



Audubon
Armchair Activist

Audubon's Letter of the Month Club

April 1, 2003

DEADLINE FOR CLEAN WATER COMMENTS FAST APPROACHING!

With just two weeks left before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) closes the comment period for the general public to weigh-in on which waters should be covered under the Clean Water Act, we're once again dedicating an *Armchair Activist* issue to encourage participation and action on this vitally important issue. **The public has until April 16, 2003 to submit comments!**

The Clean Water Act is considered one of the most successful environmental laws in the country – yet enormous water quality challenges still remain. In this specific effort, the EPA is looking to permanently remove protections for “isolated” wetlands and intrastate waters. These waters are tremendously important to birds, wildlife and people, therefore must have protections the Act provides. Wetlands act as nature's filters, and the guardians of clean water. They help keep our rivers, lakes and streams clean, healthy and pollution-free. The more wetlands we destroy, the more contaminants we will have in our drinking water. Wetlands save communities millions of dollars that would otherwise be spent on expensive water treatment facilities.

Help ensure all of America's waters are protected under the Clean Water Act by submitting your comment to EPA today. There are two ways for you to participate:

(1) Submit a specific comment for your chapter or organization. Audubon, together with our partners in the Clean Water Network, have created a template to help you craft your letter. These specific comments are tremendously valuable and provide critical information on specific waters that need Clean Water Act protections. Copies of the template have been forwarded to all Chapters. For additional copies of the template, please contact Audubon at audubonaction@audubon.org, or by calling 1-800-659-2622.

(2) send a free, pre-written comment to the EPA via our special TAKE ACTION site. A sample letter is here attached as well. You can access our special site at www.audubon.org

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to weigh-in on the proposed change and urge the Administration to reinstate protections for all of America's waters!

It's imperative the EPA hears from as many people as possible regarding the need to protect all of America's waters, as that's our best chance to ensure they do so. So please send your comment in as soon as possible.

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Date Here

Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode 4101T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460
Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0050

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to comment on your Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding waters that are subject to the Clean Water Act, specifically "isolated" wetlands and intrastate waters, as they are ecologically and economically important to all Americans.

Ecologically, wetlands are nature's filters, and act as the guardians of clean water. They help keep our rivers, lakes and streams clean, healthy and pollution-free. The more wetlands we destroy, the more contaminants we will have in our drinking water. Wetlands save communities millions of dollars that would otherwise be spent on expensive water treatment facilities.

Economically, wetlands are nurseries for millions of birds, fish and shellfish. 75% of all commercial marine fish and shellfish, which contribute billions of dollars in harvests each year, depend on wetlands. In 2001, people that engaged in wildlife watching, fishing and hunting activities, contributed more than \$108 billion in revenue to local communities across the country.

Our nations waters and wetlands are all interconnected. Each river, stream, lake and wetland is inextricably linked to the rest. Clean and healthy water is vital for our economy and our fisheries. It is critical for human health. It is critical for birds and wildlife. Functioning, intact natural wetlands protect people's property, livelihood, and lives from potentially damaging floods.

When protections for our waters are removed, the only things that are guaranteed are more pollution, less wildlife, and greater human health and safety risks. That's too great a risk for us and for future generations. That's why I urge you to adhere to the Clean Water Act as originally written, and protect all of America's wetlands and intrastate waters.

Sincerely,
Your Name

sample letter:

Audubon
1150 Connecticut Ave, NW #600
Washington, D.C. 20036



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Clean Water