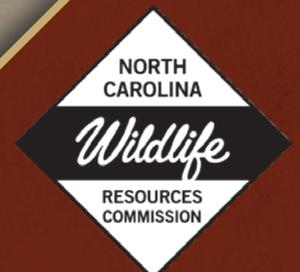


North Carolina

# Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

REGULATIONS DIGEST

2020-2021



Effective Aug. 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021  
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## North Carolina

# Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

REGULATIONS DIGEST

2020–2021

## State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper, Governor

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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### On the Cover

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NORTH  
CAROLINA

Wildlife

RESOURCES  
COMMISSION

# A Message

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Wildlife Stakeholders,

The year 2020 has brought about significant change for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission with the retirement of Executive Director Gordon Myers. On behalf of the Commission and staff, I thank Gordon for his leadership of the agency and his dedication to conserving the wildlife resources and diverse habitats of this state for the enjoyment of future generations.

Major Cameron "Cam" Ingram was named the new head of the agency in June. Ingram has served in the agency's Law Enforcement Division since 1997 and is a graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation and a concentration in Natural Resource Management. Given Cam's extensive experience in various leadership roles within the agency, I am confident he will lead the Commission in a positive direction into the future.

This year has also been unlike any other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since mid-March, North Carolina citizens, like most throughout the nation, were faced with unprecedented restrictions in their daily lives. However, a silver lining in all this has been the number of people seeking opportunities for outdoor recreation, with many North Carolinians taking advantage of the great outdoors for the first time.

Agency staff worked diligently to keep the Commission's 92 game lands open for use during the pandemic. These lands, depending upon locality, offered and continue to offer ample access to outdoor recreational opportunities including hunting, shooting sports, fishing, hiking, trapping, horseback riding, birding, wildlife watching, boating and kayaking. Staff went to great lengths to keep as many of its hundreds of free boating access areas and public fishing access areas on more than 100 different waterbodies open to the public as possible, closing only those, as necessary, to comply with city, county or municipality ordinances. Also, worth noting in what is mostly attributed to hunters having more spare time, the 2020 spring turkey season had the highest harvest on record with 23,341 birds, far surpassing the previous record of 18,919 harvested birds set in 2017. Even during the week-long youth season, harvest increased by 110 percent over previous years.

As the days and months ahead unfold, under Cam's leadership, the Commission will continue to actively pursue ways to increase public access to the great outdoors and encourage the public to take advantage of outdoor recreation. I encourage you to visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) to learn more about the wide range of outdoor opportunities we offer and plan your next adventure.

Sincerely Yours,

David W. Hoyle Jr.  
Chairman



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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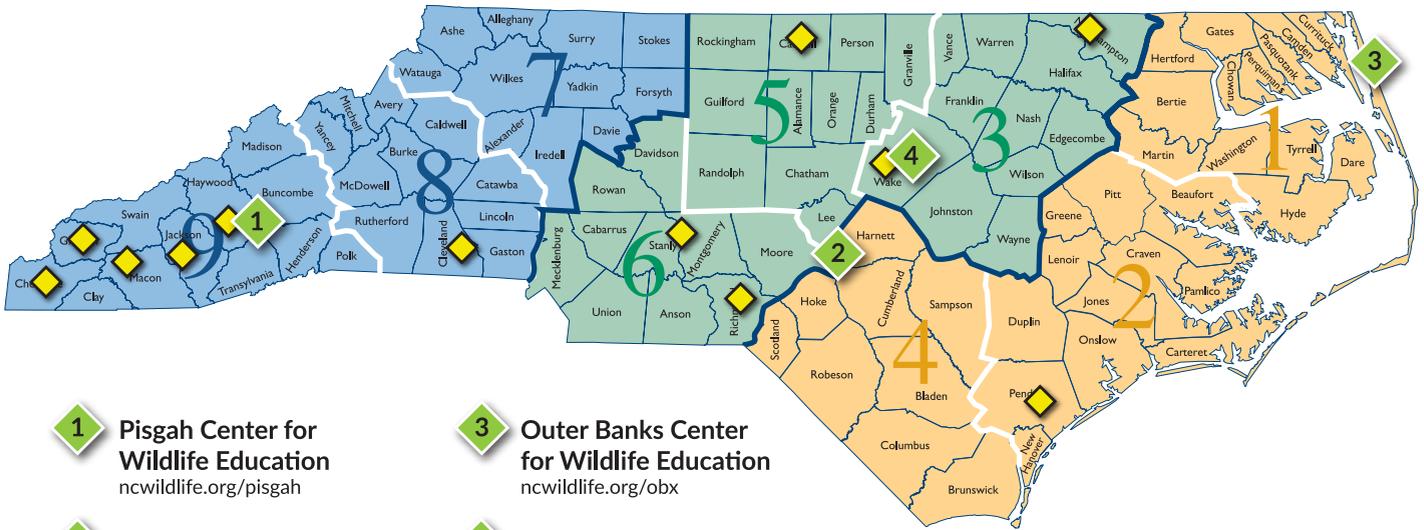
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# N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

## INFORMATION

### Education Centers and Shooting Ranges



**1** Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education  
ncwildlife.org/pisgah

**3** Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education  
ncwildlife.org/obx

**2** John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center  
ncwildlife.org/pechmann

**4** NCWR Headquaters  
ncwildlife.org

**◆** N.C. Shooting Ranges  
ncwildlife.org/ShootingRanges

Visit us online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) for maps to our facilities.

## Phone Numbers

Big Game Harvest Reporting.....	800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663)	Regulation Information.....	919-707-0030
Boating Access Areas .....	919-707-0150	Turn In Poachers (TIP) .....	855-945-3847
Boating Safety Course Information.....	919-707-0030	Wildlife Calendar/N.C. Wild Store Products .....	866-945-3746
Boater Safety Education - Replacement Certificates...	888-248-6834	Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine.....	800-786-2721
Enforcement Operations Office .....	919-707-0030	Vessel Registration and Titling.....	800-628-3773
Engineering.....	919-707-0150	Violations Reporting.....	800-662-7137
Game Lands/Public Lands.....	919-707-0150	In the Raleigh area.....	919-707-0040
Human Resources.....	919-707-0101	Via TTY Machine* .....	800-662-7137
Hunter Safety Course Information .....	919-707-0031	*(TTY machine available for people with hearing disabilities)	
Hunter Safety Education - Replacement Certificates ..	888-248-6834	Wildlife Education .....	919-707-0170
Inland Fisheries .....	919-707-0220	Wildlife Helpline .....	866-318-2401
License Information .....	888-248-6834	(information on wildlife behavior, damage, injury, and co-existing)	
Marine Fisheries.....	252-726-7021	Wildlife Management.....	919-707-0050
	800-682-2632		

## Get N.C. Wildlife Update

News including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more – delivered to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Go to [ncwildlife.org/enevs](http://ncwildlife.org/enevs).

## Equal Opportunity

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All wildlife programs are administered for the benefit of all North Carolina citizens without prejudice toward age, sex, race, religion or national origin. Violations of this pledge may be reported to the Equal Employment Officer, 1703 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700, Tel. 919-707-0101.

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# What's New

## FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON

As part of the Commission's ongoing effort to keep you informed, we reserve this page of the digest each year to identify significant regulatory, legislative and agency-related changes that you should be aware of each season. Please note that the information found on this page is not a complete list of regulation changes. For your convenience, all regulation changes appear throughout the digest in **RED**.

Following is a list of significant changes for the 2020-2021 season:

### Fishing

- A statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit was established for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass. See page 28.
- Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead were designated as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters. See page 24. A statewide daily creel limit of 10 fish in combination was established. There is no minimum size limit or closed season. See page 30.

### Hunting

- Big Game Harvest Reporting:
  - » Hunters must notch or cut out the month and date of harvest on their Big Game Harvest Report Card before moving from site of kill/harvest.
  - » Hunters must report big game prior to leaving it unattended or transferring it to another individual.
  - » All harvested big game must be reported prior to the animal being skinned or dismembered.

- » All harvested big game shall be reported by 12:00 pm the day following harvest.
- » Any big game animal left unattended or transferred to another must have an authorization number.
- » Big game harvested in remote areas must be registered by 12:00 p.m., the day after leaving the remote area. Please see page 64 for more information about big game harvest reporting.

- The daily bag limit (from 12:00 noon to 12:00 noon) for bullfrogs is 24, and there is no closed season nor license requirement, except on Wildlife Resources Commission Property. See page 51 for more information.
- The blackpowder season is now full season either-sex in the special deer season areas of Buncombe and Henderson County:
  - » Buncombe: that part east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, west of U.S. 25 and north of N.C. 280.
  - » Henderson: that part east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

### Game Lands

- On Veteran and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other

than for training), with valid credentials can hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas. See page 80.

- Horseback riding opportunities have been expanded at South Mountains Game Land. See page 86.
- Target shooting has been prohibited at Sandy Mush Game Land. See page 86.
- The pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land south of US 74 is prohibited. See page 85.
- Bullfrogs may be taken from April 1 – August 31 with a valid license (Game Land, hunting, fishing, etc.) that allows access to and the use of Wildlife Resources Commission Property. See page 80.

### Trapping

- Licensed trappers will be issued a Trapper Identification Number (TIN) at the time they purchase or renew their trapping license. The TIN is printed on the license. Either the TIN and Commission telephone number (800-662-7137) or the trapper's name and address can be used on the required weather-resistant permanent tag attached to the trap. If a trapper places a trap on the property of another, the Commission is required to disclose the identity of the trapper to the landowner where the trap is located at the landowner's request. See page 53.
- Lifetime Trapping Licenses are now available for purchase by North Carolina residents. The cost is \$300 and all proceeds from the sale of this license go to the Wildlife Endowment Fund. See page 16.



*The North Carolina chapter has*

- Committed **over \$395,000** for Wildlife Resources Commission projects since 2017
- Conserved or enhanced **over 100,000 acres** of wildlife habitat across North Carolina since 2014
- Secured **over 7,000 acres** of hunter access since 2014
- Produced over **30,000 new hunters** since 2012

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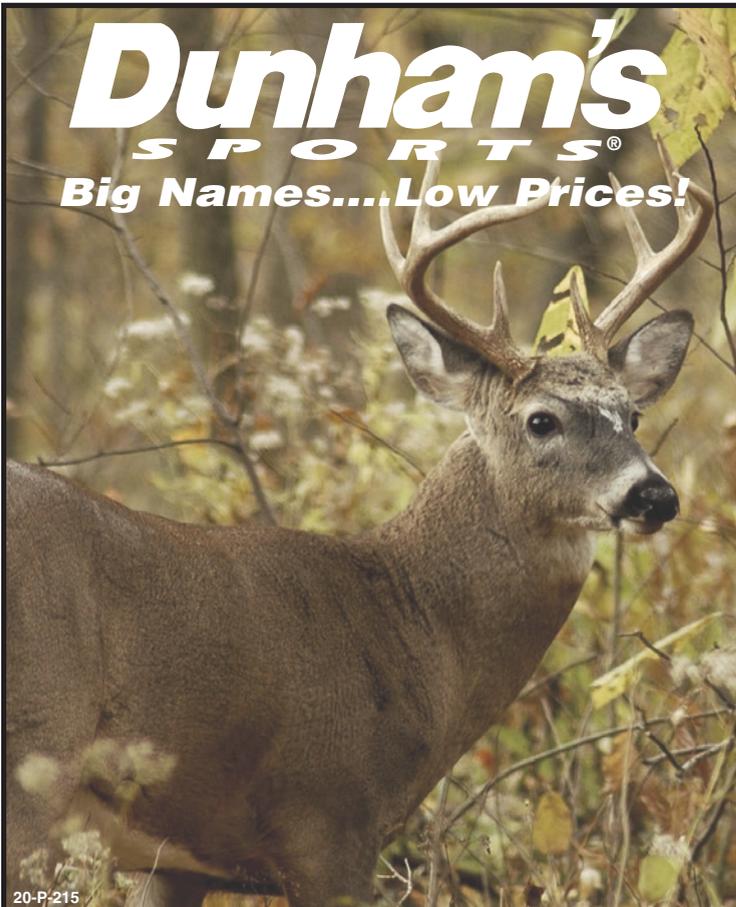
- \$2,000,000 aggregate
- \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- Landowners added to policy for no additional charge
- Certificates of Insurance emailed within 24 hours
- Start dates on first of each month
- Landowners added as additional insured at no charge
- Coverage includes ALL members of the hunt club
- Liability from tree stands and ATVs for hunting
- Member-to-member coverage
- Guest liability coverage
- Medical expenses (\$5,000)
- No deductible

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# License

## INFORMATION

### General Information

The services that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission provides to the public are financed primarily through the sales of licenses, which include hunting, fishing, trapping and other licenses. The various types of licenses sold by the Commission differ with respect to the activities they authorize, where and when the activities occur, and where the license-holder resides. This section provides some general information about these licenses, followed by detailed summaries of the various licenses available, the privileges they authorize and the associated fees. All licenses are nontransferable.

#### Purchasing Licenses

You can purchase a license for immediate use in four ways as listed below. A \$2 transaction fee may be applied to your total order at time of purchase.

- **Visit a wildlife service agent**—Most licenses, including lifetime licenses, can be obtained from your local wildlife service agent. Be prepared to present your valid driver license or state identification card.
- **Visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)**—Most licenses are available for purchase online using a computer or mobile device.
- **Phone 888-248-6834**—Have a pen, paper, VISA or MasterCard, and NCWRC customer number handy.
- **All licenses may be obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission in person** at NCSU Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. or by mail at NCWRC, 1707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700.

#### Disabled Licenses

Disabled licenses and permits are available to North Carolina residents and must be obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Commission does not honor disabled licenses or permits from other states. To learn more about disabled licenses or to obtain an application, visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), call 888-248-6834, or write NCWRC, 1707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700.

#### Replacement Licenses

To replace a license that becomes worn, lost or destroyed, call 888-248-6834, go to [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), or visit a wildlife service agent. A \$5 fee is charged for the replacement license. A \$2 transaction fee may be applied to your total order at time of purchase.

#### License Information

For more information on licenses, obtaining license applications or obtaining a list of wildlife

service agents nearest you, visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), or call 888-248-6834.

#### Reciprocal Fishing License Agreements

A reciprocal fishing license agreement is in effect between North Carolina and each of the states listed below. The agreement provides for the following: All statewide hook-and-line fishing licenses obtainable from either North Carolina or the respective state are honored on certain boundary waters as noted:

##### Georgia

The agreement with Georgia covers fishing from boats not anchored to the shore or to a pier or boat dock connecting to the shore on Chatuge Reservoir including all tributaries that are accessible by boat from the main body of the reservoir.

##### Tennessee

The agreement with Tennessee covers the state-line portion of Slick Rock Creek and Calderwood Reservoir.

##### Virginia

The agreement with Virginia covers boat fishing the Dan River east of the Union Street Dam in Danville, the Staunton River east of the mouth of Difficult Creek, and Kerr and Gaston reservoirs and their tributaries that are accessible by boat. The agreement also covers that portion of the New River between the confluence of the North and South forks of the New River in North Carolina (Alleghany County) and the confluence of the New and Little rivers in Virginia (Grayson County).

##### South Carolina

No reciprocal agreements exist between North Carolina and South Carolina that provide for honoring the other state's fishing licenses on any boundary waters.

### License Requirements and Exceptions

#### License Identification Requirements

To show entitlement to a license issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission, anyone exercising the privileges conveyed by the license shall carry a picture identification card and show it to any wildlife enforcement officer upon request. The picture identification card should include the license-holder's correct name, address and date of birth. (A North Carolina Driver License or Department of Motor Vehicles identification card is acceptable.)

#### Residency Definitions and Requirements

##### Resident

You are considered a resident if you have resided in the state for six months or have been domiciled (established a permanent residence) for 60 days. When residency is used to establish eligibility applicants must complete a Certificate of Residency, available from a wildlife service agent or the Wildlife Resources Commission, certifying that they have maintained residence in a county of the state for at least 60 days with the intent to reside there permanently. Individuals claiming residency in another state cannot claim to be a resident in N.C. regardless of whether they own property, pay property tax, pay utility bills, etc., in N.C. Residency can only be established in one state.

##### Students

Nonresident students may purchase a resident license while attending a university, college or community college in North Carolina. When purchasing your license from a wildlife service agent, you must show your valid student identification.

##### Military Stationed In N.C.

Nonresident members of the U.S. Armed Forces (including their spouses and children under 18) who are stationed in the state are deemed residents of the state and of the counties in which they reside for the purpose of purchasing resident licenses.

##### Military Stationed Outside N.C.

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty outside of North Carolina shall be deemed an individual resident of the State for the purpose of purchasing short-term and annual hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

##### Nonresident

Nonresident status applies to anyone who does not live in the state of North Carolina, with the exceptions noted above (students and military).

#### Hunter Education Course Requirement

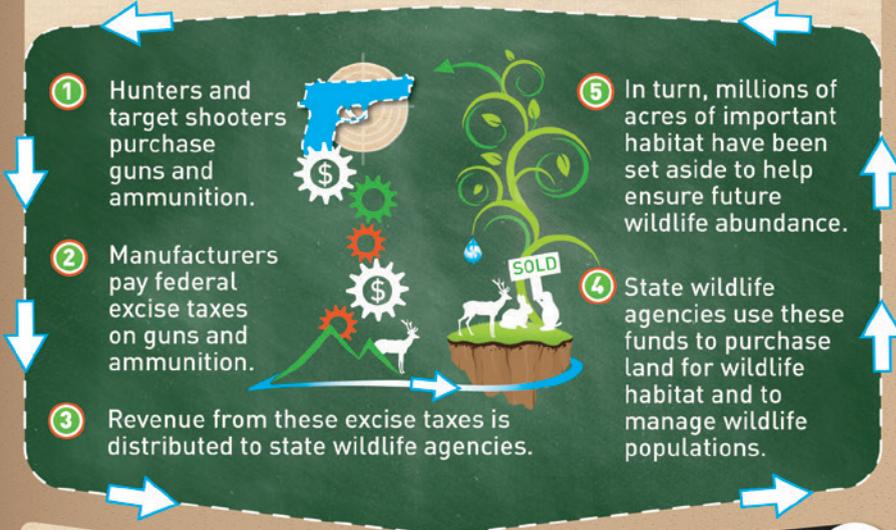
Except as specified below, on or after July 1, 2013, a person, regardless of age, may not purchase a hunting license in this state without producing one of the following, a hunter education certificate of competency, a N.C. hunting heritage apprentice permit, or a N.C. hunting license issued prior to July 1, 2013.

A person who wishes to purchase a lifetime license need not comply with the requirements above in order to purchase that license, so long as the person does not hunt unless they have successfully completed the hunter education course or they are accompanied by an adult at

# HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

## HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided

**MORE THAN \$12.5 Billion**

For Conservation So Far

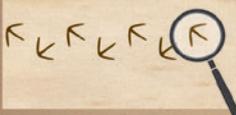


### Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas



Research projects focused on wildlife conservation



Hunter safety and education programs



Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

### Quick History

- Early 1900s**  
As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.
- 1937**  
Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.
- 1938 to today:**  
Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

## THEN & NOW

Year	Population	Today
1900	500,000	32,000,000
1901	FEW	44,000,000
1907	41,000	1,000,000
1900	100,000	7,000,000
50 YEARS AGO	12,000	1,100,000

## OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.



**\$81 Million**  
CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.



## SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



Theodore Roosevelt



Aldo Leopold



Key Pittman



Willis Robertson



least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt in N.C. and that the licensed adult maintains a proximity to the hunter, which enables the adult to monitor the activities of the hunter by remaining within sight and hearing distance at all times without the use of electronic devices.

Hunter education courses are offered in all 100 counties and online with a required review and test day (field day) for completion. For more information visit [ncwildlife.org/HunterEd](http://ncwildlife.org/HunterEd), or write to the NCWRC Wildlife Education Division, 1712 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700.

### Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permit

This permit is free of charge and is required at the time a hunting license is purchased for those who have not held a N.C. hunting license prior to July 1, 2013 or who have not satisfactorily completed the hunter education course requirements. This permit authorizes the permittee to hunt if accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt in this State, or if accompanied by an adult landholder or spouse exempted from the hunting license requirement as defined by law, provided the licensee is hunting on the landholder's land. "Accompanied" means that the licensed adult maintains a proximity that enables the adult to monitor the activities of the apprentice by remaining within sight and hearing distance at all times, without use of electronic devices. This permit is valid only for the term of the hunting license purchased under the authority of the permit.

### Big Game Harvest Report Card Requirement

Big game harvest report cards always expire on June 30 of each year. If your hunting license and big game hunting privilege license are still valid after the big game harvest report card expires, you may obtain a replenishment card from either the Wildlife Resources Commission or any wildlife service agent. Lifetime license-holders also may obtain the big game harvest report card by going online at [ncwildlife.org/lifetime](http://ncwildlife.org/lifetime), calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent. Persons exempt by law from the big game hunting license must obtain a "License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card" for license-exempt hunters from a wildlife service agent or by calling 888-248-6834. Replenish and exempt big game harvest report cards are issued at no charge when obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission. Those issued at a wildlife service agent location are subject to a \$2 transaction fee. For more information on license exceptions, refer to the "Exceptions to License Requirements" section. Authorization numbers for big game animals, taken prior to receiving the big game harvest report card via the mail (when license is purchased by telephone), must be recorded and available for inspection. Once the harvest report card is received by mail, the big game kill authorization number must be recorded on the harvest report card and the card validated for the appropriate animal. For more information on big game reporting, refer to the "Big Game Harvest and Reporting" section on page 66.

### Bear Management E-Stamp

Hunters must procure a Bear Management E-Stamp before taking any bear within the state. Individuals who purchased a lifetime license with big game privileges prior to July 1, 2014 and those individuals exempt from the hunting license requirement, unless otherwise specified, may obtain a Bear Management E-Stamp at no charge when obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission. Those issued at a wildlife service agent location are subject to a \$2 transaction fee. Bear Management E-Stamps may be purchased from July 1 until the close of bear season and expire on June 30 of each year. For more information on the Bear Management E-Stamp, refer to page 17.

### HIP Certification Requirement

All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (doves, rails, woodcocks, gallinule, snipes or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have a certificate of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). This certification can be obtained by going online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent. HIP certifications are issued at no charge when obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission. Those issued at a wildlife service agent location are subject to a \$2 transaction fee. Persons exempt by law from the hunting license requirement are not required to obtain the HIP certification.



