

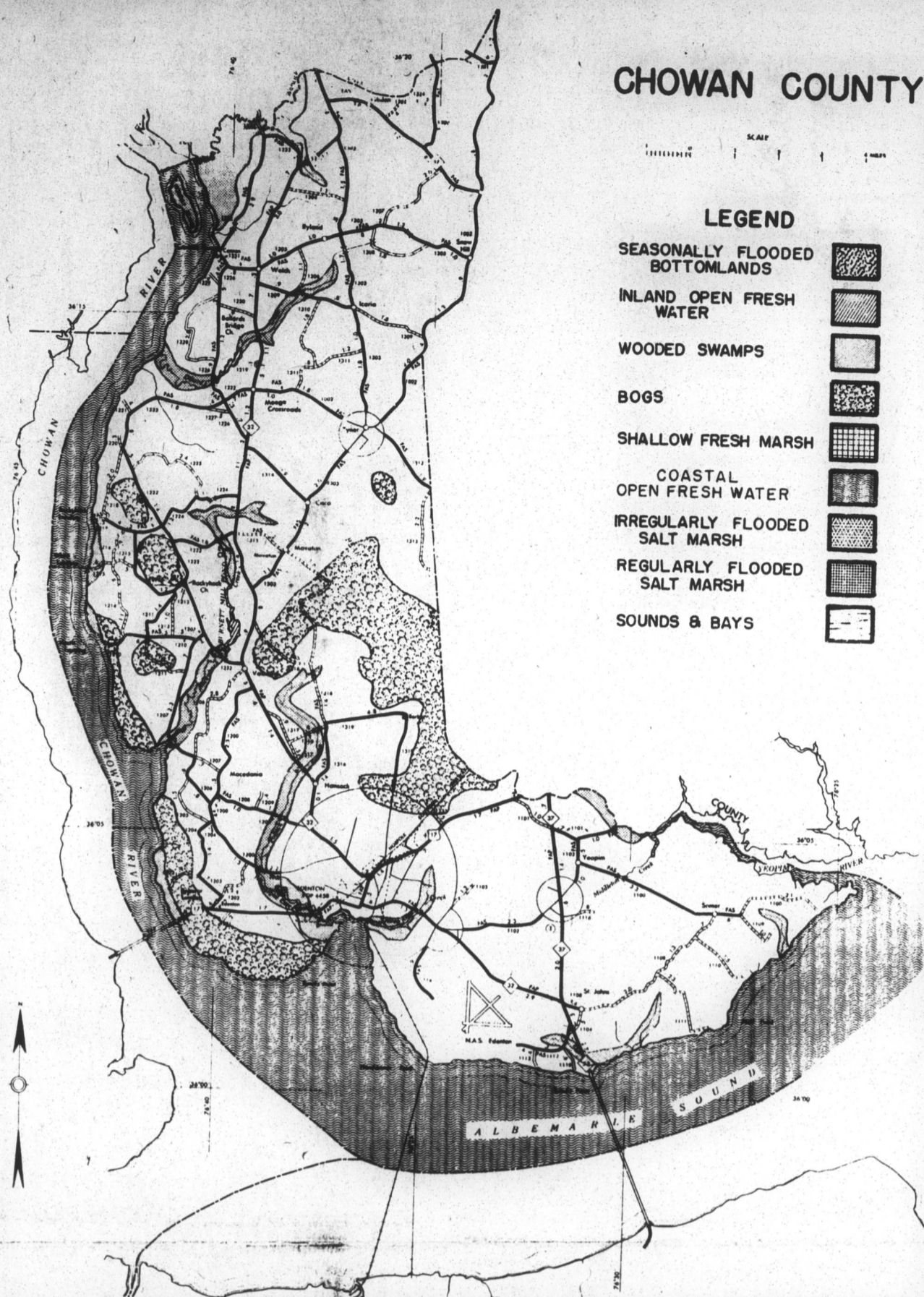
Dr. Hawley Conducting Study Of Wetlands In 41 Coastal Counties: Many Questions To Be Answered By Information

A wetlands study is now underway in 41 coastal plains counties of North Carolina. The following article is designed to answer many questions about this study, which includes the Chowan County.

STUDY? Dr. Arthur J. Hawley is assistant professor of geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. This study is a part of research on the water resources of the state and is supported by a grant from the Water Resources Research Institute of the University. The final results will be published by the Institute as one of its Research Reports early in 1973.

WHY? This study is being done at this time in order to identify important wetland areas in North Carolina before they are threatened with alteration or drainage. "I feel that more intelligent decisions can be made in a non-crisis atmosphere devoid of political influences. I also feel that local citizens in this county are thoroughly familiar with their wetland areas. You are in a better position to identify the important wetlands and outline their values than anyone else in the state. Therefore, I am requesting your help in identifying and helping to protect these wetlands which deserve this special attention."

WETLAND VALUES "To ensure the preservation or conservation of important wetland areas in this county I need specific statements about the values these areas possess." **Continued on Page 9**



CHOWAN COUNTY

- LEGEND**
- SEASONALLY FLOODED BOTTOMLANDS
 - INLAND OPEN FRESH WATER
 - WOODED SWAMPS
 - BOGS
 - SHALLOW FRESH MARSH
 - COASTAL OPEN FRESH WATER
 - IRREGULARLY FLOODED SALT MARSH
 - REGULARLY FLOODED SALT MARSH
 - SOUNDS & BAYS

STUDY AREA The eastern 41 coastal plain counties of North Carolina make up the study area. The maps in Kenneth A. Wilson's study, "North Carolina Wetlands," show all wetland areas in eastern North Carolina (40 acres or more in size) as of the years 1957-59. These areas were plotted on county highway base maps (map of your county attached). The specific wetland categories shown on this map are those used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, areas not shown on this map should be added if they meet the requirements of this study.

WETLAND LOCATIONS "If you feel there are no wetland areas in this county worth preserving, please sign your name to the attached map and return it to me. If there are wetlands worth preserving please outline their location on the map. It also will be helpful to indicate levels of importance, where these exist. For example, there may be some wetlands absolutely essential to preserve (primary), others may be of lesser significance but still important (secondary), and still others may exist which would be nice to retain but which are of limited importance (tertiary). Be very precise in establishing the boundary lines of these areas because they will be used in the future to define the outer limits of these wetlands. Add any areas you feel are important but which do not appear on this map."

OBJECTIVES "I am seeking answers to three basic questions: (1) Are there any wetlands in this county worth preserving either in their present state or in some form of multi-purpose use? (2) If so, where are they located? (3) What values do these areas have as wetlands that justify leaving them in this land use?"

DEFINITIONS What are "wetlands"? Wetlands are vegetated land areas with surplus water on or at the surface during at least part of the year. This includes swamps, bogs, marches and all other more specific categories. However, these wetland areas should not be confused with "wet" cropland areas. These are specifically excluded from this study.

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