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Formation and Accomplishments of the Norris Reservoir Task Force: A Partnership Approach

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In response to increasing complaints and dissatisfaction by local anglers over the fishing quality on Norris Reservoir, the Norris Reservoir Task Force was formed in January 1992. This interagency task force was composed of state and federal fishery professionals, research staff from two universities and volunteer anglers joined together in a partnership approach to fisheries management in Norris Reservoir. Major issues and concerns perceived by anglers were identified and solutions to selected problems were proposed and implemented. Three major projects were undertaken by the group: (1) a comprehensive baseline reservoir sampling effort involving various agencies and volunteers, (2) a habitat enhancement program that used many volunteers, (3) a comprehensive fishery management plan was developed. Volunteers donated over 7,500 h to these projects while state, federal, and university personnel provided supervision, equipment, and supplies, and coordinated the sampling and work efforts. Working together in these cooperative efforts enabled biologists to gain a better understanding of angler views and concerns and anglers to gain insights into the complexity of reservoir fisheries management.

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