# Safety Sam Says Safety First

Stay safe while hunting and protect yourself and others before digging by contacting 811 to avoid hitting buried utilities.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

[www.nc811.org](http://www.nc811.org)

**Federal Duck Stamp**

In addition to the North Carolina waterfowl privilege, waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to carry on their person the federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. The federal duck stamp expires June 30 of each year. Stamps may be ordered from July 1 to April 1 each year online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), by calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent. At the time of purchase, the customer will be provided a proof-of-purchase receipt for a Federal Duck E-Stamp which authorizes the same privileges as the physical duck stamp for up to 45 days or until the physical stamp is received in the mail. Refer to page 17 for more information.

**Exceptions to License Requirements**

**General**

- A landowner or person leasing land primarily for cultivation, their spouse, and dependents under 18 residing with them, may hunt, trap and fish on such land without a license.
- A resident of this state who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving outside N.C., or who is on full-time military duty outside the state in a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces is exempt from hunting, inland and coastal fishing license requirements while on leave in this state for 30 days or less. When hunting or fishing under this exemption you must carry, on your person, your military ID card and a copy of the official

document confirming you are on leave from a duty station outside of N.C. Individuals hunting bear must purchase a "Bear Management E-Stamp." You must also comply with all reporting and hunter safety requirements as mandated by the Commission and purchase a federal duck stamp if waterfowl hunting.

Individuals exempt from the requirements of a hunting license must obtain a "License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card" when hunting deer, bear or wild turkey. Those hunting bear must also obtain a "Bear Management E-Stamp."

Individuals exempt from hunting and fishing license requirements must adhere to designated seasons and limits.

**Hunting and Trapping**

- Youth under age 16 are exempt from the requirement of a hunting license provided they comply with the following:
  - » Youth who have not obtained a Certificate of Competency showing their completion of the hunter safety course must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult when hunting.
  - » Youth who have obtained a Certificate of Competency, may hunt without being accompanied by an adult, but must carry their certificate while hunting.
  - » Youths exempt from the hunting license requirement must obtain a "License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card" when hunting deer, bear or wild turkey.

» Youth hunting bear must also obtain a "Bear Management E-Stamp."

- Youth under age 16 are exempt from the requirement of a trapping license.

**Fishing**

- Youth under age 16 are exempt from the requirement of any fishing license.
- All licenses that authorize inland fishing include fishing in any waters on game lands or Wildlife Conservation Areas.
- An inland fishing license is not required to fish in a private pond. A private pond is a body of water arising within and lying wholly upon the lands of a single owner or a single group of joint owners or tenants in common, and from which fish cannot escape, and into which fish of legal size cannot enter from public waters at any time. A pond or lake located on land owned by a public body such as a state-supported university or a governmental entity is not a private pond.
- July 4th is declared "Free Fishing Day," and a fishing license is not required in any public waters, including Coastal and trout waters, on this date.
- Residents with a valid Unified Subsistence Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver are exempt from the requirement of a inland and coastal recreational fishing license.

# License Type Descriptions

Purchase your license online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

## HUNTING AND FISHING COMBINATION LICENSES

Following is a list of annual and lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses. Privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications authorize a particular hunting activity not included with a specific license type. Privileges may be purchased separately if the purchaser holds a hunting license. Some licenses do not include privileges such as big game hunting, bear hunting, or hunting for waterfowl. Refer to page 17 for a complete list of privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>ANNUAL LICENSES</b>		

Additional privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications may be required with the licenses listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Unless otherwise specified, annual licenses, privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.

<b>Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents during a license term. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, fishing in joint waters and hunting on game lands. It does not include big game hunting, the state waterfowl privilege, the federal duck stamp or fishing in coastal waters.	\$35	N/A
<b>Sportsman:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents during a license term. Includes the privileges of hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$53	N/A
<b>Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents during a license term. Includes the privileges of hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.	\$69	N/A

### LIFETIME LICENSES

Additional privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications may be required with the licenses listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Lifetime licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license-holder. Unless otherwise specified, privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications are valid for 12 months from date of purchase. **Senior License Eligibility:** Residents born on or before Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 65 years of age. Those born after Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 70 years of age.

<b>Sportsman:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp, nonresident bear license, or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.		
Adult (ages 12 & older)	\$530	\$1272
Youth (ages 1-11)	\$371	\$371
Infant (under age 1)	\$212	\$212
Senior (see above for eligibility requirements)	\$16	N/A
<b>Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp, nonresident bear license, or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.		
Adult (ages 12 & older)	\$716	\$1643
Youth (ages 1-11)	\$477	\$477
Infant (under age 1)	\$292	\$292
Senior (see above for eligibility requirements)	\$32	N/A
<b>Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. This license also includes hunting on game lands. It does not include big game hunting, the state waterfowl privilege, the federal duck stamp or fishing in coastal waters.	\$11	N/A

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## HUNTING AND FISHING COMBINATION LICENSES (CONT.)

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>LIFETIME LICENSES (CONT.)</b>		
<b>Disabled Veteran Sportsman:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$106	N/A
<b>Disabled Veteran Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting, inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.	\$117	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad Retirement Board, or the N.C. State Retirement System or have been diagnosed with a condition considered a presumptive disability (20 C.F.R. 416.934). Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. <b>This license also includes hunting on game lands.</b> It does not include big game hunting, the state waterfowl privilege, the federal duck stamp or fishing in coastal waters.	\$11	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Sportsman:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad Retirement Board, or the N.C. State Retirement System or have been diagnosed with a condition considered a presumptive disability (20 C.F.R. 416.934). Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$106	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad Retirement Board, or the N.C. State Retirement System or have been diagnosed with a condition considered a presumptive disability (20 C.F.R. 416.934). Includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp), fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.	\$117	N/A



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## FISHING LICENSES

Following is a list of short-term, annual and lifetime fishing licenses. These licenses include fishing in joint waters. Note: Individuals 16 years of age or older using any type of bait or gear to catch finfish while fishing in North Carolina's public waters must possess a valid North Carolina fishing license. This license requirement does not apply to private ponds. Individual residents who receive Food Stamps, Medicaid or Work First Family Assistance may obtain a written waiver (Annual Subsistence License Waiver) from this fishing license requirement through the county Department of Social Services. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>SHORT-TERM LICENSES</b>		

Short-term licenses are valid for the period specified on the license.

<b>Inland Fishing 10-Day:</b> Statewide inland fishing during the 10-day period specified on the license. <b>Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands</b> and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$9	\$23
<b>Coastal Recreational Fishing 10-Day:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters during the 10-day period specified on the license. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$6	\$11

### ANNUAL LICENSES

Unless otherwise specified, annual licenses are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.

<b>State Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide inland fishing during a license term. <b>Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands</b> and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$25	\$45
<b>Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters during a license term. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$16	\$32
<b>Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents during a license term. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.	\$41	N/A
<b>Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver:</b> Statewide inland and coastal recreational fishing for residents who receive Medicaid, Food Stamps, or Work First Family Assistance through the county Department of Social Services. <b>Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands</b> and fishing in joint waters. License Waiver must be obtained through the county Department of Social Services.	FREE	N/A
<b>Special Device (inland fishing):</b> Authorizes the taking of nongame fishes from inland waters (does not include joint and coastal waters) during designated seasons with seines, cast nets, gill nets, dip nets, bow nets, reels, gigs, spear guns, baskets, fish pots, eel pots, traps, and hand-crank electrofishers where authorized by local law. Includes the sale of these nongame fishes. Taking of nongame fishes with archery equipment is authorized under any of the licenses providing hunting or inland fishing privileges. Certain special devices may be used to take nongame fishes for personal use (bait or personal consumption) using any valid license that provides inland fishing privileges. Refer to pages 43-49 for more information.	\$80	\$530

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## FISHING LICENSES (CONT.)

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>		
Lifetime licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license-holder. <b>Senior License Eligibility:</b> Residents born on or before Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 65 years of age. Those born after Aug. 1, 1953 are eligible to purchase a senior lifetime license when they turn 70 years of age.		
<b>Comprehensive Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide inland fishing. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$265	N/A
Senior (see above for eligibility requirements)	\$16	N/A
<b>Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide inland and coastal recreational fishing. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters.	\$477	N/A
<b>Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.		
Adult (ages 12 & older)	\$265	\$530
Youth (ages 1-11)	\$159	\$159
Infant (under age 1)	\$106	\$106
Senior (see above for eligibility requirements)	\$16	N/A
<b>Disabled Veteran Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide inland fishing for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$11	N/A
<b>Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters for residents who are 50 percent or more disabled veterans as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$11	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide inland fishing for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad Retirement Board, or the N.C. State Retirement System or have been diagnosed with a condition considered a presumptive disability (20 C.F.R. 416.934). Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.	\$11	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters for residents who are totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad Retirement Board, or the N.C. State Retirement System or have been diagnosed with a condition considered a presumptive disability (20 C.F.R. 416.934). It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$11	N/A
<b>Legally Blind Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide fishing in all public waters for residents who have been certified by the Department of Health and Human Services as being legally blind. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters and fishing in trout waters on game lands.	FREE	N/A
<b>Adult Care Home Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide fishing in all public waters for residents of an adult care home. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters and fishing in trout waters on game lands. License valid during time of residency at adult care facility.	FREE	N/A

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## HUNTING LICENSES

Following is a list of short-term, annual and lifetime hunting licenses. Privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications authorize a particular hunting activity not included with a specific license type. Privileges may be purchased separately if the purchaser holds a valid license. Some hunting licenses do not include privileges such as big game hunting, bear hunting, or hunting for waterfowl. Refer to page 17 for a complete list of privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>SHORT-TERM LICENSES</b>		
Additional privilege licenses may be required with the licenses listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Short-term licenses are valid for the period specified on the license. Unless otherwise specified, privilege licenses are valid 12 months from the date of purchase.		
<b>State Hunting 10-Day:</b> Statewide hunting for nonresidents during the 10 day period specified on the license. License includes hunting on game lands. It does not include big game hunting, the state waterfowl privilege, or the federal duck stamp.	N/A	\$80
Residents of Georgia		\$60
Residents of South Carolina		\$75
Residents of Tennessee		\$70
Residents of Virginia*		\$110
<b>ANNUAL LICENSES</b>		
Additional privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications may be required with the licenses listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Unless otherwise specified, annual licenses, privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.		
<b>State Hunting:</b> Statewide hunting during a license term. License includes hunting on game lands. It does not include big game hunting, the state waterfowl privilege, or the federal duck stamp.	\$25	\$100
Residents of Georgia		\$100
Residents of South Carolina		\$125
Residents of Tennessee		\$90
Residents of Virginia		\$110
<b>Comprehensive Hunting:</b> Statewide hunting for residents during a license term. Also includes the privileges of hunting for big game, hunting on game lands and hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp).	\$39	N/A
<b>Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting:</b> Needed for those 16 years of age or older, regardless of residency, to hunt foxes, coyotes, and domestically raised chukars, Hungarian partridges, and game birds only within a licensed controlled hunting preserve. This license is not necessary for those who hold a valid Hunting, Comprehensive Hunting, Sportsman, or Lifetime License that authorizes hunting. And likewise, it is not necessary for those who hold a valid Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License to purchase any other hunting license when hunting on a licensed preserve.	\$22	\$22
<b>Falconry Hunting License:</b> Authorizes taking of wildlife by means of falconry. Hunter must also obtain Falconry License. Refer to page 19 for more information.	\$25	\$25
<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>		
Additional privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications may be required with the license listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Lifetime licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license-holder. Unless otherwise specified, privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications are valid for 12 months from date of purchase.		
<b>Comprehensive Hunting:</b> Statewide hunting, hunting for big game, hunting on game lands and hunting for waterfowl (does not include the bear management e-stamp or federal duck stamp).	\$265	N/A

\* License fees for residents of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are based on reciprocal licensing options. When determining reciprocal license costs, if an equivalent short-term license option is not available or the cost of the short-term license exceeds the annual license cost, the fee established is equal to the annual fee.

## TRAPPING LICENSES

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>ANNUAL LICENSE</b>		
Additional privilege licenses may be required with the license listed below. Refer to page 17 for more information. Unless otherwise specified, annual and privilege licenses are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).		
<b>State Trapping:</b> Statewide trapping during a license term. Includes trapping on game lands.	\$32	\$133
<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>		
<b>State Trapping:</b> Statewide trapping includes trapping on game lands.	\$300	N/A

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## PRIVILEGE LICENSES, STAMPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Annual privilege licenses, stamps and certifications authorize particular hunting activities and must be obtained in addition to the appropriate hunting license. Privileges and stamps may be purchased separately if the purchaser holds a valid license. Unless otherwise specified, privilege licenses, stamps and certifications are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. HIP Certification is required for all those planning to hunt migratory game birds, including lifetime license-holders. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>HUNTING</b>		
<b>Big Game Hunting License:</b> Needed to hunt deer, bear and wild turkey. Residents must also purchase a bear management e-stamp to hunt bear. Nonresidents hunting bear must also purchase the bear hunting license and bear management e-stamp.	\$14	\$100
Residents of Georgia		\$195
Residents of South Carolina		\$100
Residents of Tennessee		\$160
Residents of Virginia		\$85
<b>Big Game Hunting 10-Day License:</b> Needed to hunt deer, bear and wild turkey during the 10-day period specified on the license. Nonresidents hunting bear must also purchase the bear hunting license and bear management e-stamp.	N/A	\$80
Residents of Georgia*		\$195
Residents of South Carolina*		\$100
Residents of Tennessee		\$105
Residents of Virginia*		\$85
<b>Bear Management Stamp:</b> This electronic stamp is needed to hunt bear. Resident hunters must possess a valid hunting license with big game privileges in addition to this e-stamp. Nonresident hunters must possess a valid hunting license, big game privilege license and bear hunting license in addition to this e-stamp. Individuals who purchased a lifetime license with big game privileges prior to July 1, 2014 do not have to purchase this additional e-stamp; however they must obtain a no-cost e-stamp to hunt bear. Bear Management E-Stamps may be purchased from July 1 until the close of bear season and expire on June 30 of each year.	\$11	\$11
<b>Bear Hunting License (nonresident):</b> Needed by nonresident license holders, in addition to the hunting license, big game privilege license, and bear management e-stamp, to hunt bear. Nonresident individuals who purchased a resident or nonresident lifetime license prior to May 24, 1994 do not have to purchase this additional license to hunt bear. Bear hunting licenses may be purchased from July 1 until the close of bear season and expire on June 30 of each year.	N/A	\$239
<b>Bonus Antlerless Deer License:</b> Allows the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per report card in any municipality enrolled in the Urban Archery Season. Not valid outside of enrolled municipalities. This license will be available for purchase on January 1 and expires on June 30 of each year. Refer to the "Big Game" section for more information.	\$11	\$11
<b>Game Land License:</b> Privileges of this license are now included with most annual and lifetime hunting, trapping, and inland fishing licenses. Refer to the "Game Lands" section for other activities which may require this license.	\$16	\$16
<b>Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License (state):</b> Needed to hunt waterfowl.	\$14	\$14
<b>Federal Duck Stamp:</b> The Federal Duck Stamp may be ordered online at <a href="http://ncwildlife.org">ncwildlife.org</a> , by calling 888-248-6834 or visiting a wildlife service agent from July 1 to April 1 of each year. Those who order the stamp online, by phone or at a wildlife service agent will be provided a proof-of-purchase receipt for a Federal Duck E-Stamp that is valid for 45 days from the date of purchase and immediately authorizes the same privileges as the physical Federal Duck Stamp. The e-stamp proof-of-purchase is nationally recognized as a valid Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, is valid in any other state, and must be carried on your person when exercising the privileges authorized. The physical Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to you within 45 days of the order date. Upon receipt of the physical stamp, you must sign and carry it on your person when exercising the privileges authorized. The Federal Duck Stamp expires June 30 of each year.	\$26.50	\$26.50

\* License fees for residents of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are based on reciprocal licensing options. When determining reciprocal license costs, if an equivalent short-term license option is not available or the cost of the short-term license exceeds the annual license cost, the fee established is equal to the annual fee.

Purchase your license online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

## PRIVILEGE LICENSES, STAMPS AND CERTIFICATIONS (CONT.)

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>HUNTING AND TRAPPING (CONT.)</b>		
<p><b>HIP Certification</b> (federal requirement): Needed to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, doves, rails, gallinule, snipe and woodcock). Persons exempt from the hunting license requirement are not required to obtain the HIP certification.</p>	FREE	FREE
<p><b>Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permit:</b> This permit is needed to purchase a hunting license by those who have not held a N.C. hunting license prior to July 1, 2013 or who have not satisfactorily completed the hunter education course requirements. This permit authorizes the permittee to hunt if accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age who is licensed to hunt in this state, or if accompanied by an adult landholder or spouse exempted from the hunting license requirement as defined by law, provided the licensee is hunting on the landholder's land. "Accompanied" means that the licensed adult maintains a proximity that enables the adult to monitor the activities of the apprentice by remaining within sight and hearing distance at all times, without use of electronic devices. This permit is valid only for the term of the hunting license purchased under the authority of the permit.</p>	FREE	FREE



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## OTHER LICENSES AND PERMITS

The Wildlife Resources Commission offers a wide range of special licenses and permits to serve the public. For information on the licenses or permits listed below or to obtain an application, visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), call 888-248-6834 or write to NCWRC, 1707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your order total (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>Bobcat/Otter Tags:</b> Needed to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of bobcat or otter carcasses or pelts. All bobcat and otter carcasses or pelts shall be properly tagged within 30 days following the close of the applicable hunting or trapping season. Unused tags can be used in subsequent seasons.	\$2.20 ea.	\$2.20 ea.
<b>Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License:</b> Needed for those 16 years of age or older, regardless of residency, to hunt foxes, coyotes, and domestically raised chukars, Hungarian partridges, and game birds only within a licensed controlled hunting preserve. This license is not necessary for those who hold a valid state Hunting, Comprehensive Hunting, Sportsman, or Lifetime License that authorizes hunting. Additionally, it is not necessary for those who hold a valid Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License to purchase any other hunting license when hunting on a licensed preserve.	\$22	\$22
<b>Disabled Access Permit:</b> Authorizes persons with limited physical mobility to operate vehicles, including ATVs, on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel, those trails posted for vehicular travel and only on open-gated or ungated roads, otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands listed in the Disabled Access Program and to have access to special disabled hunting blinds. It does not authorize operation of vehicles on closed roads on game lands not listed in the Disabled Access Program. One companion may accompany the disabled person, provided that person possesses the "companion card" issued to the disabled hunter. The disabled hunter will also be issued a "vehicle access card." The permit is valid as long as the qualifying disability persists. For more information, refer to the "Disabled Sportsman" and "Disabled Access Program" sections on pages 24 and 83. This permit is not a license. It does not authorize hunting, fishing, or trapping activities.	FREE	FREE
<b>Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification:</b> This is a medical certification used to establish eligibility for participation in disabled hunt opportunities. This certification is only necessary when the applicant does not possess a lifetime disabled veteran or totally disabled license. This certification is not a license; therefore, a valid hunting license, in addition to the hunt permit, is required when participating in a disabled hunt opportunity. For more information, refer to the "Disabled Sportsman" section on page 24.	FREE	FREE
<b>Falconry License:</b> Needed to hunt by the use of any raptor. A <a href="#">falconry hunting license</a> , state hunting license, comprehensive hunting license, sportsman's license or any lifetime license that authorizes hunting is needed in addition to the falconry license. License expires June 30 of each year.	\$11	\$11
<b>Fox Tags:</b> Needed to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of a fox carcass or pelt*. All fox carcasses or pelts shall be properly tagged within 30 days following the close of the applicable hunting or trapping season. Unused tags can be used in subsequent seasons.	\$2.25 ea.	\$2.25 ea.
<b>Fur Dealer License:</b> Authorizes buying and selling furs anywhere in North Carolina. License expires June 30 each year.	\$64	\$318
<b>Fur Dealer Station License:</b> Authorizes the license-holder and his or her employee(s) to buy or sell furs at an established location in North Carolina and under the supervision of the license-holder. License expires June 30 each year.	\$128	N/A
<b>Hunting/Inland Fishing Guide License:</b> Needed to guide others for a fee. In cases where persons for hire are being transported by vessel; a vessel-for-hire license may be required by the U.S. Coast Guard.	\$16	\$159
<b>Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License:</b> May be purchased by the landholder of private property bordering inland or joint fishing waters, including Public Mountain Trout Waters. This license shall entitle the landholder, and guests of the landholder, to fish from the shore or any pier or dock originating from the property without any additional inland fishing license. May not be used for commercial purposes. A guest is defined as any individual invited by the landholder to fish from the property at no charge. A charge includes any fee, assessment, dues, rent, or other consideration which must be paid, whether directly or indirectly, in order to be allowed to fish from the property, regardless of the stated reason for such charge. License valid 12 months from date of issue.	\$106	\$106
<b>Taxidermy License:</b> Authorizes persons to practice taxidermy, including the tanning of hides, involving wildlife for any compensation. License expires Dec. 31 each year. For information on federal taxidermy permits, call 800-344-9453.	\$50	N/A
<b>Taxidermy Cervid Certification:</b> Required, in addition to a taxidermy license, to engage in the taxidermy of any species of the family Cervidae (deer, elk, moose).	\$5	N/A

\* Except where local laws do not require fox tagging

# Resident Hunting, Inland Fishing, Trapping License Types and Associated Privilege Licenses

Refer to "License Type" section for a complete description of license types and privileges. Refer to page 22 for a list of Resident Coastal Fishing and Unified Sportsman/Coastal Fishing license types.

