



Britt Cobb
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

N. David Smith
Deputy Commissioner

September 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

FROM: N. David Smith, Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: Departmental Reorganization

In early 2004 we learned that the director of the Aquaculture Division planned to retire on or around July 1, 2004. At that time the Aquaculture Division consisted of a division director and two field employees who worked from their homes. Because we had been asked to identify cuts to our appropriated budget, we saw that retirement as an opportunity to identify budget savings without sacrificing program performance. The decision was made to transfer the Aquaculture program to the Market Development Section in the Division of Marketing and to reallocate the division director position to one specializing in environmental and natural resources issues (pay grade 74). That position reports to Assistant Commissioner Jim Cummings. For some time we had been planning to provide Assistant Commissioner Cummings with assistance to help him cover the ever-expanding world of environmental/natural resource issues. A budget cut of \$10,000 was identified (which was subsequently accepted by the General Assembly) with the remaining Aquaculture Division operating budget to be split between the Division of Marketing (2/3) and support for the environmental/natural resource position (1/3). The duties and headquarters of the two remaining Aquaculture positions did not change. The positions were simply transferred to another division.

The environmental/natural resources position will assume specific responsibilities for two major program areas (environmental protection programs and natural resource management programs), serving as chief liaison for the department in areas of legislation and regulations, statewide program assessment, management and program direction, environmental and natural resource management law, research and survey methods, theories and principles of sustainable development, rural sustainability, biological systems and diversity, agricultural management practices and methods, and engineering principles and application. This position will represent the Commissioner on various appointed advisory councils, technical committees, river basin NPS teams and other state and federal agencies, boards and commissions.

A revised departmental organization chart is attached. Please contact me if you have any questions.

NDS:dhd