 Amend Environmental Laws 2014

Industrial Goliaths

- Martin Marietta - Blounts Creek
- Titan America - Cape Fear
- Enviva Pellets, Ahoskie - Chowan
- Smithfield Food - CAFOs

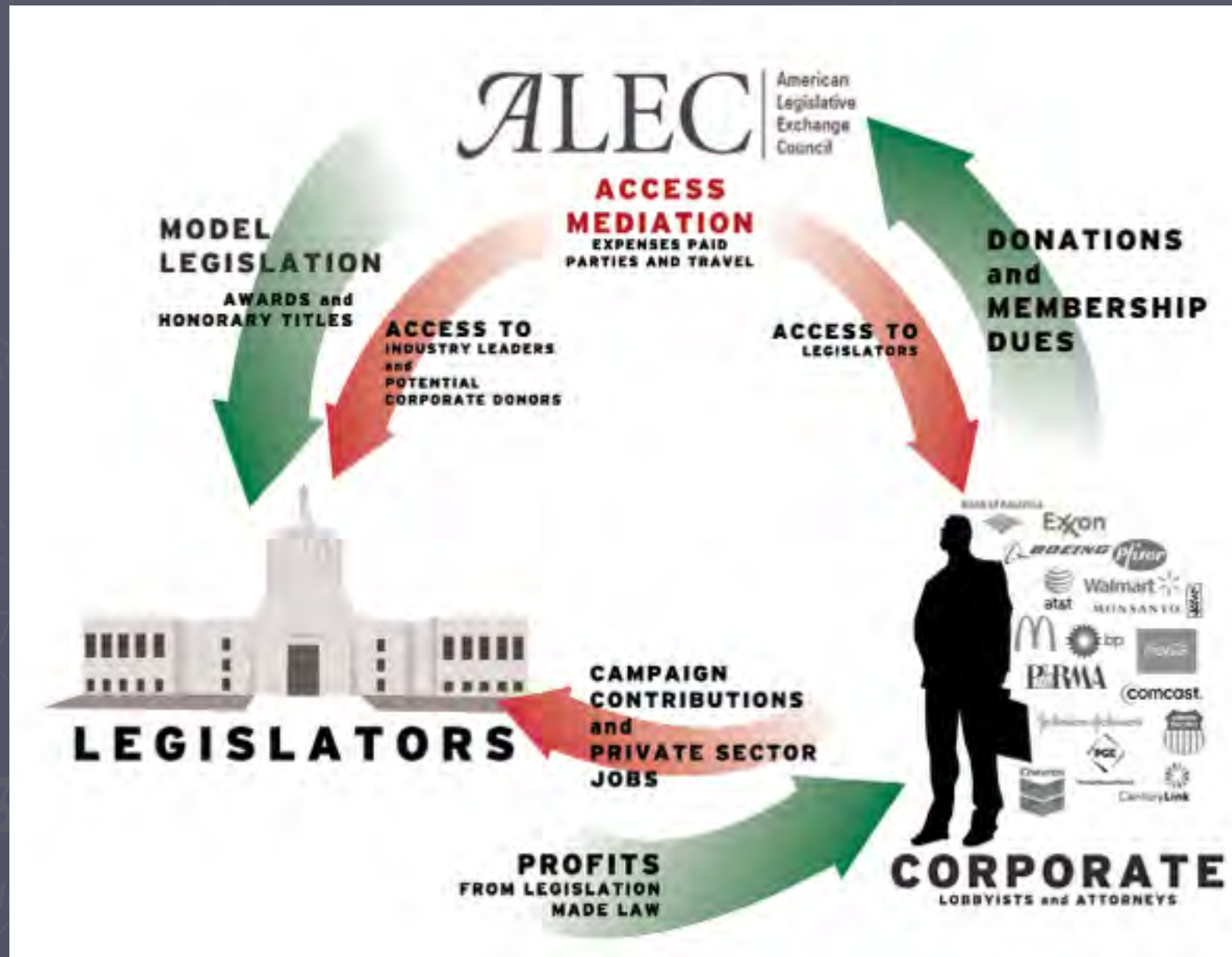
South Carolina riverkeepers face similar powerful POTW and industrial lobbying groups and relatively weak state water quality programs.



1. South Carolina Water Quality Association
2. Funding for monitoring in SC at historically low levels.
3. DHEC outreach is poor.

Charleston Waterkeeper® aims to fill large gaps in baseline water quality data and communicate science to the public.

We need a new model for environmental advocacy and collaboration that brings together scientists, nonprofits, and green economic sectors and then leverages our respective strengths.



Science and planning
+ grassroots organizing and state-level advocacy
+ “jobs, jobs, jobs”
= INFLUENCE



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