PRICE	LICENSES	PRIVILEGES																									
		BIG GAME		HUNTING													OTHER										
 <p>"•" Indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.</p>		Deer	Bear	Turkey	Squirrel	Rabbit	Migratory Game Birds (7)	Quail	Grouse	Pheasant	Raccoon	Opossum	Bobcat	Crow	Beaver	Groundhog	Coyote	Controlled Hunting Preserve	Waterfowl (3), (7)	Game Lands (Hunting)	Trapping	Game Lands (Trapping)	Inland Fishing	Public Mtn. Trout Waters	Special Device Fishing	Nongame Fish Bow & Arrow	Hunt/Inland Fish Guide
<b>HUNTING &amp; INLAND FISHING</b>																											
\$35	Annual Combo Hunt & Inland Fish				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$53	Annual Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$530	Adult Lifetime Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$371	Youth Lifetime Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$212	Infant Lifetime Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$16	Senior Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$11	Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combo Hunt & Inland Fishing				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$11	Totally Disabled Lifetime Combo Hunt & Inland Fishing				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$106	Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
\$106	Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
<b>HUNTING</b>																											
\$25	Annual State Hunting				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•
\$39	Annual Comprehensive Hunting (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•
\$265	Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting (8)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																											
\$14	Big Game (2) (8)	•	•	•																							
\$11	Bear Management Stamp (1)		•																								
\$14	Migratory Waterfowl (state) (2) (3)																		•								
FREE	HIP Certification (5) (6)						•												•								
<b>INLAND FISHING</b>																											
\$9	10-Day Inland Fishing																							•	•		•
\$25	Annual State Inland Fishing																							•	•		•
\$265	Lifetime Comprehensive Inland Fishing																							•	•		•
<b>TRAPPING</b>																											
\$32	Annual State Trapping																						•	•			
\$300	State Trapping Lifetime																						•	•			
<b>OTHER LICENSES</b>																											
\$16	Annual Hunt/Inland Fish Guide																										•
\$22	Controlled Hunting Preserve (4)																	•									
\$80	Special Device (inland fishing)																								•		

■ - Lifetime License

**Additional Information**

- (1) Must also possess a valid hunting and big game license.
- (2) Must also possess the appropriate hunting license.
- (3) Must also possess a federal duck stamp.
- (4) This license may be used without a hunting license.
- (5) Required to hunt federal migratory & waterfowl birds.
- (6) Must also possess either a state hunting, comprehensive hunting or sportsman's license.
- (7) Must have the HIP Certification.
- (8) Must also possess a bear management e-stamp to hunt bear.

# Nonresident Hunting, Inland Fishing, Trapping License Types and Associated Privilege Licenses

Refer to "License Type" section for a complete description of license types and privileges. Refer to page 22 for a list of Nonresident Coastal Fishing and Unified Sportsman/Coastal Fishing license types.

PRICE	LICENSES	PRIVILEGES																									
		BIG GAME		HUNTING													OTHER										
 <p>"●" Indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.</p>		Deer	Bear	Turkey	Squirrel	Rabbit	Migratory Game Birds (7)	Quail	Grouse	Pheasant	Raccoon	Opossum	Bobcat	Crow	Beaver	Groundhog	Coyote	Controlled Hunting Preserve	Waterfowl (3), (7)	Game Lands (Hunting)	Trapping	Game Lands (Trapping)	Inland Fishing	Public Mtn. Trout Waters	Special Device Fishing	Nongame Fish Bow & Arrow	Hunt/Inland Fish Guide
		<b>HUNTING &amp; INLAND FISHING</b>																									
\$1272	Adult Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
\$371	Youth Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
\$212	Infant Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>HUNTING</b>																											
\$80	10-Day State Hunting (8)				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
\$100	Annual State Hunting (8)				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																											
\$80	10-Day Big Game (2) (8)	●	●																								
\$100	Big Game (season) (2) (8)	●	●																								
\$239	Bear (1)		●																								
\$11	Bear Management Stamp (9)		●																								
\$14	Migratory Waterfowl (state) (2) (3)																		●								
FREE	HIP Certification (5) (6)						●												●								
<b>INLAND FISHING</b>																											
\$23	10-Day Inland Fishing																							●	●		●
\$45	Annual State Inland Fishing																						●	●		●	
<b>TRAPPING</b>																											
\$133	Annual State Trapping																					●	●				
<b>OTHER LICENSES</b>																											
\$159	Annual Hunt/Inland Fish Guide																										●
\$22	Controlled Hunting Preserve (4)																	●									
\$530	Special Device (inland fishing)																								●		

● - Lifetime License

**Additional Information**

- (1) Must also possess a valid hunting license, big game license, and bear management e-stamp.
- (2) Must also possess the appropriate hunting license.
- (3) Must also possess a federal duck stamp.
- (4) This license may be used without a hunting license.
- (5) Required to hunt federal migratory & waterfowl birds.
- (6) Must also possess either a state hunting or sportsman's license.
- (7) Must have the HIP Certification.
- (8) Reciprocal license fees apply to Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia residents. Refer to pages 16-17 for a list of fees.
- (9) Must also possess a valid hunting license, big game license, and bear license.

# Unified Hunting, Inland and Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) Types And Associated Privilege Licenses

PRICE	LICENSES	PRIVILEGES																											
		BIG GAME		HUNTING										OTHER															
		Deer	Bear	Turkey	Squirrel	Rabbit	Migratory Game Birds (4)	Quail	Grouse	Pheasant	Raccoon	Opossum	Bobcat	Crow	Beaver	Groundhog	Coyote	Controlled Hunting Preserve	Waterfowl (4), (5)	Game Lands (Hunting)	Trapping	Game Lands (Trapping)	Inland Fishing	Public Mtn. Trout Waters	Special Device Fishing	Nongame Fish Bow & Arrow	Coastal Recreational Fishing		
 <p>“•” Indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.</p>																													
<b>RESIDENT LICENSE TYPES</b>																													
<b>HUNTING, INLAND &amp; CRFL</b>																													
\$69	Annual Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$716	Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$477	Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$292	Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$32	Senior Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$117	Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$117	Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL (6)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																													
FREE	HIP Certification (1)					•												•											
\$11	Bear Management E-Stamp (2)		•																										
<b>FISHING</b>																													
\$6	10-Day - CRFL																											•	
\$16	Annual CRFL																											•	
\$41	Annual Unified Inland/CRFL																						•	•		•	•		
FREE	Annual Subsistence Unified Inland/CRFL Waiver																						•	•		•	•		
\$265	Adult Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$159	Youth Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$106	Infant Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$16	Senior Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$11	Disabled Veteran Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$11	Totally Disabled Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$477	Lifetime Unified Inland/CRFL																							•	•		•	•	
<b>NONRESIDENT LICENSE TYPES</b>																													
<b>HUNTING, INLAND &amp; CRFL</b>																													
\$1643	Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$477	Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
\$292	Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/CRFL	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																													
FREE	HIP Certification (1)					•													•										
\$239	Bear (3)		•																										
\$11	Bear Management Stamp (7)		•																										
<b>FISHING</b>																													
\$11	10-Day - CRFL																											•	
\$32	Annual CRFL																											•	
\$530	Adult Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$159	Youth Lifetime CRFL																											•	
\$106	Infant Lifetime CRFL																											•	

■ - Lifetime License

**Additional Information**

- (1) Required to hunt federal migratory & waterfowl birds. Must also possess either a state hunting, comprehensive hunting, or sportsman's license.
- (2) Must also possess a valid hunting and big game license.
- (3) Must also possess a valid hunting license, big game license, and bear management stamp.
- (4) Must also have the HIP Certification.
- (5) Must also possess a federal duck stamp.
- (6) Must also possess a bear management e-stamp to hunt bear.
- (7) Must also possess a valid hunting license, big game license, and bear license.

# Disabled Sportsman Program

## INFORMATION

### General Information

The Wildlife Resources Commission has established increased access and opportunities for persons with disabilities to hunt on agency game lands and other lands. A brief description and the qualifications for each are provided below. To obtain an application, visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), call 888-248-6834, or write to NCWRC, Disabled Sportsman Program, 1707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. For specific information on disabled hunt opportunities, visit [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).

#### Disabled Access Permit

The Disabled Access Permit authorizes persons with limited physical mobility to operate vehicles, including ATVs, on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel, those trails posted for vehicular travel and only on open-gated or ungated roads, otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands listed in the Disabled Access Program, and allows access to special disabled hunting blinds designated for hunters with disabilities. See page 81 for a list of game lands or designated areas within a game land in which this permit is valid. This permit does not allow operation of vehicles on closed roads on game lands unless the game

land is listed in the Disabled Access Program. The disabled hunter will be issued a companion and vehicle access card. One companion may accompany the disabled hunter, provided that person possesses the companion card. This permit is valid as long as the qualifying disability persists. This permit is not a license. It does not authorize hunting, fishing, or trapping activities. There is no fee associated with this permit.

#### Qualifications

Competent medical evidence must be submitted indicating that a disability exists that limits physical mobility, to the extent that normal utilization of the game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance.

Within the national forests in North Carolina, off highway vehicles (OHVs) are permitted only on designated routes. For more information about areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service, including the Nantahala, Pisgah, Croatan and Uwharrie National Forests, visit [fs.usda.gov/activity/nfsnc/recreation/ohv](http://fs.usda.gov/activity/nfsnc/recreation/ohv).

#### Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification

The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification is a medical certification used to establish eligibility for participation in disabled hunt opportuni-

ties. This certification is only necessary when the applicant does not possess a lifetime disabled veteran or totally disabled license. This certification is not a license; therefore, a valid hunting license, in addition to the hunt permit, is required when participating in a disabled hunt opportunity. There is no fee for this certification. For a list of disabled hunt opportunities, visit [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).

#### Qualifications

Medical certification in one of the following disabilities:

- Missing fifty percent (50 percent) or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- Paralysis of one or more limbs;
- Dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the individual unable to perform the task of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- Disease, injury or impairment confining the individual to a wheelchair, walker or crutches;
- Legal deafness.

This certification shall remain valid as long as the qualifying disability persists.

# The Wildlife Endowment Fund

## INFORMATION

### Lifetime Hunting, Trapping, and Inland Fishing Licenses

Lifetime hunting, trapping, and inland fishing licenses are a great deal for sportsmen. Purchasing a lifetime license saves you money over the years, may be charged to a VISA or MasterCard, and supports North Carolina's rich wildlife heritage. Funds from lifetime license sales are deposited directly into the Wildlife Endowment Fund, which supports wildlife conservation programs.

Several types of lifetime licenses are available as noted under the "License Information" section beginning on page 8. Lifetime sportsman and lifetime comprehensive hunting licenses include big game hunting and the state waterfowl privilege. Some lifetime licenses are sold only to residents of North Carolina.

However, nonresidents may purchase the non-resident lifetime sportsman license. Lifetime licenses may also be personalized for an additional \$5 fee (some exclusions apply). There are no residency restrictions for the infant and youth lifetime licenses. You may also give a lifetime license as a gift. All of these licenses are good for the life of the license-holder. Even if you move out of North Carolina, you can use the license anytime you return to the state.

**Note:** Lifetime hunting licenses do not authorize trapping. Lifetime or annual trapping licenses must be purchased separately.

Lifetime licenses can be purchased at your local wildlife service agent, online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), by phone 888-248-6834 or by mail from the Wildlife Resources Commission. Please note that infant and youth lifetime licenses require a copy of the birth certificate; these two licenses cannot be purchased online or by phone. Disabled licenses must be

purchased by mail or in person at NCWRC Headquarters. A \$2 transaction fee may be applied to your total order at time of purchase. To obtain a lifetime license application visit [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or call 888-248-6834.

#### Tax Deductible Contributions to the Wildlife Endowment Fund

Donations to the Wildlife Endowment Fund are deductible from your taxable income. Donations can be made directly to the fund, as a bequest from a will or as a memorial gift to honor a deceased friend or family member. The fund can also be named as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy. When making a memorial donation, include the name and address of the donor(s) as well as the name of the person(s) being remembered. A card will be sent to the donor acknowledging the contribution.

For additional information, visit [ncwildlife.org/GiveDonate](http://ncwildlife.org/GiveDonate).

# Inland Fishing Regulations

## AND INFORMATION

### General Information

Both the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Division of Marine Fisheries have licensing, management and regulatory authority in certain waters along the coast of North Carolina. These waters are designated as inland, joint and coastal waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission has jurisdiction in inland waters, and the Division of Marine Fisheries has jurisdiction (except that pertaining to inland game fishes) in coastal waters. Both agencies have licensing and regulatory authority in joint waters.

The boundaries between inland, joint and coastal fishing waters are prominently marked with metal signs posted adjacent to the affected waters. A list of these waters, with their boundaries indicated, is available at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) (see Fishing-Learn/Resources-Publications-Fishing Regulations-Coastal, Joint and Inland Fishing Waters Designations in North Carolina), or by calling 919-707-0220. Maps are also available at [ncwildlife.org/FishingMap](http://ncwildlife.org/FishingMap).

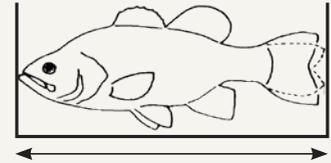
### Inland Game Fish

The following fishes are designated as inland game fish:

- Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, Alabama, and redeye)
- Crappie (white and black)
- Sunfish (bluegill, redbreast sunfish (robin), redear sunfish (shellcracker), pumpkinseed, warmouth, green sunfish, Roanoke bass, rock bass, flier, and all other species of the family Centrarchidae)
- Mountain trout (including but not limited to brook, brown and rainbow trout)
- Kokanee salmon
- Walleye
- Sauger
- Pickerel (chain or "jack", and redfin)
- Muskellunge
- White bass, in inland waters
- Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid), in inland waters
- Striped bass, in inland waters
- American shad and hickory shad, in inland waters
- White perch, in inland waters
- Yellow perch, in inland waters
- Spotted sea trout, in inland waters

### How to Measure a Game Fish

The harvest of many game fish species is regulated by length limits. Fish length is determined by measuring along a straight line (not along the curvature of the body) the distance from the tip of the closed mouth to the tip of the compressed caudal (tail) fin.



- Flounder, in inland waters
- Red drum (channel bass, red fish and puppy drum), in inland waters
- **Black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead, in inland waters**

### General Regulations for Inland Game Fish

#### Purchase and Sale

- The purchase and sale of inland game fish are unlawful, except from and by licensed commercial trout ponds and fish propagators.

## Special Regulations for Joint Fishing Waters

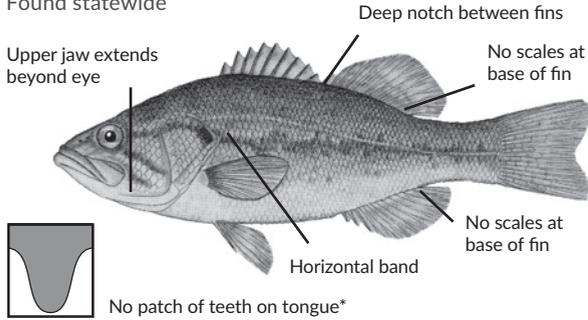
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) regardless of size in the joint waters of the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) from May 1 through Sept. 30 in the joint waters of the Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) less than 18 inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit of striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid), in combination, per person per day, regardless of the number of management areas fished.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) that are not in agreement with size and creel limits of the waters being fished, regardless of other management areas that may have been fished that day.
- It is unlawful to net fish for striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) in joint waters except as authorized by rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- It is unlawful to use seines, gill nets or trawl nets in the Lake Mattamuskeet canals.
- It is unlawful to use any net, net stakes, or electrical fishing device within 800 feet downstream of the dam at Lock No. 1 on the Cape Fear River.
- It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American or hickory shad in aggregate, per person per day, taken by hook-and-line. See page 30 for the daily creel limits for American and hickory shad in inland waters. For the current daily creel limits for American shad in joint and coastal waters, see [portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits).

Otherwise, in joint fishing waters, commercial fishing including commercial trotlines is subject to the coastal fishing laws and regulations; inland game fish and hook-and-line fishing exclusive of commercial trotlines—are subject to the inland fishing laws and regulations.

**Bass Identification Chart**

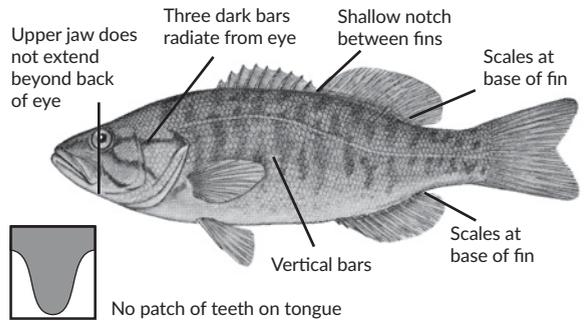
**Largemouth Bass**

Found statewide



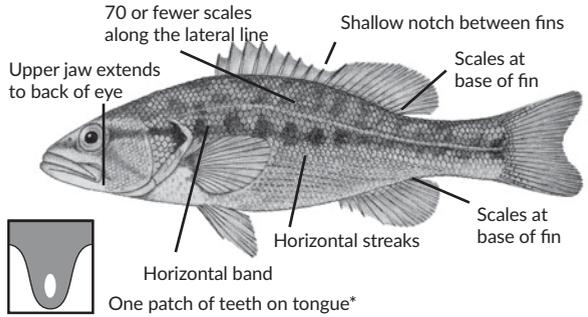
**Smallmouth Bass**

Found west of I-77 & in the Uwharrie and Dan rivers



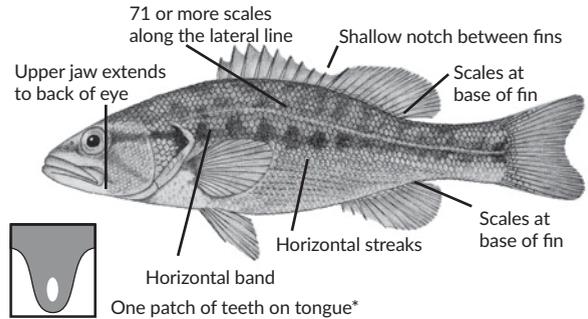
**Spotted Bass**

Found west of I-77 & in the Cape Fear River Basin



**Alabama Bass**

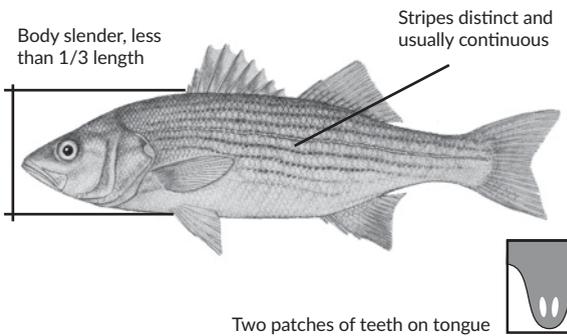
Found west of I-77 & in the Yadkin-Pee Dee & Roanoke River Basins



\* Largemouth bass X spotted bass and smallmouth bass X spotted bass hybrids may have a small patch of teeth on the tongue.

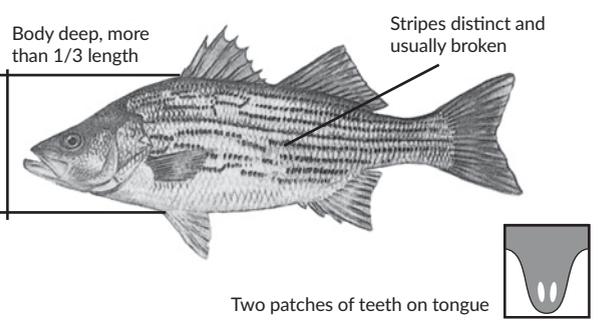
**Morone Identification Chart**

**Striped Bass**

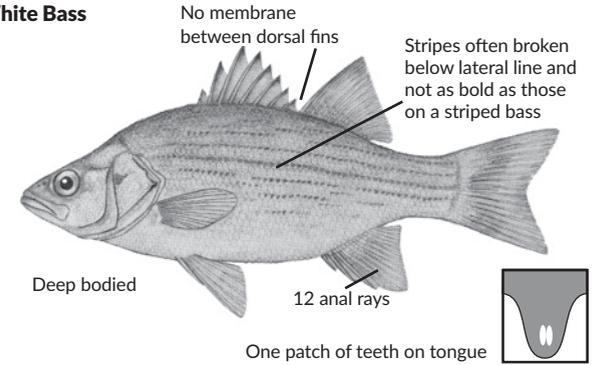


**Bodie Bass**

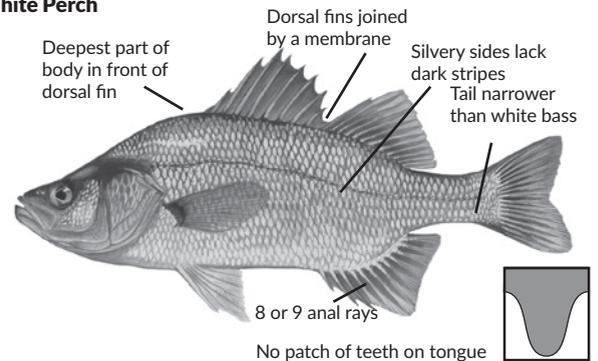
(striped bass hybrid)



**White Bass**



**White Perch**



Additional information on these and other species can be found at [ncwildlife.org/fishing](http://ncwildlife.org/fishing)

## Manner of Taking

- Inland game fish may be taken only with a hook and line.
- Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on a hook and line.
- It is unlawful to snag fish by pulling or jerking a device equipped with one or more hooks through the water for the purpose of impaling fish.
- For special rules governing trotlines, see "Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks" (page 44).
- American and hickory shad may be taken with bow nets from March 1 through April 30 in those counties and waters with open seasons for the use of bow nets (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 45-47) and are subject to daily creel limits (see page 30).
- In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of the U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook may be used from April 1 to June 30. "Barbless" means that the hook either does not have a barb or that the barb is bent down. Tandem rigs are prohibited.
- White perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.) except in waters in and west of Haywood, Buncombe and Rutherford counties where it is unlawful to possess, transport or release live White perch.

## Possession and Use of Game Fish

- It is unlawful to take more than the daily creel limit of any inland game fish having a specified creel limit in any one day.
- It is unlawful to possess more than the daily creel limit while fishing, boating or afield; or to possess at any place more than three days' creel limit.
- It is unlawful to possess fish whose size, creel or season restrictions are not in compliance with the regulations on the waters being fished.
- It is unlawful, while fishing, to change the appearance of fish subject to size limits or daily creel limits or remove the head and/or tail from fish that are regulated by a size limit so that they may not be measured and/or identified.
- It is unlawful to unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters.
- Inland game fish may be used as bait if they are legally taken and meet the size and creel limits of the waters being fished and other regulations.

## Seasons

There are no closed seasons on inland game fishes with the following exceptions:

- In Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, where the season for all fishes is closed and fishing is prohibited from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April. This closed season for

fishing does not apply to power reservoirs or municipal water supply reservoirs.

- On U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, where federal regulations apply. See page 60 for a list of refuges and contact information.
- On the Roanoke River, where the striped bass season is closed from May 1 to the end of February from the Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to the mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound, unless changed by proclamation of the Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- In the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area where possession of striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) is prohibited.
- Fishing is prohibited from Feb. 15 to April 15 in the Linville River from the mouth, as marked at Lake James, upstream to the N.C. 126 bridge.
- Seasons and size and creel limits for spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum are the same as those recreational limits established by the Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see [portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits) or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

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## Regulations for Warmwater Game Fish

State waters are classified as: inland, joint and coastal (see “General Information” on page 26). These state waters are collectively referred to as public fishing waters. Certain fishes, including largemouth bass, crappie and mountain trout are designated inland game fish and under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Resources Commission in all public waters; whereas, some species, including striped bass, white and yellow perch, flounder and red drum, are designated as inland game fish only in inland waters (see list on page 26).

