

Article #: 52

Title: Measuring the Economic Benefits of Water Quality Improvement with Benefit Transfer: An Introduction for Non-Economists

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Journal: American Fisheries Society Symposium

Date: 2005

Pages: 1-18(KB 11/12/08)H

Abstract: In this paper, the reader is given an introduction to economic water quality methods, theories, and models for non-economists. These include; benefit cost analysis, use and nonuse values, stated preference methods, contingent valuation, travel cost method, hedonic price model, and benefit transfer.

The paper includes an example of benefit transfer by estimating the value of water quality improvements for the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Benefit transfer uses benefit estimates borrowed from other studies combined with other estimates to construct combined benefit and cost estimates.

Conclusions include that economics can be used to analyze the efficiency of water quality policy. Several benefit estimation methods are available and benefit transfer is often used as a cost-effective tool per the Cape Fear River example.