### WARMWATER GAME FISH

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
<b>LARGEMOUTH BASS</b>		
All public waters except those listed below	14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches	5, including only 2 less than 14 inches
In the following waters and their tributaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, and Albemarle Sounds</li> <li>• Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam</li> <li>• Chowan River (including the Meherrin River)</li> <li>• Yeopim River</li> <li>• Pasquotank River</li> <li>• Perquimans River</li> <li>• Little River</li> <li>• Big Flatty Creek</li> <li>• North River</li> <li>• Northwest River</li> <li>• Scuppernong River</li> <li>• Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal (Intra-coastal Waterway) east of the N.C. Hwy 264/45 bridge)</li> <li>• All other associated tributaries and canals to the waters listed above.</li> </ul> Pungo Lake (Washington and Hyde counties) New Lake (Hyde Co.) Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.) Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)	14-inch minimum	5
Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties) Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)	16-inch minimum	5
Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)	16-inch minimum, and only 1 may be greater than 20 inches	5, including only 1 greater than 20 inches
Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)	18-inch minimum	5
Lake Hampton (Yadkin Co.) Shearon Harris Reservoir (Chatham and Wake counties)	14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches and none between 16–20 inches may be possessed	5, including only 2 less than 14 inches
Lake Phelps	14-inch minimum and none between 16–20 inches may be possessed	5
New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)	No minimum size, none between 14–22 inches may be possessed, and only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass may be greater than 22 inches	5 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass in combination, including only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches
Lake Cammack (Alamance Co.) Lake Holt (Granville Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 2 may be greater than 14 inches	10, including only 2 greater than 14 inches
Lake Santeetlah (Graham Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 5 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in combination may be greater than 14 inches	No daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass less than 14 inches, and only 5 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in combination may be greater than 14 inches
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	12-inch minimum	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores (Dare Co.)	No largemouth bass may be possessed	No largemouth bass may be possessed

\* Please note: “In combination” means the total number for all species combined.

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
<b>SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>		
All public waters except those listed below	14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches	5, including only 2 less than 14 inches
New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)	No minimum size, none between 14–22 inches may be possessed, and only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass may be greater than 22 inches	5 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass in combination, including only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches
Lake Santeetlah (Graham Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 5 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in combination may be greater than 14 inches	No daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass less than 14 inches, and only 5 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in combination may be greater than 14 inches
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	No minimum size limit	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
<b>ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS</b>		
All public waters except those listed below	None	None
New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)	No minimum size, none between 14–22 inches may be possessed, and only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass may be greater than 22 inches	5 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass in combination, including only 1 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	No minimum size limit	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
<b>REDEYE BASS</b>		
All public waters	14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches	5, including only 2 less than 14 inches
<b>STRIPED BASS AND BODIE BASS (STRIPED BASS HYBRID)</b>		
<b>INLAND IMPOUNDMENTS AND TRIBUTARIES</b>		
Impounded inland waters and their tributaries except those listed below	20-inch minimum	4 in combination
In the following waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John H. Kerr Reservoir</li> <li>Dan River (Caswell Co.), downstream of Danville, Va.</li> </ul>	Oct. 1–May 31: 20-inch minimum June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit	Oct. 1–May 31: 2 in combination June 1–Sept. 30: 4 in combination
Lake Gaston Roanoke Rapids Reservoir	Oct. 1–May 31: 20-inch minimum June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit	4 in combination
Lake Norman, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake	16-inch minimum	4 in combination
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 2 fish may be greater than 22 inches	15 in combination, including only 2 greater than 22 inches
<b>COASTAL RIVERS AND IMPOUNDMENTS</b>		
Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roanoke River from Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound and its tributaries</li> <li>Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries</li> </ul>	Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 18-inch minimum, no fish between 22–27 inches	Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 2 in combination including only 1 greater than 27 inches
Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound and Chowan, Yeopim, Perquimans, Little, Pasquotank, North, Alligator and Scuppernong rivers and their tributaries)	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries	
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland waters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N&amp;S Railroad Bridge at Washington</li> <li>Neuse River and tributaries from Falls Lake Dam downstream to Pitchkettle Creek</li> <li>Pungo River upstream of the US 264 bridge at Leechville</li> </ul>	No striped bass may be possessed.	

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
<b>STRIPED BASS AND BODIE BASS (STRIPED BASS HYBRID) (CONTINUED)</b>		
<b>COASTAL RIVERS AND IMPOUNDMENTS (CONTINUED)</b>		
<b>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland waters including (contintued):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cape Fear River and tributaries from Buckhorn Dam downstream to Lock and Dam #1</li> <li>• All other unlisted inland waters of coastal rivers and tributaries</li> </ul>	No striped bass may be possessed.	
<b>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, joint waters including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuse River and tributaries from Pitchkettle Creek downstream to Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern</li> <li>• Pungo River downstream of the US 264 bridge at Leechville to Smith Creek</li> <li>• Cape Fear River from Lock and Dam #1 downstream to the US 17-74-76 bridge at Wilmington</li> <li>• All other unlisted joint waters of coastal rivers and tributaries</li> </ul>	No striped bass may be possessed.	
<b>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, coastal waters including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N &amp; S Railroad Bridge at Washington, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters</li> <li>• Neuse River downstream of Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters</li> <li>• Cape Fear River downstream of the US 17-74-76 bridge at Wilmington</li> <li>• Pungo River downstream of Smith Creek</li> <li>• All other unlisted coastal waters</li> </ul>	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries	
<b>In the following waters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam</li> <li>• Lake Mattamuskeet</li> </ul>	18-inch minimum	3 in combination
<b>SUNFISH (EXCEPT SPECIES LISTED BELOW)</b>		
<b>All public fishing waters except those listed below</b>	None	
<b>In the following waters and their tributaries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam</li> <li>• Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam</li> <li>• Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam</li> <li>• Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam</li> <li>• Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam</li> <li>• Cape Fear River</li> <li>• Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam</li> <li>• Lumber River, including Drowning Creek</li> <li>• All public waters east of I-95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.)</li> </ul>	None	30 in combination, including no more than 12 redbreast sunfish
<b>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)</b>		
<b>All public fishing waters except those listed below</b>	None	
<b>In the following waters and their tributaries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam</li> <li>• Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam</li> <li>• Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam</li> <li>• Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam</li> <li>• Cape Fear River</li> <li>• Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam</li> <li>• Lumber River, including Drowning Creek</li> </ul>	8-inch minimum	20 in combination

\* Please note: "In combination" means the total number for all species combined.

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
<b>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE) (CONTINUED)</b>		
In the following waters and their tributaries (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other public waters east of I-95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.), Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.) and Roanoke River (see below)</li> <li>Lake Norman</li> <li>Hyc0 Lake</li> <li>Lake Ramseur</li> <li>Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)</li> <li>All public waters west of I-77</li> <li>Lake Hampton (Yadkin Co.)</li> </ul>	8-inch minimum	20 in combination
John H. Kerr Reservoir	9-inch minimum	25 in combination
B. Everett Jordan Reservoir	10-inch minimum	20 in combination
Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)		
Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)	None	20 in combination
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	None	30 in combination
<b>ROCK BASS AND ROANOKE BASS</b>		
All public fishing waters except those listed below	None	
All public waters east of I-77	8-inch minimum	2 in combination
<b>WHITE BASS</b>		
All inland fishing waters	14-inch minimum	10
<b>WHITE PERCH</b>		
All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	None
All public fishing waters in and west of Haywood, Buncombe and Rutherford counties	No live white perch may be possessed, transported or released.	
<b>AMERICAN AND HICKORY SHAD</b>		
All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	10 in combination, including no more than 1 American shad
Cape Fear River and its tributaries	None	10 in combination, including no more than 5 American shad
Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, Pee Dee River, and their tributaries	None	10 in combination
Lake Gaston	No American shad may be possessed	
Roanoke Rapids Reservoir		
John H. Kerr Reservoir		
<b>SPOTTED SEA TROUT, FLOUNDER, AND RED DRUM</b>		
All inland fishing waters	Same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, visit <a href="http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits">portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits</a> or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.	
<b>WALLEYE</b>		
All public fishing waters except those listed below	None	8
Lake James and tributaries	15-inch minimum	8
Linville River upstream from N.C. 126 bridge	None	4
Lake Gaston	18-inch minimum	5
Roanoke Rapids Reservoir		
John H. Kerr Reservoir		
<b>MUSKELLUNGE</b>		
All public fishing waters	42-inch minimum	1
<b>SAUGER</b>		
All public fishing waters	15-inch minimum	8
<b>KOKANEE SALMON</b>		
All public fishing waters	None	4
<b>BLACK BULLHEAD, BROWN BULLHEAD, FLAT BULLHEAD, SNAIL BULLHEAD, WHITE CATFISH, AND YELLOW BULLHEAD</b>		
All inland fishing waters	None	10 in combination
<b>ALL OTHER WARMWATER GAME FISHES</b>		
All public fishing waters	None	

## Regulations for Mountain Trout

Brook, brown and rainbow trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes. Those mountain waters that support trout and are open to public fishing are designated as “Public Mountain Trout Waters” by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are managed for public trout fishing. A significant number of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Public Mountain Trout Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and choose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at [ncwildlife.org/trout](http://ncwildlife.org/trout).

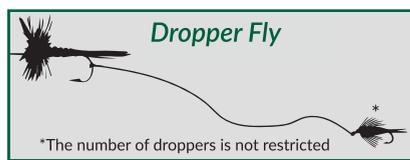
### MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
<b>HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS</b>			
Aug. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021 7 a.m. April 3, 2021 - July 31, 2021 • All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2021 - April 2, 2021 **No fishing allowed • All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	**	**	**
No closed season • Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area • Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs	None	7	None
<b>WILD TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook.
<b>WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.
<b>DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS</b>			
Oct. 1, 2020 - June 4, 2021 **No trout may be possessed **No fishing allowed from ½ hour after sunset on June 4, 2021, to 6 a.m. on June 5, 2021	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. **
Aug 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2020 June 5, 2021 - July 31, 2021 (Note: youth under 18 years old only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 5, 2021)	None	7	None
<b>CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
<b>CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
<b>SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season • Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	14 inches	2	None
• Apalachia Reservoir	None but only one trout may be greater than 14 inches	3 including only one trout greater than 14 inches	None
<b>UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	None	7	None

\* See page 32 for a definition of artificial lure and natural bait

## Fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters

- Fishing is limited to hook and line only.
- An **artificial lure** is defined as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- An **artificial fly** is defined as one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- **Natural bait** is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- A **single hook** is defined as a fish hook with only one point.
- It is unlawful to take fish bait or bait fish from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch and Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Public Mountain Trout Waters.



- Fishing is not allowed in Hatchery Supported Trout Waters during the closed season except in the Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and on power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs designated as trout waters (Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake).
- Non-trout species may be harvested from Delayed Harvest Trout Waters during the catch-and-release only trout season under applicable size and creel limits.



## Trout Anglers

Hellbenders are harmless, non-venomous, giant, crayfish-eating, aquatic salamanders and are indicators of good water quality and healthy streams. The Wildlife Commission needs help to conserve this state-listed species of special concern. See or catch a hellbender? Release it at the spot of capture and report where you found it.

Call 919-707-0050

- It is unlawful to place hatchery-reared fish into Wild Trout Waters or move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization.
- Information and regulations about trout fishing on game lands are listed on pages 40–41.

## Trout Fishing in Undesignated Waters

Some waters that are not designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters contain mountain trout. When fishing in undesignated waters, there is no size limit or bait restrictions and the creel limit is seven trout per day, with no closed season.

## Public Mountain Trout Waters

Some Public Mountain Trout Waters are managed for self-sustaining trout populations, while others have to be stocked periodically to provide a fishery. Public Mountain Trout Waters are as follows:

- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters”
- “Delayed Harvest Trout Waters”
- “Hatchery Supported Trout Waters”
- “Special Regulation Trout Waters”
- “Wild Trout Waters”
- “Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters”

Some of these public trout waters are also classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and are identified on pages 40–41.

## Class Definitions

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-yellow signs.

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-yellow signs.

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures with one single hook, no natural bait may be possessed, and no trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters between Oct. 1 and 30 minutes after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June. These waters are closed to fishing from 30 minutes after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of June. At 6 a.m. on the first Saturday of June, these waters open to fishing for youths under 18 years old under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations—

no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on the first Saturday of June, these waters open for all anglers under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations. These waters are marked with black-and-white signs.

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

In Hatchery Supported Trout Waters there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. These waters are marked with green-and-white signs.

### SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS

These portions of Public Mountain Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, are subject to watercourse-specific, special regulations. These streams are marked with white-and-red signs.

### WILD TROUT WATERS

In all Wild Trout Waters, the minimum length limit is seven inches and the creel limit is four trout per day. Only artificial lures with one single hook may be used. All Public Mountain Trout Waters located on game lands are Wild Trout Waters unless classified and posted otherwise. Wild Trout Waters are marked with blue-and-yellow signs.

### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished with artificial lures or natural bait, except live fish. Lures and natural baits are restricted to one single hook. The minimum length limit is seven inches, and the daily creel limit is four trout. These streams are marked with brown-and-yellow signs.

## Mountain Trout Regulations by County

### Alleghany County

#### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])

#### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Big Pine Creek
- Bledsoe Creek
- Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against trespassing)
- Cranberry Creek
- (Big) Glade Creek
- Little River (275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)
- Meadow Fork
- Pine Swamp Creek
- Piney Fork
- Prathers Creek

#### WILD TROUT WATERS

- All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

**Ashe County**

**CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS**

- Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)

**DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS**

- Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
- Helton Creek (S.R. 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)
- South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge)
- Trout Lake

**HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS**

- Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)
- Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
- Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
- Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
- Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- Nathans Creek
- North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
- Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)

- Roan Creek
- Three Top Creek

**Avery County**

**CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS**

- Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
- Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

**CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS**

- Wilson Creek (game land portion)

**HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS**

- Boyde Coffey Lake
- Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
- Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Milltimber Creek
- North Toe River—upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Toe River—lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Squirrel Creek
- Wildcat Lake

**WILD TROUT WATERS**

- Birchfield Creek
- Cow Camp Creek
- Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
- Gragg Prong
- Horse Creek
- Kentucky Creek
- North Harper Creek
- Plumtree Creek
- Roaring Creek
- Rockhouse Creek
- Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
- South Harper Creek
- Webb Prong

**Buncombe County**

**CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS**

- Carter Creek (game land portion)

**HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS**

- Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
- Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)

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- Lake Powhatan
- Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
- Stony Creek
- Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)

## Burke County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Carroll Creek (portion on game lands above S.R. 1405)
- Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
- Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area (LGWA) and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek) There is no closed season within LGWA.

### SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS

- Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is two trout per day, and the minimum size limit is 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- All waters located on South Mountains State Park except Clear Creek Reservoir, the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinny Creek and the lower park boundary, and Henry Fork and its tributaries
- Nettle Branch (game land portion)

## Caldwell County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Boone Fork Pond
- Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to Mc-Cloud Branch)
- Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
- Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)
- Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge

- Branch including tributaries on game lands)
- Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- Rockhouse Creek

## Cherokee County

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy. [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)

### SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS

- Apalachia Reservoir. The creel limit is three trout per day. There is no minimum size limit, but only one trout may be greater than 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Bald Creek (game land portion)
- Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- North Shoal Creek (game land portion)

## Clay County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Fires Creek (**Rockhouse Creek** to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)

## Graham County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Road 2579)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- Cheoah Reservoir
- Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- West Buffalo Creek
- Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah Hydropower Pipeline to Cheoah River)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Little Buffalo Creek
- South Fork Squally Creek
- Squally Creek

### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Deep Creek
- Franks Creek
- Long Creek (game land portion)

## Haywood County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)
- Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)

### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Hemphill Creek
- Hurricane Creek

## Henderson County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford Co. line)
- Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
- Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
- (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)

## Jackson County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Flat Creek
- Tuckasegee River (above the Clark property)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Balsam Lake
- Bear Creek Lake
- Cedar Cliff Lake
- Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
- Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
- Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
- Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against trespassing)

- Tanasee Creek Lake
- Tuckasegee River—upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
- Tuckasegee River—lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
- Wolf Creek Lake

#### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Gage Creek
- North Fork Scott Creek
- Tanasee Creek
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)

#### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Buff Creek
- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
- Scotsman Creek (game land portion)

#### Macon County

##### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

##### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
- Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
- Cliffside Lake
- Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
- Nantahala River—upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
- Nantahala River—lower (Nantahala hydro-power discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
- Queens Creek Lake

##### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
- Kimsey Creek
- Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- Park Creek
- Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

#### Madison County

##### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

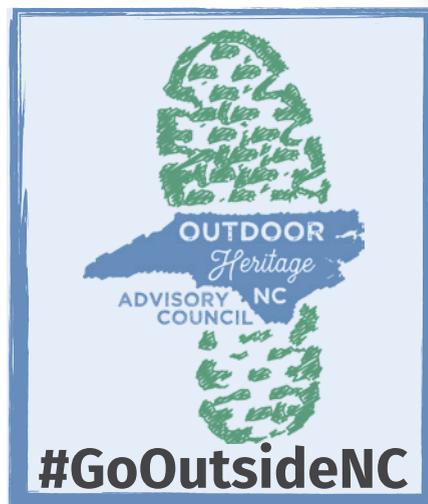
- Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
- Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue)

##### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

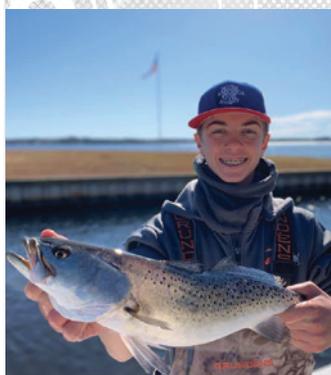
- Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Road] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
- Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- Max Patch Pond
- Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
- Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
- Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- Shut-in Creek
- Spillcorn Creek
- Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Road 223)
- West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)

##### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)



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## McDowell County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Newberry Creek (game land portion)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
- Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)

## Mitchell County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- East Fork Grassy Creek
- Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Green Creek (above Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
- Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

## Polk County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
- North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)

## Rutherford County

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

## Stokes County

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)

## Surry County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Ararat River (portion adjacent to Ararat River Greenway)
- Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to **the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330**)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
- Big Elkin Creek (Dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
- Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
- Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
- Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
- Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)

## Swain County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
- Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- Cheoah Reservoir
- Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
- Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
- Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Reservoir water level)

## Transylvania County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107 bridge)
- Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary line)
- French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area)

- Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
- West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- All waters located on Gorges State Park
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)

### WILD TROUT/NATURAL BAIT WATERS

- North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
- Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

## Watauga County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries)
- Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Road bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Lake Coffey)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Lake Coffey
- Watauga River—upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)
- Watauga River—lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
- Beech Creek
- Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
- Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
- Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
- Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
- Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork New River)
- Norris Fork Creek
- South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower boundary of Brookshire Park)
- Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)

- Howard Creek
- Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
- Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
- Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)

## Wilkes County

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary)
- Elk Creek—upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
- Elk Creek—lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains Development)
- Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)
- Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
- Bell Branch Pond
- Boundary Line Pond
- Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

- Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
- East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
- Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing)
- Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
- North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)
- Pike Creek
- Pike Creek Pond
- South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
- South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to **U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection**)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply.

## Yancey County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
- Upper Creek

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Road to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)

### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
- Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
- South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. recreation park, except where posted against trespassing)

### WILD TROUT WATERS

- Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Road to N.C. 197 bridge)
- Lickskill Creek
- Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

## Mountain Heritage Trout Waters

Some Public Mountain Trout Waters running through or adjacent to certain cities or towns may be further classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Any license that provides



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trout fishing privileges may be used to fish on Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Resident and nonresident anglers may instead purchase a three-day Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license valid only on Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. This license is \$5 for both residents and nonresidents and can be purchased online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 888-248-6834, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage Trout City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

### Ashe County

- **Lansing:** Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Todd:** South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to S.R. 1351 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Avery County

- **Newland:** North Toe River (Watauga St. bridge to Roby Shomaker Wetlands and Family Recreation Park) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Haywood County

- **Maggie Valley:** Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to S.R. 1309 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Waynesville:** Richland Creek (Russ Avenue bridge to U.S. 19 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Jackson County

- **Dillsboro:** Scott Creek (Hometown Place Road to Tuckasegee River) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]  
Tuckasegee River (Falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge to Scott Creek) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]  
Tuckasegee River (Savannah Creek to falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Sylva:** Scott Creek (Hospital Road to Hometown Place Road) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Webster:** Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to Savannah Creek) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Madison County

- **Hot Springs:** Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### McDowell County

- **Old Fort:** Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Mitchell County

- **Bakersville:** Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Spruce Pine:** North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Swain County

- **Bryson City:** Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

### Watauga County

- **Beech Mountain:** Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]  
Buckeye Creek Reservoir [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]  
Lake Coffey [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]  
Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Road bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Lake Coffey) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters regulations apply]

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**Wilkes County**

- **North Wilkesboro:** Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]
- **Wilkesboro:** Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 101 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

**Yancey County**

- **Burnsville:** South Toe River (property boundaries of the Yancey County Toe River Campground) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

**Trout Fishing on Game Lands**

- All waters on the game lands listed below are Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:
  - » Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co.
  - » Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
  - » Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing.
  - » Headwaters Game Land in Transylvania Co.
  - » Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except

Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.

- » Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, and Spring Creek below USFS Road 223.
- » Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
- » Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes Co.
- » South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
- » Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
- » Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
- » Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
- » William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood Co.

**Trout Fishing on the Blue Ridge Parkway**

Angling opportunities on the Blue Ridge Parkway are managed by the National Park Service which establishes fishing regulations for Parkway waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission aides with management by stocking catchable-size trout into the following waters:

**County**

<b>Alleghany</b> .....	Brush Creek
<b>Alleghany</b> .....	Big Pine Creek
<b>Alleghany</b> .....	Meadow Fork
<b>Avery</b> .....	Linville River
<b>Buncombe</b> .....	Swannanoa River
<b>Watauga</b> .....	Price Lake

**Water**

Specific fishing regulations are displayed on signs located near fishing access points, and all persons age 16 or older must possess a valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license to fish parkway waters. The parkway provides wild and catch-and-release trout fishing, as well as, angling for bass and sunfish.

For more information on fishing in parkway waters contact:

**Blue Ridge Parkway**

199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, N.C. 28803. Phone: 828-271-4779.

**Trout Fishing on N.C. State Parks**

Fishing within a state park is limited to park operating hours. For park information visit [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov) or contact:

<b>South Mountains State Park</b> .....	828-433-4772
<b>Stone Mountain State Park</b> .....	336-957-8185
<b>Gorges State Park</b> .....	828-966-9099



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## NONGAME FISH SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
<b>CHANNEL, BLUE, AND FLATHEAD CATFISH</b>		
All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	None
Cedarrock Park Pond (Alamance Co.), Ellendale Community Center Pond (Alexander Co.), Azalea Park Pond (Buncombe Co.), Charles Owen Park Pond (Buncombe Co.), Lake Julian (Buncombe Co.), Lake Louise (Buncombe Co.), Lake Tomahawk (Buncombe Co.), Frank Liske Park Pond (Cabarrus Co.), TN Spencer Park Pond (Cabarrus Co.), Lake Rim* (Cumberland Co.), Etheridge Pond* (Edgecombe Co.), Indian Lake (Edgecombe Co.), Newbold Pond* (Edgecombe Co.), CG Hill Memorial Park Pond (Forsyth Co.), Kernersville Lake (Forsyth Co.), Village Point Lake (Forsyth Co.), Winston Park Pond* (Forsyth Co.), Dallas Park Pond (Gaston Co.), George Poston Park Pond (Gaston Co.), Lake Devin (Granville Co.), Bur-Mill Park Ponds (Guilford Co.), Country Park Pond (Guilford Co.), Guilford County Farm Park (Guilford Co.), Hagan Stone Park Ponds (Guilford Co.), Keeley Park Ponds (Guilford Co.), Oka T Hester Pond (Guilford Co.), Cashiers Recreation Pond (Jackson Co.), San-Lee Park Ponds (Lee Co.), Neuseway Nature Center Pond (Lenoir Co.), Elon Holmes Park Pond (Mecklenburg Co.), Freedom Park Pond* (Mecklenburg Co.), Hornet's Nest Park Pond (Mecklenburg Co.), McAlpine Lake (Mecklenburg Co.), Robbins Park Ponds (Mecklenburg Co.), Squirrel Lake (Mecklenburg Co.), Lake Luke Marion (Moore Co.), Anderson Community Park Pond (Orange Co.), Lake Michael (Orange Co.), River Park North Ponds (Pitt Co.), Laughter Pond (Polk Co.), Ellerbe Community Lake (Richmond Co.), Hamlet City Lake (Richmond Co.), Hinson Lake (Richmond Co.), Dan Nicholas Park Pond (Rowan Co.), Salisbury Community Park Lake (Rowan Co.), Albemarle City Lake (Stanly Co.), Big Elkin Creek (Surry Co.), Tumbling Rock Reservoir (Surry Co.), Dogwood Park Pond (Union Co.), Fox Pond (Vance Co.), Bass Lake (Wake Co.), Bond Park Pond (Wake Co.), Harris Lake County Park Pond (Wake Co.), Pine Lake in Apex Community Park (Wake Co.), Lake Raleigh* (Wake Co.), Shelley Lake (Wake Co.), Simpkins Pond in Lake Wheeler Park (Wake Co.), Yadkin County Park Pond (Yadkin Co.)	None	7 Channel Catfish
Ponds located on game lands		
Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries	None	5 in combination
Badin Lake, Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion), John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion), Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Norman, Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, Lake Tillery, Lake Wylie	No minimum size limit, and only one Blue Catfish may be greater than 32 inches	No daily creel limit for Blue Catfish less than 32 inches, and only one Blue Catfish may be greater than 32 inches
<b>AMERICAN EEL</b>		
All inland fishing waters	9-inch minimum (regardless of origin)	25 (regardless of origin)
<b>BLUE CRABS</b>		
All inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands when taken by hook and line	minimum carapace width of 5 inches (point to point)	50 crabs per person or 100 per vessel
<b>RIVER HERRING (ALEWIFE AND BLUEBACK HERRING)</b>		
All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	None
Inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course on the river (listed below):	No minimum size limit, but no river herring greater than 6 inches may be taken or possessed (regardless of origin)	No daily creel limit for river herring less than 6 inches, and no river herring greater than 6 inches may be taken or possessed (regardless of origin)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roanoke River – Roanoke Rapids Dam</li> <li>• Tar River – Rocky Mount Mill Dam</li> <li>• Neuse River – Falls Lake Dam</li> <li>• Cape Fear River – Buckhorn Dam</li> <li>• Waccamaw River – Lake Waccamaw Dam</li> <li>• Pee-Dee River – Blewett Falls Dam</li> </ul>		
Lumber River including Drowning Creek		
all other inland fishing waters east of I-95		
Little Tennessee River Basin in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake including all tributaries and impoundments	No live alewife or blueback herring may be possessed, transported or released.	

\* Use of gasoline engines to power boats is prohibited.

## NONGAME FISH SIZE & CREEL LIMITS (CONT.)

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
<b>GRASS CARP</b>		
All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	None
Lake James	No grass carp may be possessed except one fish per day may be taken and possessed with archery equipment (see page 56).	
Lookout Shoals Lake		
Mountain Island Reservoir		
Lake Wylie		
Lake Gaston		
Roanoke Rapids Reservoir	No grass carp may be possessed or taken by any method including archery equipment except for by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission for scientific study	
Lake Norman		
John H. Kerr Reservoir		
<b>FRESHWATER MUSSELS INCLUDING THE ASIAN CLAM (<i>CORBICULA FLUMINEA</i>)</b>		
All flowing inland fishing waters	No freshwater mussels including the Asian clam may be taken or possessed.	
All impounded inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	200 in combination, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asian clam
Lake Waccamaw	No freshwater mussels including the Asian clam may be taken or possessed.	
University Lake (Orange Co.)		
<b>GRAY TROUT</b>		
All inland fishing waters	Same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see <a href="http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits">portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits</a> or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.	
<b>STURGEON</b>		
All inland fishing waters	No sturgeon may be possessed.	
<b>MARGINED MADTOM AND TADPOLE MADTOM</b>		
All inland fishing waters	No margined madtom and tadpole madtom may be possessed.	

\* Use of gasoline engines to power boats is prohibited.

## Nongame Fish

Any fish not classified as a game fish is considered a nongame fish when found in inland fishing waters and includes shellfish and crustaceans.

### Manner of Taking Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line, including trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks, or by grabbling; no fish may be taken by snagging. For special rules governing trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks, see page 42.
- Nongame fish may be taken with certain special devices for personal use (bait or personal consumption) using any valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges. See restrictions under "Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Personal Use" below.
- Nongame fishes may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 54) in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands, and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land, Public Mountain Trout Waters, and reservoirs with restrictions on taking grass carp listed above. In the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries, archery equipment may only be used to take catfish.

- Special devices (see "Special Fishing Devices" pages 42-43) may be used to take nongame fish with a Special Fishing Device License (see page 14) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 43-45).
- Crab pots may not be used in inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands, except that persons owning property adjacent to the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries may set two crab pots attached to their property and a special device license is not required.

### Seasons for Taking Nongame Fish

There are no closed seasons for nongame fishes taken from inland waters with the following exceptions:

- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- Seasons for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see [portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits) or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

- Special devices used to take nongame fish with a Special Fishing Device License may only be used in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 43-45).
- In Public Mountain Trout Waters, the season shall be the same as the trout-fishing season.
- Information and regulations about fishing on game lands are listed on page 45.
- Information and regulations about fishing in the waters or on the property of a state fish hatchery are listed on page 45.

## Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Personal Use

- Nongame fishes, crustaceans (crayfish and blue crabs), and mollusks may be taken for personal use (bait or personal consumption) only with the equipment listed below, and only requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.
  - » A dip net not greater than 6 feet across.

- » A seine not greater than 12 feet in length with a bar mesh measure of not more than 1/4 inch, except in Lake Waccamaw any length seine may be used to collect bait fishes.
- » A cast net.
- » A bow net in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 43–45).
- » Dip nets used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher where authorized by local law.
- » Minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter. All fish and animals must be removed daily, and the traps must be labeled with the user's name and address or WRC customer number.
- » A gig except in Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- » Traps (no more than three) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 43–45).
- » Eel pots (no more than two).
- » A spear gun in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 43–45).
- » Hand-held lines with single baits attached to each.
- » A single, multiple bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length that is under the immediate control and attendance of the user and is limited to one line per person and no more than one line per vessel. The line is required to be marked on each end with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter and bearing legible and indelible identification of the user's name and address.
- » A collapsible crab trap with the largest opening not greater than 18 inches and which, by design, collapses at all times when in the water, except when being retrieved or lowered to the bottom.
- Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks taken for bait or personal use may not be sold.
- The daily creel limit is 200 nongame fish, crayfish, and mollusks, in combination, subject to species-specific size and creel limits (see pages 41–42).
- Any fish taken for bait purposes are included in the daily possession limit for that species (where such a limit is specified).
- Nongame fish may not be taken for bait from Bear Creek and Rocky River, Chatham County; Fork Creek, Randolph County; Deep River below Coleridge Dam, Randolph County; those portions of Deep River in Moore, Chatham and Lee counties; and Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs).
- Game fish incidentally taken with nets or traps, while capturing bait, must not be harmed and must be released immediately.

**Possession and Use of Nongame Fish**

- It is unlawful, while fishing, to change the appearance of fish subject to species-specific size limits or daily creel limits (see Nongame Fish Size & Creel Limits, pages 41-42) or to remove the head and/or tail from fish that are regulated by a size limit so that they cannot be measured and/or identified.

**Sale of Nongame Fish**

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line (including trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks), grabbling and by special fishing devices with a Special Fishing Device License may be sold, subject to the following restrictions:
  - » Species-specific size and creel limits (see page 42).
  - » Bowfin may not be sold.
  - » Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).
  - » Blue crabs taken from inland fishing waters with a line containing multiple baits may not be sold.
  - » Those listed under "Miscellaneous Prohibitions" on page 47.
  - » A special fishing device license is required when taking nongame fish with special fishing devices and also subject to restrictions listed under "Special Fishing Devices," on pages 42–44, "Seasons and Waters" on pages 43–45, and "Fishing on Game Lands" on page 45.
- Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks taken for personal use with any valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges may not be sold.
- The sale of commercially raised nongame fish is regulated by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Archery Equipment**

- Nongame fish may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 54) in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land, Public Mountain Trout Waters, and reservoirs with restrictions on taking grass carp listed on page 41.
- In the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries, archery equipment may only be used to take catfish, subject to size and creel limits See page 40.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with archery equipment (see page 54) under any license that authorizes basic hunting or fishing privileges.

**Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks**

- A trotline is a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common line having multiple hooks attached.
- A set-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a stationary object.
- A jug-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a float.
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks may be fished under any license that authorizes basic fishing privileges.
- It is unlawful to use live bait with trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks.
- Trotlines must be set parallel to the nearest shore in all public waters, where their use is authorized.
- Each trotline, set-hook and jug-hook shall have attached the user's name and address or the user's NCWRC customer number legibly inscribed.
- Each trotline shall be conspicuously marked at each end, and each set-hook shall be conspicuously marked at one end with a prominent flag or floating object.
- Metal cans and glass containers cannot be used as markers.
- The number of jug-hooks that may be fished is limited to 70 per boat.
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks must be fished daily, and all fish must be removed daily.
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks without bait or not properly labeled may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement officers.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with multiple baits without hooks (see restrictions under "Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption" on pages 41–42).

**Exceptions**

- No trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks may be used in the impounded waters of Sandhills Game Land.
- No trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks may be used in Public Mountain Trout Waters, except impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.
- In Lake Waccamaw, it is unlawful to use trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks from May 1–Sept. 30.

**Special Fishing Devices**

- Special fishing devices for the taking of nongame fishes with a Special Fishing Device License, include the following: seines, cast

nets, gill nets, dip nets, bow nets, reels, gigs, spear guns, baskets, fish pots, eel pots, traps (excluding crab traps and automobile tires), and hand-crank electrofishers where authorized by local law.

- **Special fishing devices may only be used in inland fishing waters during designated seasons.** See list (by county) under “Seasons and Waters” on pages 43–45.

## Term and Use of Special Device Licenses

- The license is valid during a license year (12 months from date of purchase).
- Each user of a special device must have his own license in possession, except that a bow net or dip net may be used by another person who has the owner's license in his possession.
- Only the principal owner or operator must be licensed when drag seines are used at inland beaches to take mullet.
- Dip nets may be used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher where authorized by local law to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in inland fishing waters with any valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.

## Netting Restrictions

- Stationary nets must not exceed 100 yards in length and must be spaced at least 50 yards apart.
- “Attendance” requires that a fisherman be within 100 yards of his net at all times.
- Stationary nets must run parallel to the nearest shoreline.
- Anchored, fixed or drift gill nets must be marked at each end with two separate yellow buoys, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material no less than five inches in their smallest dimension. Buoys on each of the nets shall be marked (by engraving buoys or attaching engraved metal or plastic tags) with one of the following: owner's N.C. vessel registration number, owner's U.S. vessel documentation name or owner's last name and initials.
- No wires or ropes associated with a special fishing device may extend across any navigable watercourse.

## Fish-Trap Restrictions

- A fish trap may be no more than 60 inches in length and no more than 30 inches in depth or width.
- No lead nets, wing nets or other devices may be attached to the trap nor used within 25 feet of the trap.
- Such devices, when set and left unattended, shall be affixed with a card or tag furnished by the license-holder and upon which his name and address shall be legibly inscribed.

## Eel Pot Restrictions

- It is unlawful to use eel pots with mesh sizes smaller than one-half inch by one-half inch.

- Each eel pot must be marked by attaching a floating buoy, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material and no less than five inches in diameter and no less than five inches in length. Buoys may be of any color except yellow. The owner shall always be identified on the attached buoy by using engraved buoys or by engraved metal or plastic tags attached to the buoy. Such identification shall include one of the following: owner's N.C. vessel registration number, owner's U.S. vessel documentation name, or owner's last name and initials.

## Hand-Crank Electrofisher Restrictions

- Hand-crank electrofishers are any manually operated device capable of generating a low-voltage electrical current, not to exceed 300 volts, for the taking of catfish.

## Seasons and Waters Applying to Special Fishing Devices

- No special fishing devices, including crab pots, may be used in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands.
- Seasons and waters, in which use of special devices with a Special Fishing Device License are indicated by the following counties:
  - » **Alamance:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below N.C. 49 bridge and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Alexander:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir.
  - » **Alleghany:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Anson:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle.
  - » **Ashe:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Beaufort:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Pungo River and in the Tar-Pamlico River above Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters.
  - » **Bertie:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke River). March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Bladen:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black River; July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Cape Fear River between Locks and Dams 1 and 3 and Black River (local law), except that hand-crank electrofishing is prohibited

within 800 feet downstream and 400 yards upstream of Lock and Dam 1; 400 yards downstream and upstream of Lock and Dam 2; and 400 yards downstream of Lock and Dam 3.

- » **Brunswick:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek, Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek.
- » **Buncombe:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- » **Burke:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
- » **Cabarrus:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- » **Caldwell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- » **Camden:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- » **Carteret:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except South River and the tributaries of the White Oak River.
- » **Caswell:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Hycro Reservoir.
- » **Catawba:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below Lookout Dam. July 1 – June 30 with traps, spear guns and gigs in all public waters.
- » **Chatham:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Haw River, Deep River and Rocky River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.
- » **Cherokee:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- » **Chowan:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- » **Clay:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- » **Cleveland:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June

- 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.
- » **Columbus:** Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and its tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Waccamaw and Lumber rivers (local law).
  - » **Craven:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse rivers. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle, Slocum (downstream from the U.S. 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock creeks and their tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River.
  - » **Currituck:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Tulls Creek and Northwest River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Dare:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Mashoes Creek, Milltail Creek, East Lake and South Lake. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Davidson:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters; and with traps in all public waters except Leonard's Creek, Abbott's Creek below Lake Thom-A-Lex Dam and the Abbott's Creek arm of High Rock Lake upstream from the N.C. 8 bridge.
  - » **Davie:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 for taking only carp and suckers with seines in Dutchman's Creek from U.S. 601 to Yadkin River and in Hunting Creek from S.R. 1338 to South Yadkin River.
  - » **Duplin:** Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge.
  - » **Durham:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Neuse River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Edgecombe:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all public waters.
  - » **Forsyth:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.
  - » **Franklin:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Parrish, Laurel Mill, Jackson, Clifton, Moore's and Perry's ponds, and in the Franklinton city ponds.
  - » **Gaston:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.
  - » **Gates:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Graham:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).
  - » **Granville:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Tar River below U.S. 158 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
  - » **Greene:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets and reels in Contentnea Creek.
  - » **Guilford:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River, Deep River below Jamestown Dam and Reedy Fork Creek below U.S. 29 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Halifax:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Beech Swamp, Clarks Canal, Conoconara Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey Creek and White's Mill Pond Run. April 1 – June 15 in Fishing Creek on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, shad and herring (not to exceed 6 inches in length) may be taken with skim or gill nets having a bar mesh of not less than 1.5 inch (local law).
  - » **Harnett:** Jan. 1 – May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River.
  - » **Haywood:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Henderson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Hertford:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Hyde:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Iredell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman.
  - » **Jackson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Johnston:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek, Neuse River and Swift Creek.
  - » **Jones:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Trent River below U.S. 17 bridge and White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to White Oak River.
  - » **Lee:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in Cape Fear River and Deep River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Cape Fear River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Lenoir:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River below U.S. 70 bridge at Kinston. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River.
  - » **Lincoln:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters.
  - » **McDowell:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
  - » **Macon:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Madison:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Martin:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Mecklenburg:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Freedom Park Pond and Hornet's Nest pond.
  - » **Montgomery:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except in Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Moore:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Deep River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land; and with traps in Deep River and its tributaries.
  - » **Nash:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Tar River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Tar River below Harris' Landing and Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam.
  - » **New Hanover:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Sutton (Catfish) Lake.
  - » **Northampton:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Gaston and Roanoke Rapids reservoirs and the Roanoke River above the U.S. 301 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Occoneechee Creek, Old River Landing Gut and Vaughns Creek below Watsons Mill.
  - » **Onslow:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. Aug. 1 – March 31 with eel pots in the main run of New River between U.S. 17 bridge and the mouth of Hawkins Creek.

- March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the main run of New River and White Oak River, and in Grant’s Creek.
- » **Orange:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Pamlico:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Dawson Creek.
  - » **Pasquotank:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters, except Dawson Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Pender:** Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Northeast Cape Fear River, Long Creek, Moore’s Creek approximately one mile upstream to New Moon Fishing Camp and Black River. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River (local law).
  - » **Perquimans:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Person:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Hyco Creek and Mayo Creek. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Pitt:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River and in Tar River below the mouth of Hardee Creek east of Greenville. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Grindle Creek, and Contentnea Creek between N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River. December 1 to June 5 with seines in Tar River.
  - » **Polk:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Randolph:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Deep River above the Coleridge Dam and in Uwharrie River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Richmond:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls
  - » **Robeson:** Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters.
  - » **Rockingham:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Dan River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Dan River; and with gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Rowan:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Rutherford:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Sampson:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Big Coharrie Creek, Black River and Six Runs Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River downstream of N.C. 1105 bridge (local law).
  - » **Stanly:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Stokes:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters; and traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.
  - » **Surry:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters; and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.
  - » **Swain:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).
  - » **Transylvania:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Tyrrell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Scuppernong River and Alligator Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Union:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
  - » **Vance:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Rolands, Faulkners, Southerlands and Weldon ponds, City Lake, and Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
  - » **Wake:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Sunset, Benson, Wheeler, Raleigh and Johnson lakes. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Neuse River below Falls Lake Dam, and Swift Creek below Lake Benson Dam.
  - » **Warren:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek and Walker Creek, excluding Duck and Hammes Mill ponds. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Duck and Hammes Mill ponds, Kerr Reservoir and Gaston Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
  - » **Washington:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - » **Wayne:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Little River, Mill Creek and Neuse River.
  - » **Wilkes:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Yadkin River below W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; and with gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - » **Wilson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in Contentnea Creek (except Buckhorn Reservoir), including unnamed tributaries between Flowers Mill and S.R. 1163 (Deans) bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Contentnea Creek below U.S. 301 bridge and in Toisnot Swamp downstream from the Lake Toisnot Dam.
  - » **Yadkin:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.

## Fishing on Game Lands

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
  - » Re-stocked ponds when posted against fishing.
  - » Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
  - » Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
  - » Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.
- In all game lands ponds, channel, white, and blue catfish may be taken only by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is seven channel catfish and 10 white catfish.
- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 54) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

## State Fish Hatcheries

It is unlawful to fish at any time in the waters or on the property of any state fish hatchery, including Bones Creek from the Lake Rim Dam to the U.S. 401 Bypass (Raeford Road), except McKinney Lake Reservoir at McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Elevated levels of some pollutants may be found in certain fish caught by the public or sold commercially in the United States. For more information, contact N.C. Department of Health and Human Services at 919-707-5900 or see [epi.publichealth.nc.gov](http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov) and click on "Fish Consumption Advisories." The following table lists current fish consumption advisories for North Carolina inland fishing waters:

BODY OF WATER	ADVISORY	POLLUTANT
Statewide	<b>Largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
	<b>Bluegill sunfish and trout.</b> No more than two meals per week for women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than four meals per week for all other people.	Mercury
South and east of I-85	<b>Blackfish (bowfin), Catfish (caught wild), Jack fish (chain pickerel), Warmouth, and Yellow perch.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
South and east of I-95	<b>Black crappie.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Albemarle Sound from Bull Bay to Harvey Point west to the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers (Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell counties)	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	Dioxins
Roanoke River from U.S. Hwy. 17 bridge near Williamston to the mouth of Albemarle Sound (Martin, Bertie and Washington counties)	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	Dioxins
Welch Creek (Martin, Beaufort and Washington counties)	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	Dioxins
Brier Creek Reservoir (Wake County), Brier Creek downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir, and Little Brier Creek and tributaries downstream of Brier Creek Parkway	<b>All fish.</b> No consumption.	PCBs
Lake Crabtree (Wake County)	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No consumption. All other fish. No more than one meal per month.	PCBs
Crabtree Creek (Wake County) above and below Lake Crabtree to Neuse River	<b>Carp, catfish and largemouth bass.</b> No more than one meal per month.	PCBs
Neuse River (Wake County) downstream of Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No more than one meal per month.	PCBs
Walnut Creek (Wake County) and Rocky Branch tributary just upstream of confluence with Neuse River	<b>Carp and catfish.</b> No more than one meal per month. All other fish. No more than one meal per week.	PCBs
Santeetlah Lake (Graham County) and Fontana Lake (Graham and Swain counties)	<b>Walleye.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Badin Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties)	<b>Catfish and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	PCBs Mercury
Lake Gaston (Warren, Halifax, and Northampton counties)	<b>Walleye and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one to two meals per month for all other people.	Mercury
Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)	<b>Channel catfish.</b> No consumption.	PCBs
	<b>Largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.	PCBs Mercury
	<b>Blue catfish.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	PCBs Mercury
Lake Wylie (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)	<b>Largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.	PCBs Mercury
Lake Chatuge (Clay County)	<b>White bass and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Lake Nantahala (Macon County)	<b>Smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Lake Norman (Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties)	<b>Striped bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	PCBs
	<b>Hybrid striped bass.</b> No more than two meals per week.	PCBs
	<b>Largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.	PCBs Mercury

## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES (CONT.)

BODY OF WATER	ADVISORY	POLLUTANT
Falls Reservoir (Montgomery and Stanly counties), High Rock Lake (Davidson and Rowan counties), and Lake Tillery (Montgomery and Stanly counties)	<b>Catfish.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	PCBs Mercury
Dan River in North Carolina downstream from Danville, VA (Caswell County)	<b>Striped bass and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Brunswick River from its confluence with the Cape Fear River downstream to the U.S.-17 bridge, Cape Fear River just upstream of the confluence with the Brunswick River downstream to the U.S.-17 bridge, and Sturgeon Creek (Brunswick and New Hanover counties)	<b>Striped bass.</b> No more than two meals per week.	Mercury
	<b>Striped mullet.</b> No more than three meals per week.	Hexavalent Chromium
	<b>Blue crab.</b> No more than three meals per week.	Arsenic Hexavalent Chromium Mercury
	<b>Catfish and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	Mercury
Lake Glenville (Jackson County)	<b>Smallmouth bass, walleye and largemouth bass.</b> No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per month of smallmouth bass or walleye for all other people. No more than one meal per week of largemouth bass for all other people.	Mercury

## Miscellaneous Prohibitions

### Possession of Certain Fishes

- It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha; “walking catfish” (*Carias batrachus*); snakehead fish (from the Family *Channidae*; formerly *Ophiocephalidae*); white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (see exception below); black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*); bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*); silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*); swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*); red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*); tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*); ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*); Japanese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*); Chinese mystery snail (*Cipantopaludina chinensis malleata*); red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*); virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*); rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*); Australian red claw crayfish or “red claw” (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) or other species of “giant” crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*; zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*; **redtail catfish** (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*) or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina.
- Certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- It is unlawful to take or possess any state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.

- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River Basin in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake including all tributaries and impoundments.
- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live White Perch in waters in and west of Haywood, Buncombe and Rutherford counties.
- It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission (Fish Stocking Permit applications are available at [ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Hatcheries-Stocking/Stocking-Permits](http://ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Hatcheries-Stocking/Stocking-Permits), or for more information about applying, call 919-707-0220).

## Fishing Access Area Regulations

It is unlawful to:

- Use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing, except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted. All other uses—including swimming, sunbathing on piers or decks, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.
- Possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun possessed pursuant to a valid concealed handgun permit on those public fishing areas where concealed carry is allowed by the landowner. Carrying any loaded firearm, including concealed handguns, is not allowed on public fishing areas at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land, Buckhorn Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land, Chatham Game Land, DuPont State Forest Game Land, Harris

Game Land, Hyco Game Land, Jordan Game Land, Kerr Scott Game Land, Lee Game Land, Mayo Game Land, Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74, Sutton Lake Game Land, Vance Game Land, the portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, and any other posted public fishing area.

- Use gasoline motors on Lake Rim in Cumberland County, and on Newbold and Etheridge ponds in Edgecombe County.

## Public Access for Fishing Only

- Where access to inland fishing waters is provided through private property under an agreement with the landowner, the area is marked by signs indicating Public Access for Fishing Only.
- Any licensed angler and accompanying youths may cross the private property signed as Public Access for Fishing Only in order to access public waters for the purpose of fishing.
- Anglers using these areas are prohibited from entering before 7 a.m. or remaining on the property after 9 p.m., building fires, littering, swimming, launching or retrieving boats, and camping while on the private property unless otherwise posted.

## Boating Access Area Regulations

It is unlawful to:

- Leave any vehicle, trailer, boat or other obstruction where it will impede the use of the ramp by others.

- Park any vehicles, trailer or boat anywhere on the area when the parking zone is fully occupied. This does not prohibit legal use of the ramp.
- Use the area for swimming, camping, operating concessions or for any use other than the launching and recovery of boats and parking of vehicles and boat trailers, except where facilities for a particular use are provided.
- Operate any vessel within 50 yards of the ramp at a speed greater than "No Wake" speed.
- Possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun possessed pursuant to a valid concealed handgun permit on those boating access areas where concealed carry is allowed by the landowner. Carrying any loaded firearm, including concealed handguns, is not allowed on boating access areas at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land, Buckhorn Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land, Chatham Game Land, DuPont State Forest Game Land, Harris Game Land, Hyco Game Land, Jordan Game Land, Kerr Scott Game Land, Lee Game Land, Mayo Game Land, Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74, Sutton Lake Game Land, Vance Game Land, the portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, and any other posted boating access area.
- Operate a vehicle on any boat access area in a manner so as to endanger life or property.
- Deposit any debris or refuse anywhere on the grounds of the area.
- Fail to obey any instruction or signs regulating use of the access area.
- Conduct a fishing tournament weigh-in without first obtaining a letter of authorization from the Division of Engineering and Lands Management at [ncwildlife.org/boating](http://ncwildlife.org/boating) or by calling 919-707-0150. This permit must be available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers during the tournament.
- Park in a handicapped space without displaying a handicapped plate or sign.

## Hydroelectric Station Safety Zones

A 100-foot safety zone extends both upstream and downstream of the following hydroelectric stations and dams. Only fishing and boating are authorized within the safety zone, subject to the following restrictions:

- All boaters within the safety zone are required to wear approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation devices.

- Any anglers within the safety zone that enter the water are required to wear an approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device.
- No vessel may anchor within this zone or tie off to any part of the hydroelectric station structure.

### Hydroelectric Stations and Associated Dams

#### Catawba River:

- Bridgewater Hydroelectric Station (Paddy Creek, Linville and Catawba dams)
- Cowans Ford Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Lookout Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Mountain Island Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Oxford Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Rhodhiss Hydroelectric Station and dam

#### Green River:

- Tuxedo Hydroelectric Station and dam

#### Yadkin River:

- Narrows Hydroelectric Station
- High Rock Hydroelectric Station

## Other Fishing Information

For fishing information relating to land administered by other agencies, contact the appropriate agency:

- **Blue Ridge Parkway** (see page 39)  
199 Hemphill Knob Road  
Asheville, N.C. 28803.  
Phone: 828-271-4779
- **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**  
Cherokee Fish and Game Management  
P.O. Box 302  
Cherokee, N.C. 28719  
Phone: 800-438-1601
- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**  
107 Park Headquarters Rd.  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738  
Phone: 865-436-1200
- **U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Areas**  
National Forests in North Carolina  
160 Zillicoa St.  
Asheville, N.C. 28801  
Phone: 828-257-4200
- **Division of Marine Fisheries**  
P.O. Box 769  
Morehead City, N.C. 28557  
Phone: 800-682-2632
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges**  
(See page 58 for contact information)

# PROTECT YOUR WATERS

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES BY DOING THESE BASIC STEPS:



**CLEAN** equipment of all aquatic plants, animals and mud



**DRAIN** water from boats, live wells and all equipment



**DRY** all equipment thoroughly



**NEVER MOVE** fish, plants or other organisms from one body of water to another

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [NCWILDLIFE.ORG](http://NCWILDLIFE.ORG)



The **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman®** program gives women 18 years and older a chance to learn outdoor skills and experience the world of wildlife in a safe and encouraging environment. Choose from a variety of events taught by N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission staff and expert volunteers.

For information and registration: [ncwildlife.org/BOW](http://ncwildlife.org/BOW)  
**BOW@ncwildlife.org 919-218-3638**

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 VIOLATOR  
 COMPACT**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, which causes an individual's illegal activity in one state to affect their hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in all member states. If a person's license or permit privileges, which come under the scope of the Compact, are suspended or revoked in one member state, they are subject to suspension or revocation in all member states.

[ncwildlife.org/IWVC](http://ncwildlife.org/IWVC)

## Applying For A Freshwater Fishing Record

The Wildlife Resources Commission maintains records for popular freshwater sport fishes caught by rod and reel or cane pole in state waters. State record fish must be weighed on scales certified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and verified by a Wildlife Resources Commission fisheries biologist (or biologist designated by the Commission). For an application form and other requirements, visit [ncwildlife.org/FishingRecords](http://ncwildlife.org/FishingRecords), or call the Inland Fisheries Division at 919-707-0220.

### NORTH CAROLINA FRESHWATER FISHING RECORDS

SPECIES	WEIGHT LBS/OZ	LOCATION	DATE	ANGLER'S NAME	LURE OR BAIT
<b>BASS</b>					
Bodie (striped bass hybrid)	17/7	Lake Chatuge	3/15/96	Michael R. Hogsed	Rebel jointed plug
Roanoke	2/11	Fishing Creek, Nash Co.	4/27/94	Richard Elijah Evans	Spinner bait
Largemouth	15/14	Pond, Union Co.	3/29/91	William H. Wofford	Crankbait
Rock	1/14	Deep River	4/29/98	Robert W. Lytton	Crappie jig
Smallmouth	10/2	Hiwassee Reservoir	6/1/51	Archie Lamkin	Unknown
Spotted	6/5	Lake Norman	12/26/03	Eric M. Weir	Zoom Finesse Worm
Striped	66/0	Hiwassee Reservoir	3/31/12	Tyler Shields	Zoom Trick Worm
White	5/14	Kerr Reservoir	3/15/86	Jim King	Bucktail
<b>CATFISH</b>					
Blue	117/8	Lake Gaston	6/11/16	Landon Evans	Cut bait, shad
Flathead	78/0	Cape Fear River	9/17/05	Brian Newberger	Eel
White	13/0	Lake James	5/21/90	Jerry Wayne Bentley	Nightcrawler
Channel	23/4	City Lake, Rocky Mount	9/1/70	E. J. Bowden	Shrimp
Brown bullhead	4/0	Greenfield Lake, New Hanover Co.	3/14/16	Mitchell McConnell	Cut bait
<b>PERCH</b>					
White	2/15	Falls of the Neuse Reservoir	12/16/01	Bob G. Williams Jr.	Strata Spoon
Yellow	2/9	Indiantown Creek	2/8/90	Evelyn G. Ethridge	Minnow
<b>PICKEREL</b>					
Chain	8/0	Gaston Reservoir	2/13/68	John H. Leonard	Minnow
Redfin	2/4	Gallberry Swamp	6/23/97	Edward C. Davis	Minnow
<b>SHAD</b>					
American	7/15	Tar River	4/10/74	R.S. Proctor	Shad dart
Hickory	4/1	Pitchkettle Creek	2/22/04	Trey Maroules	Spoon
<b>SUNFISH</b>					
Redear (Shellcracker)	4/15	Pond, Edgecombe Co.	5/19/08	Travis Jackson	Worm
Bluegill	4/5	Henderson County	7/27/67	Danny Case	Catawba worm
Flier	1/5	Pond	3/17/90	Douglas N. McCall	Cricket
Green	1/15	Pond, Ashe Co.	7/12/14	Victoria Navaroli	Worm
Redbreast	2/1	Lumber River	6/10/2019	Alphonso Jackson	Cricket
Warmouth	1/13	McLeods Pond, Richmond Co.	5/7/76	Emma Sears	Minnow
Pumpkinseed	1/6	Trent River	5/21/03	John Koonce	Eel
Spotted	0/7	Big Swamp, Robeson Co.	6/25/16	Elijah Crabtree	Beetle spin
<b>TROUT</b>					
Brook	7/7	Raven Fork River	5/15/80	G.L. Marshall, Jr.	Rooster Tail
Brown	24/10	Nantahala River	4/17/98	Robert Lee Dyer	Rapala
Rainbow	20/3	Horsepasture River	1/28/06	Leah Johnson	Rapala
<b>OTHER</b>					
Bowfin	17/15	Black River	6/21/97	Gregory A. Demery Sr.	Cut bait, sunfish
Carp	48/0	Pond, Mecklenburg Co.	3/11/86	William Houston Jr.	Unknown
Crappie, black	4/15	Asheboro City Lake #4	4/27/80	Dean Dixon	Minnow
Crappie, white	3/15	Private lake, Wake County	4/1/13	Joey Boretti	Storm WildEye® Swim Shad
Freshwater drum	23/8	Kerr Reservoir	3/20/13	Jonathan Wilkerson	Plastic fluke
Grass carp	68/12	Summerlins Pond, Leland	6/8/98	David W. Stowell	Rebel Pop R
Longnose gar	25/0	Intracoastal Waterway near Coinjock	1/30/09	Kelly Williams	Tube minnow
Kokanee salmon	4/1	Nantahala Lake	6/11/14	Jeffery Todd Smith	Dodgers and flashers
Muskellunge	41/8	Lake Adger	1/23/01	Richard W. Dodd	Big Mack
Muskellunge, tiger*	33/8	Lake James	4/3/88	Gary Dean Nanney	Buzzbait
Pike, northern*	11/13	Lake James	8/26/78	Keith Gilliam	Storm Wiggle Wart
Sauger	5/15	Lake Norman	7/25/71	David Shook	Top water Rapala
Smallmouth buffalo	88/0	Lake Wylie	11/14/93	Tony Crawford	Pack bait
Walleye	13/8	Lake Chatuge (Shooting Cr.)	8/16/86	Lamar L. Cofer	Old Faithful spoon

\* These fishes are no longer present in North Carolina waters.

# Nongame Regulations

## AND INFORMATION

### General Information

Any animal not classified as a game fish, game animal, furbearer or game bird is considered to be nongame. There are, however, regulations that apply to the taking and collection of these wildlife resources. For animals not specified elsewhere in this Digest, the following guidelines apply:

- **Nongame Fish, Crustaceans and Mollusks** – See pages 41–45 for information on collecting nongame fish, crustaceans and mollusks for personal use, sale and bait. A Scientific Fish Collection License is needed to take or collect any aquatic animal for scientific purposes. In addition, a special permit is required when the animal is a freshwater mussel or any endangered, threatened or special concern species.
- **Mammals** – A Wildlife Collection License is needed to take or collect any nongame mammal. If the animal is endangered, threatened or of special concern, an Endangered Species permit is required.
- **Birds** – Most birds in North Carolina are defined as migratory and thus are protected by federal laws. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information at 919-

856-4786. The exceptions are the English or House sparrow, pigeon, starling, mute swan, and Eurasian collared dove.

- **Reptiles** – A Wildlife Collection License is needed to take or collect 5 or more turtles, lizards or snakes on an annual basis. For reptiles that are endangered, threatened or of special concern, an Endangered Species permit is required. Collection of 5 or more turtles within the family Emydidae (basking and box turtles) or Trionychidae (soft shell turtles) is prohibited without a Wildlife Collection License. Limits for turtles within the remaining families (includes snapping turtles) are 10 per day, and 100 per year. No snapping turtle less than 11 inches (curved top shell length) may be collected.
- **Amphibians** – **The daily bag limit (from 12:00 noon to 12:00 noon) for taking bullfrogs is 24, with no closed season or license requirement. See page 80 for information and requirements regarding the taking of bullfrogs on game lands.** A Wildlife Collection License is needed to take or collect 25 or more frogs (includes toads) or salamanders (includes mudpuppies and “spring lizards”) in larval (tadpole) or adult form. For amphibians that are endangered, threatened or of special concern an Endangered Species permit is required.

### Collection Licenses

- Wildlife Collection License and Scientific Fish Collection License applications are available online at [ncwildlife.org/SpeciesPermits](http://ncwildlife.org/SpeciesPermits). For more information about applying, call 888-248-6834.
- The list of endangered, threatened and special concern species in North Carolina is online at [ncwildlife.org/conserving](http://ncwildlife.org/conserving)
- More information about nongame wildlife or holding animals in captivity is available online at [ncwildlife.org/licensing](http://ncwildlife.org/licensing) or by calling 888-248-6834.
- It is not necessary to obtain a Collection License before defending yourself or another from a wildlife threat.

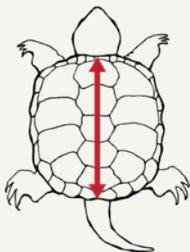
### Restricted Species

It is unlawful to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, sell, transfer, or release into public or private waters or lands of the State, any live specimen(s) of Tongueless or African Clawed Frog (*Xenopus* spp.), Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*), Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), any Asian Newts (genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Tylototriton*), or Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) without first obtaining a Restricted Species Permit.

## Measuring a Snapping Turtle

### Curved Carapace Length

Measure the length of a snapping turtle along the curvature of the carapace (top shell) with a flexible tape measure that conforms to the snapping turtle’s shell from the nuchal scute (the scute directly behind the turtle’s head) to the base of the notch where the two scutes above the tail meet.



## HELP KEEP North Carolina WILD!

- **Donate to the N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund**
- **Purchase a Wildlife Conservation license plate, proceeds from which go towards the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife fund.**
- **Donate to the “Nongame and Endangered Wildlife” fund on your N.C. State Income tax return.**



*As the original conservationists*, hunters and anglers help restore many game animals like turkeys, white-tailed deer and striped bass. Nongame animals live in the same natural habitats that support abundant game populations. Your contribution to support nongame and endangered wildlife will fund conservation efforts to ensure a healthy future for all North Carolina wildlife and their habitats.

[NCWILDLIFE.ORG/GIVE](http://NCWILDLIFE.ORG/GIVE)

# Trapping Regulations

## AND INFORMATION

## General Information

During the regulated trapping season, it is legal in North Carolina to trap:

- armadillo
- beaver
- bobcat
- coyote
- groundhog
- mink
- muskrat
- nutria
- opossum
- otter
- raccoon
- skunk
- weasel

Gray and red foxes may only be trapped where provided by state or local law. For more information about fox trapping seasons, visit [ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons](http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons). Coyotes may be trapped during the statewide regular trapping season and during any fox-trapping season, established by statute or by local law, using methods described in statute, even when those seasons open prior to and extend after the regular trapping seasons.

### Statewide Trapping Restrictions

#### It is unlawful to:

- Sell or otherwise transfer ownership of the carcass or pelt of a fox\*, bobcat or otter without first tagging it with the appropriate tag available from the Wildlife Resources Commission. The fee is \$2.20 for each bobcat or otter tag and \$2.25 for fox\*. You may purchase these tags by telephone, 888-248-6834, using a Visa or MasterCard credit card, or you can mail your request along with the fee to: NCWRC, Bobcat/Otter/Fox Tags, 1707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Include your name, address, date of birth and WRC number. NOTE: All fox\*, bobcat and otter fur must be tagged within 30 days of the close of the applicable season. \*except where local laws do not require fox tagging.
- Open or damage a beaver lodge without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Sell, keep or transfer ownership of any live animals, except foxes or coyotes. Foxes and coyotes may be sold live only to licensed fox preserves and only up to 10 days after the trapping season.
- Take red and gray fox except where provided by state or local law. For more information on fox trapping seasons, visit [ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons](http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons).
- Take wild animals by trapping upon the land of another without having in possession written permission issued and dated within the previous year by the landowner or his agent. This restriction does not apply to public lands on which trapping is not specifically prohibited including tidelands, marshlands, and any other untitled land.
- Remove or disturb any lawfully set trap or remove any furbearing animal from a trap without permission of the trap owner.

## TRAPPING SEASONS

SEASON	APPLICABLE AREA
Nov. 1 – Feb. 28	Statewide. NOTE: In addition to this statewide trapping season, coyotes may be taken in counties, areas and times where fox-trapping is allowed by statute.
Nov. 1 – Mar. 31	Statewide for beaver only. NOTE: Landowners whose property is or has been damaged or destroyed by beaver may take beaver on their property anytime by any lawful method without obtaining a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission. The landowner may obtain assistance from other persons in taking the depredating beaver by giving those persons permission to take beaver on the landowner's property.
Jan. 2 – Jan. 23	Fox trapping is allowed in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10. Trappers must have fox tags prior to taking foxes, and the sale of live foxes under this season is prohibited. Visit <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons">ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons</a> to see if there is a local fox trapping season in your county.

There is no closed season and no bag limit for trapping nutria east of I-77.

Outside of the regulated trapping season shown above, animals can only be trapped under a Depredation Permit. This is a free permit obtained from a Wildlife Enforcement Officer or District Biologist issued when an animal is causing property damage. When trapping under a Depredation Permit, the permit holder must follow all trapping regulations and state laws.

## SKULLS AND CARCASSES WANTED

Become a furbearer cooperator to help us monitor populations, improve our knowledge of North Carolina furbearers, and ultimately, maintain regulated trapping for future generations.



The Wildlife Commission is seeking:

- **Bobcat and otter** skulls or jaws to pull teeth and look at the age structure and sex ratio of the harvest.
- **Spotted Skunk** carcasses to collect tissue and genetics samples to increase our knowledge of this elusive furbearer species and obtain location information.

Cooperators will receive the age of submitted animal(s) and a furbearer cooperator patch. Visit [ncwildlife.org/furcooperator](http://ncwildlife.org/furcooperator) for more information.

### Statewide Trap Regulations

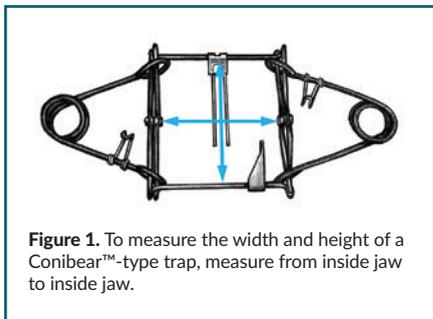
- All traps must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached with either the trapper's name and address or the trapper's Trapper Identification Number (TIN) and the Commission's phone number (800-662-7137). The TIN can be found on your trapping license.
- If a trap is placed on the property of another and identified by the TIN, the Commission is required to disclose the identity of the trapper to the landowner upon request.
- Unlawful to set or use a trap so that animals or birds will be suspended when caught.
- Unlawful to set or use a hook of any sort or type to take wild animals or wild birds.

### Legal Trap Types

- Box/cage traps and colony traps
- Conibear™-type traps
- Foothold trap
- Snares (for beaver only)

### Conibear™-type Traps

- Must be smooth-edged and without teeth or spikes.
- Jaw Spread:
  - » To measure the width and height of a Conibear™-type trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw (Figure 1).



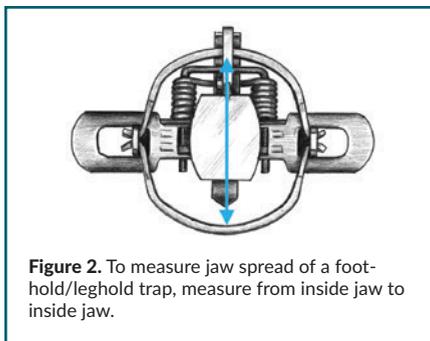
**Figure 1.** To measure the width and height of a Conibear™-type trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw.

- » On dry land, cannot have a jaw spread greater than 7 ½ inches.
- » If totally covered by water, it can have an inside jaw spread (width or height) greater than 7 ½ inches and no larger than 26 inches in width and 12 inches in height.
- » In areas of tidal waters, the mean high water is considered covering water.

- » In reservoir areas, covering water is the low water level prevailing during the preceding 24 hours.
- » Trap can be checked every 72 hours if completely submerged.
- In addition, if trapping for beaver, Conibear™-type traps can be set one-half covered by water, but must be checked daily.

### Foothold Traps:

- Must be smooth edged and without teeth or spikes.
- Jaw Spread:
  - » To measure jaw spread of a foot-hold trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** To measure jaw spread of a foot-hold/leghold trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw.

- » Cannot have a jaw spread greater than 7 ½ inches.
- » If the jaw spread is between 5 ½ and 7 ½ inches, the jaws must be offset by 3/16th of an inch.
- » The jaws do not have to be offset if the trap is set in water with a quick-drown type set.
- Chain length:
  - » Trap chain cannot be longer than 8 inches from anchor point to the base of the trap unless fitted with a shock-absorbing device with at least 40 lbs. and not more than 75 lbs. of pull.
  - » Trap chain can be measured from anchor point (solid ground) to the base of the trap.

### Snares

- Can be used to trap only beaver, except where allowed by local law.
- Cannot be used to trap wildlife, except where allowed by local law.

You should also read the "Game Lands" and "Local Laws" sections for trapping restrictions on certain game lands and in certain counties.

### Attendance

Every trap must be visited daily and any animal caught therein removed, except for completely submerged Conibear™-type traps, which must be visited at least once every 72 hours and any animal caught therein removed.

## Unlawful Harassment of Persons Taking Wildlife Resources

In North Carolina, it is unlawful for a person to interfere intentionally with the lawful taking of wildlife resources or to drive, harass, or intentionally disturb any wildlife resources for the purpose of disrupting the lawful taking of wildlife resources on public or private property. NOTE: This law does not apply to activity by a person on land he or she owns or leases or to a person who incidentally interferes with the taking of wildlife resources while using the land for other lawful activity such as agriculture, mining or recreation.

Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor or punishable for a first conviction by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, by imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or by both and punishable for a second or subsequent conviction by a fine left to the discretion of the court (NCGS §113-295).

### What Should I Do?

If you experience unlawful harassment, immediately notify your nearest wildlife enforcement officer, county sheriff's office or local police department. Advise the authorities of this law and that you wish to hunt peacefully.

### What Not to Do

Do not provoke a fight, threaten reprisals or use profanity. Remember that some anti-hunting activists seek confrontation and may be accompanied by the news media.

## Feral Swine

There is no closed season and no bag limits for trapping feral swine. A hunting or trapping license is required, except for those persons who are license-exempt (see page 11). A feral swine trapping permit is also required, even for those persons who are license-exempt. This free permit is available at [ncwildlife.org/FeralSwine](http://ncwildlife.org/FeralSwine). Only box and corral traps are legal for trapping feral swine and the permit number must be displayed on all traps. Traps must be constructed in a manner such that a non-target animal (such as a bear) can easily be released or can escape without harm. All feral swine must be euthanized while in the trap and may not be removed alive from any trap. The permit does not authorize access to any property. Landowner permission is still required. Feral swine trapping on game lands is allowed only with permission of the Commission. Call 919-707-0150 to inquire about trapping feral swine on game lands.

# Hunting Regulations

## AND INFORMATION

### Manner of Taking

#### Definition of Take

To take is defined as all operations during, immediately preparatory and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill, pursue, hunt or otherwise harm or reduce to possession any fisheries resource or wildlife resource.

#### Season Dates

For most species, hunting seasons are set to open on the same day of the week every year and at the same general time. For example, rabbit season opens every year on the Monday on or nearest October 15th and ends on the last day of February. Changes in season dates that are a result of newly adopted regulations will appear in **red ink**. However, most seasonal dates that are different from last year are the result of the annual shift of days in each year's calendar.

#### General Restrictions

- Lawful seasons and bag limits for each species apply beginning with the first day of the listed season and continuing through the last day of the listed season, including Sundays for private lands, with Sunday hunting restrictions listed in the next paragraph.
- It's unlawful to hunt on Sundays on public lands, except that military installations under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government may allow hunting on Sundays. On Sundays, on private lands, the following apply:
  - » Hunting with firearms between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. is prohibited except on controlled hunting preserves;
  - » Hunting migratory birds is prohibited;
  - » The use of firearms to take deer that are run or chased by dogs is prohibited;
  - » Hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof is prohibited.
  - » Archery equipment may be used to hunt on private lands on Sunday without the restrictions applied to hunting with firearms.
- Shooting hours: Game birds and animals may be taken only between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset with rifle, pistol, shotgun, archery equipment, dogs or by means of falconry with the following exceptions: raccoons, feral swine and opossums may be taken at night. Coyotes may be taken at night in all counties except Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. Migratory game birds may be taken only during the hours and in the manner permitted by federal regulations. See page 75 for shooting hours for migratory birds.

#### Retrieval

- If a hunter kills or wounds a big game animal during legal shooting hours the hunter may use a portable light source and a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving the dead or wounded big game animal and may dispatch a wounded big game animal using a .22-caliber rimfire pistol, archery equipment, or a handgun otherwise legal for that hunting season. If necessary, the hunter may also retrieve wounded big game in this manner from 30 minutes after sunset to 11:00 p.m. The hunter may not use a motorized vehicle when searching for the wounded animal.

#### Archery Equipment

- When used for hunting in North Carolina archery equipment is defined as any device that has a solid stationary handle with two limbs and a string that uses non-pneumatic means to propel a single arrow or bolt.
- Longbows, recurved bows, compound bows and crossbows are legal for hunting all species with an open hunting season.
- When used to hunt bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator and feral swine:
  - » Longbows and recurved bows must have a minimum pull of 40 pounds
  - » Compound bows must have a minimum pull of 35 pounds.
  - » Crossbows must have a minimum pull of 100 pounds
  - » Only arrows and bolts with a fixed minimum broadhead width of seven-eighths of an inch or a mechanically opening broadhead with a width of at least seven-eighths of an inch in the open position shall be used.
- Slingbows having a minimum pull of 40 pounds may be used during legal hunting seasons for hunting wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals and nongame fish.
- Blunt-type arrow heads may be used in taking small animals and birds, including rabbits, squirrels, quail and grouse.
- Poisonous, drugged, or explosive arrowheads shall not be used for taking any wildlife.

#### Shotguns

- Shotguns must be no larger than 10-gauge.
- When hunting migratory game birds, shotguns must be plugged so as to limit their maximum capacity to three shells.

#### Pistols

- During the open hunting season for rabbits, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, furbearing animals and legal nongame animals and birds, these species may be taken with a pistol. There are no restrictions on caliber and barrel length.

- Deer and bear may be taken with a handgun during the established gun hunting season. There are no restrictions on barrel length or caliber.
- A hunter or trapper lawfully taking wildlife by another method may use a pistol to dispatch the animal or bird taken, except as noted below.
- It is unlawful to hunt or take wild turkeys with pistols.
- During established archery season only a .22-caliber rimfire pistol may be used to dispatch deer (see "Retrieval").

#### Rifles

- Fully automatic rifles are unlawful. All other rifles are legal except:
  - » Rifles are prohibited by federal law in hunting migratory game birds.
  - » Local laws prohibit or restrict rifles in some counties. See the "Local Laws" section.
  - » It is unlawful to hunt or take wild turkeys with rifles.

#### Blackpowder

- During the blackpowder deer season, the only lawful firearms are blackpowder shotguns, rifles and handguns. The Commission defines a blackpowder firearm as any firearm - including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

#### Baiting and Attractants

- No wild bird may be taken with the use or aid of salt, grain, fruit, or other bait.
- **No wild turkey may knowingly be taken from within 300 yards of any place in which bait has been placed until the expiration of 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.**
- Black bear may not be taken with the use or aid of:
  - » Any animal, animal part or product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, grease; or extract of such substances; or any sub-

- stance modified by any of the above substances or extract of above substance; or any bear bait attractant, including scented sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders; or processed food products as defined on page 65.
- For the purposes of bear hunting, bait means any natural, unprocessed food product that is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw components.
- Bears may not be taken while consuming bait.
- Regulations for taking bear with unprocessed foods are on page 65.
- At the time this publication went to print, there were no regulations prohibiting the possession or use of cervid excretions, including urine or other bodily fluids. Any updates concerning this will be posted at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) as they become available.**

## Hunting with Dogs

- It is unlawful to hunt, run or chase deer at any time in these counties and all counties west of the line they form: Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Stanly and Union counties. See map on page 68. This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a dead or wounded deer (see "Retrieval").

- It is unlawful to hunt, run or chase deer at any time in these counties and parts of counties:
  - » Alamance
  - » Anson west of N.C. 742
  - » Chatham
  - » Chowan south of U.S. Highway 17 and U.S. Highway 17 Business and east of a line drawn from the intersection of the western city limits of the Town of Edenton and U.S. Highway 17 Business and extending due south to the Albemarle Sound
  - » Durham
  - » Johnston
  - » Lee
  - » Orange south of I-85
  - » Richmond west of Little River and that portion east of Little River and bounded by N.C. 73 to the north, by Hough Road to the east, and by Grassy Island Road to the south.
  - » Wayne
  - » Wake south of N.C. 98

NOTE: This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a wounded deer (see "Retrieval").

- In all other counties hunting deer with dogs is allowed, but local law may impose further restrictions. See "Local Laws" section.
- In counties where hunting deer with dogs is allowed, game land rules may prohibit this activity. See "Game Lands" section.

- It is unlawful to hunt bears with dogs in the following counties:  
Alamance south of I-85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of I-85, Pamlico (per local law), Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. See map on page 65.
- Except for deer and bear as described above, hunting game animals and game birds (except for wild turkey) with dogs is allowed in all counties of the state, subject to the restrictions applied by local laws and game land rules. See "Local Laws" and "Game Lands" sections.
- It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog.

## Training Dogs

- It is unlawful to run or chase deer during closed season, except when under the control of the owner. This applies only to counties where hunting deer with dogs is allowed. In counties or parts thereof and game lands where hunting deer with dogs is prohibited, running or chasing deer is prohibited at all times. See map on page 68. This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a wounded deer (see "Retrieval").



## THE ONLY THING MISSING IS YOU.

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- Except as allowed in authorized field trials and training using domestically raised waterfowl or game birds, it is unlawful to possess axes, saws or tree-climbing equipment while training or running dogs during closed season.
- Individuals engaged in training dogs and individuals who are active participants in field trials must have an appropriate hunting license.
- When training dogs during the closed season, hunters may use domestically raised waterfowl or game birds provided that they use shot shells with shot of number 4 size or smaller and the shot is nontoxic when training with waterfowl. All birds must be banded on one leg with the propagator's license number.
- Further restrictions apply to training dogs on game lands during the closed season. See "Game Lands" section.

## Field Trials

- Commission-sanctioned field trials may allow hunters to conduct field trials with dogs in areas and at times authorized with the use of approved weapons and ammunition and may authorize the use of certain domestically raised birds.
- Active participants in field trials are people who handle dogs or firearms.
- For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants may use a hunting license from their state of residence. For all other types of field trials, active participants must have a N.C. hunting license.
- For Commission-sanctioned field trials, judges do not need to have a hunting license. For all other types of field trials, judges must have a N.C. hunting license.
- A Commission sanctioned field trial permit

may be obtained online at [ncwildlife.org/licensing](http://ncwildlife.org/licensing) for \$10.

## Motor Vehicles, Boats and Vessels

- It is unlawful to use any of the following in taking wild birds or animals:
  - » a motor vehicle while the passenger area is occupied or while the vehicle engine is running.
  - » vessels: under sail, under power, or with the engine running, or while still in the motion from such propulsion, except crippled waterfowl (see page 75); or
  - » airplanes
- Deer may not be hunted from boats or other floating devices in some counties (see "Local Laws" section).

## Hunter or Blaze Orange

Any person hunting bear, feral swine, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, pheasant or quail with the use of firearms must wear a cap or hat made of hunter orange material or an outer garment of hunter orange visible from all sides. Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of weapon, must wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes archery hunters that hunt on Sunday during the deer firearms season and anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day. This requirement does not apply to a landholder, his or her spouse and children if they are hunting on the landholder's property.

## Artificial Lights and Electronic Calls

- It is unlawful to use artificial lights (including laser sights) and electronic or recorded calls in taking wild birds or animals except as follows:
  - » artificial lights may be used to retrieve harvested big game.

- » artificial lights may be used for taking feral swine and coyotes at night where legal.
- » artificial lights may be used for taking bullfrogs.
- » electronic or recorded calls are legal for crows, coyotes and feral swine hunting. Other exceptions for migratory game birds may be found under individual season descriptions.
- » when hunting with dogs during open seasons, raccoon and opossum may be taken at night with the use of artificial lights commonly used to aid in taking raccoon and opossum.
- In addition to the prohibition of taking wildlife with the use of artificial light, except for big game retrieval, many counties have local regulations that prohibit shining lights on deer or searching for deer with lights 30 minutes after sunset or after 11 p.m. A color-coded map showing county shining laws is on page 68.
- The flashing or display of any artificial light between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise in any area that is frequented or inhabited by wild deer by any person who has access to a firearm, cross-bow or other bow and arrow constitutes prima facie evidence of taking deer with the aid of an artificial light.

## Road Hunting

Local laws prohibit or restrict hunting or shooting from public roads or possession of a loaded firearm on road right-of-ways in some counties (see "Local Laws" section).



# DEER HUNTER ALERT

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and reindeer. Caused by an abnormal form of protein that collects in the animal's brain cells, these cells eventually burst leaving behind empty spaces in the brain matter. Signs to watch for include:

- Lack of coordination
- Walking in set patterns
- Drooling and grinding of teeth
- Drinking lots of water and increased urination
- Low weight

If you see a deer or elk exhibiting disease signs, call the Commission at 866-318-2401.

This transmissible disease can be transported to new areas through carcasses, particularly the brain and spinal tissues. There is no cure, nor any method to eliminate CWD once it has entered the environment.

Although CWD has not been confirmed in North Carolina, it is currently found in 26 states, view map at [ncwildlife.org/cwdstates](http://ncwildlife.org/cwdstates).

## Other Restricted Methods

- It is unlawful to use fire in taking wild birds or animals.
- It is unlawful to take deer that are swimming or in water above the knees of the deer
- It is unlawful to shoot at or into a squirrel's nest

## Other Restrictions

### Local Laws

There are many local laws affecting hunting and trapping in North Carolina. An abstract of local laws that are more restrictive than general regulations is included in this Digest. See the "Local Laws" section.

### Exotic Species

It is unlawful to place exotic species of wild animals or wild birds not indigenous to that area or feral swine in an area for the purpose of stocking the area for hunting or trapping. (There are certain limited exceptions for licensed-controlled hunting preserves.)

### Transfer of Wildlife

An individual may accept the gift of wildlife lawfully taken within North Carolina if taking possession does not cause the individual to exceed the applicable possession limit and the individual possesses and preserves in writing the name and address of the donor and

under what license requirements the wildlife was taken. It is unlawful to accept the gift of wildlife lawfully taken unless you possess in writing the donor's name, address and what license or license exemptions under which the wildlife was taken. **Additionally, individuals taking possession of a big game animal (deer, bear, or wild turkey) must retain the authorization number of that animal.**

### Trespass

The establishment of open seasons does not obligate the private landowner to allow hunting on his or her property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. In some counties, hunters are required to obtain permission to hunt on private property (see "Local Laws" section).

### State Fish Hatcheries

It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm within a posted restricted zone on any state-owned fish hatchery or to discharge a firearm into or across such a restricted zone.

### Sale of Wildlife

- In general, whole animals or their parts may not be bought or sold in North Carolina. There are some exceptions. More information may be found at [ncwildlife.org/SaleofWildlife](http://ncwildlife.org/SaleofWildlife).

## Disposition of Wildlife Carcasses

- It is unlawful to dump animal remains anywhere without permission.

## Cervid Carcass Parts

It is unlawful to import, transport, or possess a cervid carcass or cervid carcass parts originating from outside North Carolina, except for the following:

- meat that has been boned out such that no pieces or fragments of bone remain;
- caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached;
- antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or skulls with no meat or brain tissue attached;
- cleaned lower jawbone(s) with teeth or cleaned teeth; or
- finished taxidermy products and tanned hides.

These parts or their containers must be labeled with the individual's name and address; state, Canadian province, or foreign country of origin; date the cervid was killed; and the individual's hunting license number, permit number, or equivalent identification from the state, Canadian province, or foreign country of origin.

Cervid species include white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, caribou/reindeer, red deer, sika deer, axis deer, and fallow deer. For more information about CWD and other deer diseases, visit [ncwildlife.org/DeerDiseases](http://ncwildlife.org/DeerDiseases).

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## Hunting On Federal Lands

State regulations and license requirements apply on federal lands. Some of the areas listed below may be closed to hunting. For specific information, contact the appropriate federal entity:

- **Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 1969  
Manteo, NC 27954  
Phone: 252-473-1131
- **Camp Lejeune**  
Conservation Law Enforcement Office  
Bldg. SAW 400 Old Saw Mill Road  
MCB Camp Lejeune, NC 28542  
Phone: 910-451-3794
- **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**  
1401 National Park Drive,  
Manteo, NC 27954  
Phone: 252-473-2111
- **Cape Lookout National Seashore**  
131 Charles St.  
Harkers Island, NC 28531  
Phone: 252-728-2250
- **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**  
3100 Desert Road  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
Phone: 757-986-3705
- **Fort Bragg**  
Wildlife Hunting and Fishing Center  
Fort Bragg, NC 28307  
Phone: 910-396-7506
- **Mackay Island and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges**  
P.O. Box 39  
Knotts Island, NC 27950  
Phone: 252-429-3100
- **Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point**  
Environmental Affairs Department  
Natural Resources Manager  
PSC Box 8003, Marine Corps Air Station  
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0006  
Phone: 252-466-3593
- **Cedar Island, Mattamuskeet and Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges**  
85 Mattamuskeet Rd.  
Swan Quarter, NC 27885  
Phone: 252-926-4021
- **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 1969  
Manteo, NC 27954  
Phone: 252-987-2394
- **Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge**  
5770 US Hwy 52 North  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Phone: 704-694-4424
- **Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 329  
Columbia, NC 27925  
Phone: 252-796-3004
- **Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 430  
Windsor, NC 27983  
Phone: 252-794-3808
- **U.S. Forest Service**  
160 Zillicoa St., Suite A  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone: 828-257-4200
- **Blue Ridge Parkway**  
Permits and information about special parkway regulations governing access to adjoining game lands may be obtained from:  
**The Superintendent**  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
National Park Service  
199 Hemphill Knob Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28803  
Phone: 828-348-3400

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# Big Game – Bear

## BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

SEASON DATES	APPLICABLE COUNTY OR COUNTIES
<b>MOUNTAIN BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Oct. 12 – Nov. 21	In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland.
Dec. 14 – Jan. 1	<i>Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the "Game Lands" section for specific game land rules.</i>
<b>PIEDMONT BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Oct. 17, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Wake, Warren
Nov. 14, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union
Nov. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, Yadkin
<b>COASTAL BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Nov. 14 – Nov. 29 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 27, 2020	<b>Zone 1:</b> Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell
Nov. 14 – Nov. 22 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 27, 2020	<b>Zone 2:</b> Camden*, Chowan*, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank*, Perquimans
Nov. 14 – Nov. 22 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 27, 2020	<b>Zone 3:</b> Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, Washington
Nov. 21 – Dec. 20, 2020	<b>Zone 4:</b> Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, Wilson
Nov. 9, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	<b>Zone 5:</b> Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bears prohibited in this county), Pender, Robeson, Sampson

\* Per local law, bear season in these counties opens on Nov. 13.

### Restrictions

It is unlawful to do any of the following:

- Take a cub (less than 75 pounds) or a female bear with cub(s).
- Hunt bear on a designated bear sanctuary. (See the information below on bear sanctuaries.)

Information on the use of dogs to hunt bears and the use of unprocessed foods is on pages 54–55, 65. Information about the bear cooperator program can be found under the Bear Seasons map on page 65.

### Bear Sanctuaries

Bear may not be taken in those parts of counties included in the following sanctuaries:

- Bachelor Bay Bear Sanctuary  
Bertie and Washington counties
- Columbus County Bear Sanctuary  
Brunswick and Columbus counties
- Croatan Bear Sanctuary  
Carteret, Craven and Jones counties
- Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)  
Avery, Burke and Caldwell counties
- Dare Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)  
Dare and Hyde counties
- Fires Creek Bear Sanctuary  
Clay County
- Flat Top Bear Sanctuary  
Mitchell and Yancey counties
- Green Swamp Bear Sanctuary  
Brunswick County
- Gull Rock Bear Sanctuary  
Hyde County
- Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary  
Haywood County
- Juniper Creek Bear Sanctuary  
Brunswick and Columbus counties
- Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)  
McDowell and Yancey counties
- North River Bear Sanctuary  
Camden and Currituck counties
- Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary  
Jackson County
- Pisgah Bear Sanctuary  
Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania counties
- Pungo River Bear Sanctuary  
Hyde County

- Rich Mountain Bear Sanctuary  
Madison County
- Sherwood Bear Sanctuary  
Haywood County
- Standing Indian Bear Sanctuary  
Macon County
- Suggs Mill Pond Bear Sanctuary  
Bladen and Cumberland counties
- Thurmond Chatham Bear Sanctuary  
Alleghany and Wilkies counties
- Wayah Bear Sanctuary  
Macon County

The following additional restrictions apply to bear sanctuaries:

- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear, except during permit hunts that allow hunting bear with dogs.
- It is unlawful to take feral swine on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer blackpowder season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.
- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

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# Big Game – Deer

## DEER HUNTING SEASONS

See the maps on pages 66-67 for either-sex season dates and exceptions to the seasons listed in this table.

- Weapons seasons for deer on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the "Game Lands" section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the "Game Lands" section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

METHOD OF TAKE	SEASON DATES
<b>YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAY</b>	
On this day, youth under the age of 18 may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex.	September 26, 2020
See page 54 for description of legal weapons. Hunters age 18 and older may only use the weapon legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear hunter orange on this day, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.	
<b>NORTHEASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 12 – Oct. 2, 2020
Blackpowder	Oct. 3 – Oct. 16, 2020
Gun	Oct. 17, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021
<b>CENTRAL DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 12 – Oct. 30, 2020
Blackpowder	Oct. 31 – Nov. 13, 2020
Gun	Nov. 14, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021
<b>NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 12 – Nov. 6, 2020
Blackpowder	Nov. 7 – Nov. 20, 2020
Gun	Nov. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021
<b>WESTERN DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 12 – Sept. 27, 2020; Oct. 11 – Nov. 22, 2020; Dec. 13, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021 (antlered deer only)
Blackpowder	Sept. 28 – Oct. 10, 2020
Gun	Nov. 23 – Dec. 12, 2020

### General Restrictions

- Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes hunting with archery equipment on Sundays. This also includes anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day, regardless of age of the hunter or weapon used. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
- Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons.
- Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
- It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products.
- The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

### Weapons and Dogs

#### Archery

- During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 54).

#### Blackpowder

- During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 54), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 54.

#### Gun

- During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows, blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns (all described on page 54).

#### Dogs

- Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during open deer seasons in counties indicated on the map on page 68, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 54 for details.

### Bag Limits

- The season and possession bag limit is six deer, two of which may be antlered, and four of which may be antlerless.
- There is no daily bag limit.
- Antlerless deer harvested and reported on Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards do not count towards the season or possession limit.



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- Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card. These are ONLY valid for use for deer taken within participating municipalities during the Urban Archery Season (described on pages 61-62). Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards can be obtained on or after Jan. 1 at most wildlife service agents, or online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 888-248-6834.
- Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and tagged with harvest tags provided with the program are not included in normal statewide bag limits.

## Either-Sex Deer Seasons

### Youth Deer Hunting Day

- Deer of either sex may be taken by hunters under the age of 18 on this day.

### Archery Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands) in and east of Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk counties.
- Deer of either sex may be taken during the first and second archery deer seasons in all areas (includes game lands) in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell and Avery counties.

### Blackpowder Firearm Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday of the blackpowder firearm deer season in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties (includes game lands).
- Deer of either sex may be taken anytime during the blackpowder firearm deer season **in areas in the maximum either-sex gun season, and** in and east of Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Ashe counties (includes game lands).

### Gun Either-Sex Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the gun season during those dates indicated on pages 66, 67 and 82-87. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
  - » **Maximum:** Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.
  - » **Moderate:** Either-sex harvest is allowed the first open day of the regular season through the second Friday thereafter.
  - » **Conservative:** Either-sex harvest is allowed the first open day of the regular season through the first Saturday thereafter.
  - » **Introductory:** Either-sex harvest is allowed the first open Saturday of the regular gun season.

### Urban Archery Season

Archery only: Jan. 9 – Feb. 14, 2021

### Information for Hunters

- The intention of the Urban Archery Season is to enable cities, towns and villages to reduce urban deer populations through increased hunter opportunity. Hunting during the Urban Archery Season is allowed ONLY in participating municipalities.
- Each city, town and village will decide if hunting is allowed on public property and restrictions, if any, for hunting on private property within the city, town and village limits.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in an area participating in the Urban Archery Season should call the participating city, town or village or visit its website to obtain a map showing lawful areas to hunt and additional information on specific restrictions that may apply to each area.
- The Urban Archery Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property.
- Season bag and possession limits for both antlerless and antlered deer, including Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, that apply to the general archery, blackpowder, and gun deer seasons also apply to the Urban Archery Season.
- Deer of either sex may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season.

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	<i>archerlodgenc.gov</i>
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	<i>cityofbelmont.org</i>
Boiling Springs.....	704-434-9691
	<i>boilingspringsnc.net</i>
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	<i>townofcatawbanc.org</i>
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	<i>townofchapelhill.org</i>
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	<i>chinagrovenc.gov</i>
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	<i>townofclaytonnc.org</i>
Cleveland.....	<i>clevelandnc.org</i>
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	<i>townofdenton.com</i>
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	<i>eastbendnc.com</i>
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	<i>edennnc.us</i>
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	<i>fairviewnc.gov</i>
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	<i>townofglenalpine.org</i>
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	<i>granitequarrync.gov</i>
Grifton.....	252-524-4161
	<i>grifton.com</i>
Harrisburg.....	704-455-0709
	<i>harrisburgnc.org</i>
Huntersville.....	704-875-6541
	<i>huntersville.org</i>
Indian Trail.....	704-821-5401
	<i>indiantrail.org</i>
Jamestown.....	336-454-1138
	<i>jamestown-nc.gov</i>
Jefferson.....	336-846-9368
Jonesville.....	336-835-3426
	<i>jonesvillenc.gov</i>
Kannapolis.....	704-920-4052
	<i>kannapolisnc.gov</i>
King.....	336-983-8265
	<i>ci.king.nc.us</i>
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	<i>townoflandis.com</i>
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Lenoir.....	828-757-2200
	<i>cityoflenoir.com</i>
Lewisville.....	336-945-5558
	<i>lewisvillenc.net</i>
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	<i>locustnc.com</i>
Midland.....	704-888-2232
	<i>midlandnc.us</i>
Mineral Springs.....	704-243-0505
	<i>mineralspringsnc.com</i>

Mooresboro.....	<i>townofmooresboro.org</i>
Morganton.....	828-438-5290
	<i>morgantonnc.gov</i>
Nags Head/Kill Devil Hills.....	252-441-2525 Ext. 2
New London.....	704-463-5423
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	<i>north-wilkesboro.com</i>
Norwood.....	704-474-3416
	<i>norwoodgov.com</i>
Oakboro.....	704-485-3351
	<i>oakboro.com</i>
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	<i>oakridgenc.com</i>
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	<i>pleasantgarden.net</i>
Randleman.....	336-495-7500
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Red Cross.....	704-485-2002
	<i>townofredcross.com</i>
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	<i>richfieldnc@aol.com</i>
Ronda.....	336-835-2061
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Sanford.....	919-777-1104
	<i>sanfordnc.net</i>
Shelby.....	704-484-6800
	<i>cityofshelby.com</i>
Stallings.....	704-821-8557
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Stanfield.....	704-888-2386
	<i>stanfieldnc.com</i>
Stokesdale.....	336-643-4011
	<i>stokesdale.org</i>
Summerfield.....	336-643-8655
	<i>summerfieldnc.gov</i>
Trent Woods.....	252-637-3030
	<i>trentwoodspd.org</i>
Troutman.....	704-528-7610
	<i>troutmannnc.gov</i>
Unionville.....	704-226-1989
	<i>unionvillenc.com</i>
Valdese.....	828-879-2120
	<i>townofvaldese.com</i>
Wake Forest.....	919-435-9609
	<i>wakeforestnc.gov</i>
Walnut Creek.....	919-778-9687
	<i>walnutcreeknc.com</i>
Waxhaw.....	704-843-2195 Ext. 278 & 225
	<i>waxhaw.com</i>
Weddington.....	704-846-2709
	<i>townofweddington.com</i>
Wentworth.....	336-342-6288
	<i>townofwentworth.com</i>
Yadkinville.....	336-679-8732
	<i>yadkinville.org</i>

**Information for cities, towns and villages**

The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map (no larger than 11" X 17") clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

## Big Game – Wild Turkey

### WILD TURKEY SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season.

Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the “Game Lands” section.

SEASON DATES	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<b>YOUTH SEASON (MALE OR BEARDED TURKEY ONLY)</b>	
April 3 – 9, 2021	Youth under the age of 18 may hunt turkey statewide during this season, but some Game Lands require a permit (see “Game Lands” section). Only youth can hunt during this season and only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.
<b>STATEWIDE SPRING SEASON (MALE OR BEARDED TURKEY ONLY)</b>	
April 10 – May 8, 2021	

#### Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- **Knowingly take wild turkeys from within 300 yards of any place in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)**
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.



Timothy Marlor with his first turkey.

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**REPORTING OPTIONS:**

- [ncwildlife.org/wildTIP](http://ncwildlife.org/wildTIP)
- 855-WILDTIP (9453847)
- Text “WILDTIP” and your message to **CRIMES (274637)\***

\*Message and data rates may apply. For wildlife violations in progress, or other wildlife questions or concerns call 800-662-7137.

## Big Game Harvest Reporting

Reporting big game harvests is a requirement in North Carolina. Hunters should carry their Big Game Harvest Report Card with them while hunting deer, bear or wild turkey. A harvest report card is furnished with the issuance of a big game hunting license and is valid for only one hunting season, July 1 through June 30. Hunters should retain only one copy of their harvest report card per hunting season.

### Validating a Harvest

Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card by **cutting or punching out the corresponding day and month the harvest occurred**. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card.

### Registering a Harvest

The successful hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey BEFORE any of the following occur:

- The animal is skinned or dismembered;
- The animal is left unattended by the successful hunter;
- The animal is placed in the possession of another person; or
- 12 p.m. (noon) the day following the harvest.

Big game harvests may be registered in one of three ways:

1. By calling 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required. Each Harvest ID can only be used once.
2. By clicking the "Report a Big Game Harvest" link located on the NCWRC home page ([ncwildlife.org/IGotOne](http://ncwildlife.org/IGotOne)).

3. By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location ([ncwildlife.org/WildlifeServiceAgent](http://ncwildlife.org/WildlifeServiceAgent)).

- The Big Game Harvest Report Card contains a Harvest ID number located above each harvest authorization line. Hunters will be required to provide a Harvest ID number when reporting each harvest.
- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone or internet will be given their Harvest ID numbers for temporary use until they receive their official Big Game Harvest Report Card in the mail. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving their official Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must retain the authorization number for the reported harvest. Immediately upon receipt of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must transcribe those authorization numbers and validate the appropriate line on their card.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the species, age or sex.

### Registration in Remote Areas

- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area, the animal must be registered by 12 p.m. (noon) the day after leaving the remote area.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area and the carcass cannot be transported intact, the animal may be skinned and dismembered before registration.
- Big game harvested in a remote area may be left with another person, provided the person has the successful hunter's name and date of the kill.

### Recording the Authorization Number

When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass.

### Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters

Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent or by calling 888-248-6834 at no cost (Note: License-Exempt Cards are not available online.) Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate their card and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed above.

- License-exempt youth should not report their harvest on their parent's Big Game Harvest Report Card, but obtain their own card.

### Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting

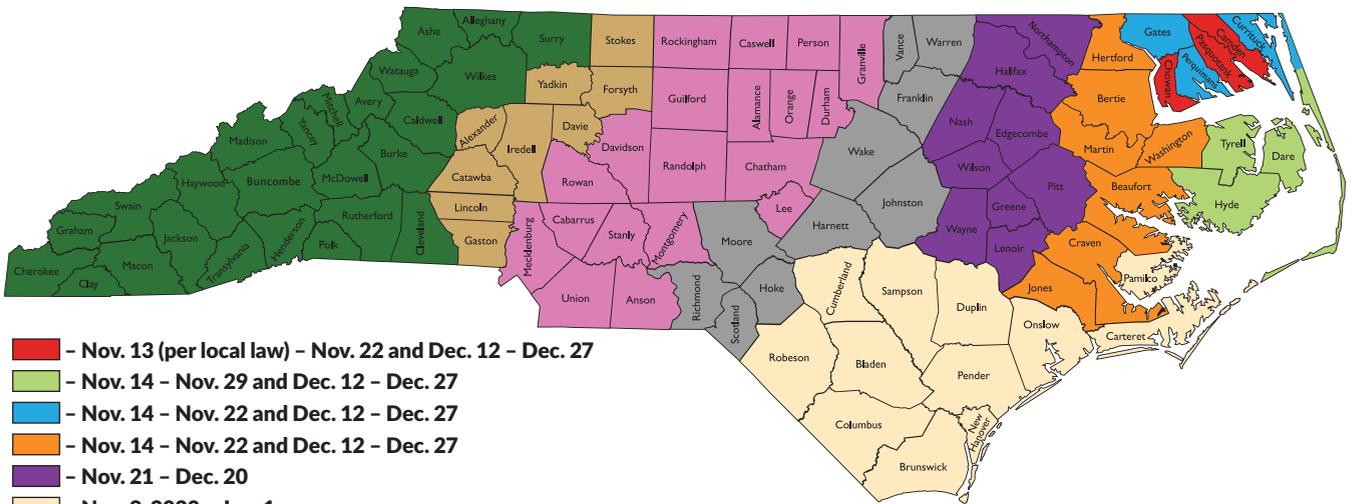
Persons harvesting deer from properties enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) or the Community Deer Management Assistance Program (CDMAP) and opting to use the special tags provided by these programs to report their harvest, should follow the validation and registration requirements described in the participant packet. When registering the harvest, they will be directed to select the "Report a DMAP Tag" option and to provide the pre-printed number on the tag. Successful hunters shall record and maintain their authorization numbers. For more information about the DMAP or CDMAP, please visit [ncwildlife.org/deer](http://ncwildlife.org/deer)



**Register Your Big Game Kill**  
*Required for Bear, Deer and Wild Turkey*

**800-I-GOT-ONE**  
 (800-446-8663)  
[ncwildlife.org/IGotOne](http://ncwildlife.org/IGotOne)

## 2020-2021 Bear Seasons



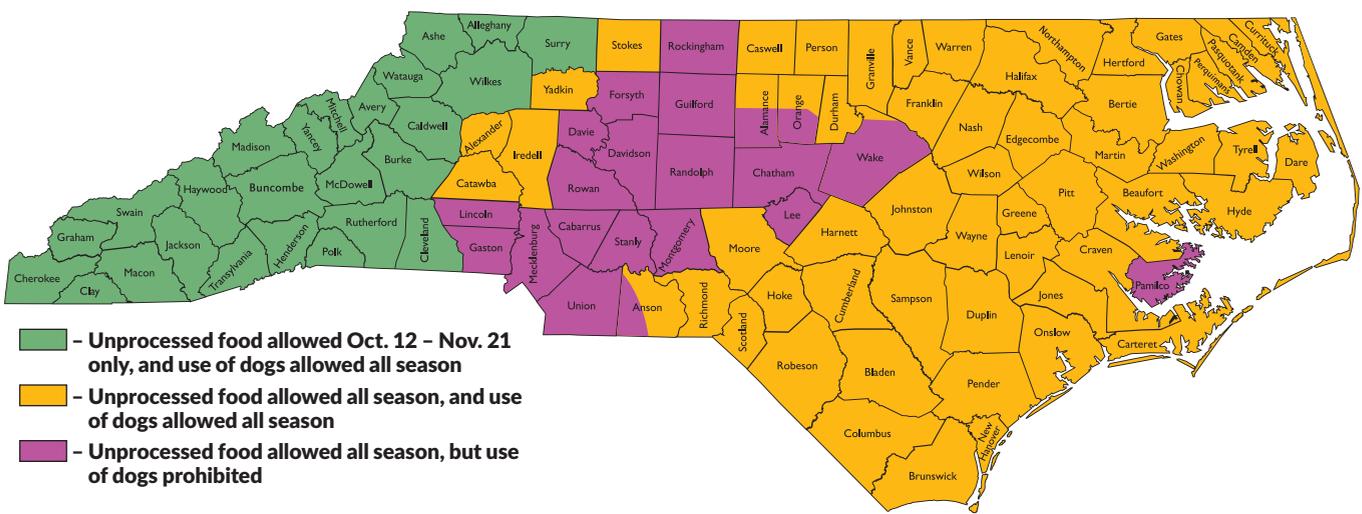
- - Nov. 13 (per local law) - Nov. 22 and Dec. 12 - Dec. 27
- - Nov. 14 - Nov. 29 and Dec. 12 - Dec. 27
- - Nov. 14 - Nov. 22 and Dec. 12 - Dec. 27
- - Nov. 14 - Nov. 22 and Dec. 12 - Dec. 27
- - Nov. 21 - Dec. 20
- - Nov. 9, 2020 - Jan. 1
- - Oct. 17 - Jan. 1
- - Nov. 14 - Jan. 1
- - Nov. 21 - Jan. 1
- - Oct. 12 - Nov. 21 and Dec. 14 - Jan. 1



**Bear Hunters:** Become a Bear Cooperator and receive a free, blaze orange hunting hat by submitting the premolars from your bear. Call 919-707-0050 or visit [ncwildlife.org/bear](http://ncwildlife.org/bear) for more information, including a video on how to remove the premolars.

**Notice:** Mecklenburg County was incorrectly labeled at the time of printing. The correct season for this county is Nov. 14 - Jan. 1.

## Hunting Bear with Dogs and Using Unprocessed Foods



- - Unprocessed food allowed Oct. 12 - Nov. 21 only, and use of dogs allowed all season
- - Unprocessed food allowed all season, and use of dogs allowed all season
- - Unprocessed food allowed all season, but use of dogs prohibited

**DOGS.** Hunting bears with dogs is prohibited in the following counties or parts of counties: Alamance south of I-85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of I-85, Pamlico (per local law), Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties, hunting bears with the use of dogs is legal during open bear seasons, but restrictions may apply on game lands. See "Game Land" section for further information.

**UNPROCESSED FOODS.** Legal during the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving\* in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Cleveland counties. In all other counties, unprocessed foods may be used to aid in taking of bear during any open season for bear.

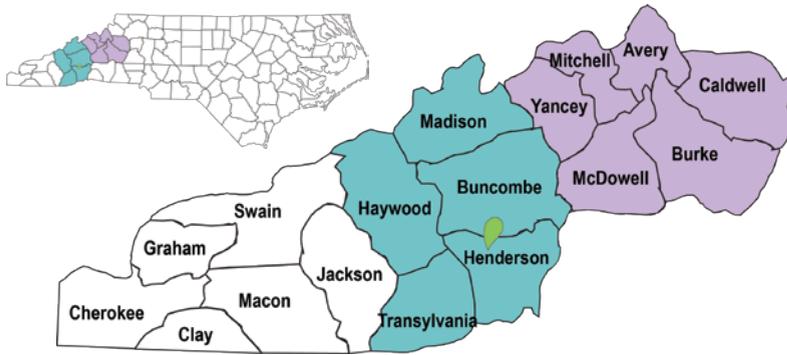
\* The prohibition against taking bears with the use and aid of bait does not apply to the release of dogs in the vicinity of any food source that is not a processed food product.

However, dogs may not be released in the vicinity of any commercially available mineral supplement whether placed for the purpose of attracting deer or otherwise.

**It is unlawful:**

- to take a bear while in the act of consuming unprocessed foods; or with use or aid of any animal, animal part or product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, grease; or extract of such substances; or any substance modified by any of the above substances or extract of above substance; or any bear bait attractant, including scented sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders; or processed food products. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products; and to place any sort of processed or unprocessed foods on game lands.

## Western Deer Zone



**Archery:**

Sept. 12 – Sept. 27, 2020;  
 Oct. 11 – Nov. 22, 2020;  
 Dec. 13, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021 (antlered deer only)  
 (See page 61 for either-sex days during archery season)

**Blackpowder:**

Sept. 28 – Oct. 10, 2020  
 (See page 61 for either-sex days during blackpowder season)

**Gun:**

Nov. 23 – Dec. 12, 2020

SEASON	DATES	COUNTIES
<b>GUN EITHER-SEX SEASON*</b>		
- Introductory	Nov. 28	Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania
- Conservative	Nov. 23 – Nov. 28	Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey
- Maximum	Nov. 23 – Dec. 12	Buncombe: that part east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, west of U.S. 25 and north of N.C. 280. Henderson: that part east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.
<b>NO EITHER-SEX SEASON</b>		
- None	None	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain

\* Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See "Game Lands" section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

## Northwestern Deer Zone



**Archery:**

Sept. 12 – Nov. 6, 2020

**Blackpowder:**

Nov. 7 – Nov. 20, 2020

**Gun:**

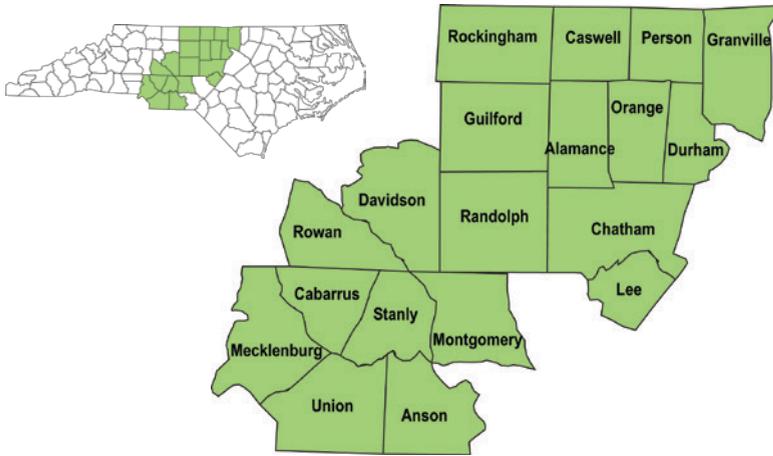
Nov. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021

Does not include Buffalo Cove and South Mountains Game Lands (see "Game Lands" section).

SEASON	DATES	COUNTIES
<b>GUN EITHER-SEX SEASON*</b>		
- Moderate	Nov. 21 – Dec. 4	Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford
- Maximum	Nov. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin, Watauga

\* Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

## Central Deer Zone



**Archery:**  
Sept. 12 – Oct. 30, 2020

**Blackpowder:**  
Oct. 31 – Nov. 13, 2020

**Gun:**  
Nov. 14, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021

SEASON	DATES	COUNTIES
<b>GUN EITHER-SEX SEASON*</b>		
- Maximum	Nov. 14, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Alamance, Anson, Caswell, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union

\* Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See "Game Lands" section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

## Northeastern and Southeastern Deer Zones



**Archery:**  
Sept. 12 – Oct. 2, 2020

**Blackpowder:**  
Oct. 3 – Oct. 16, 2020

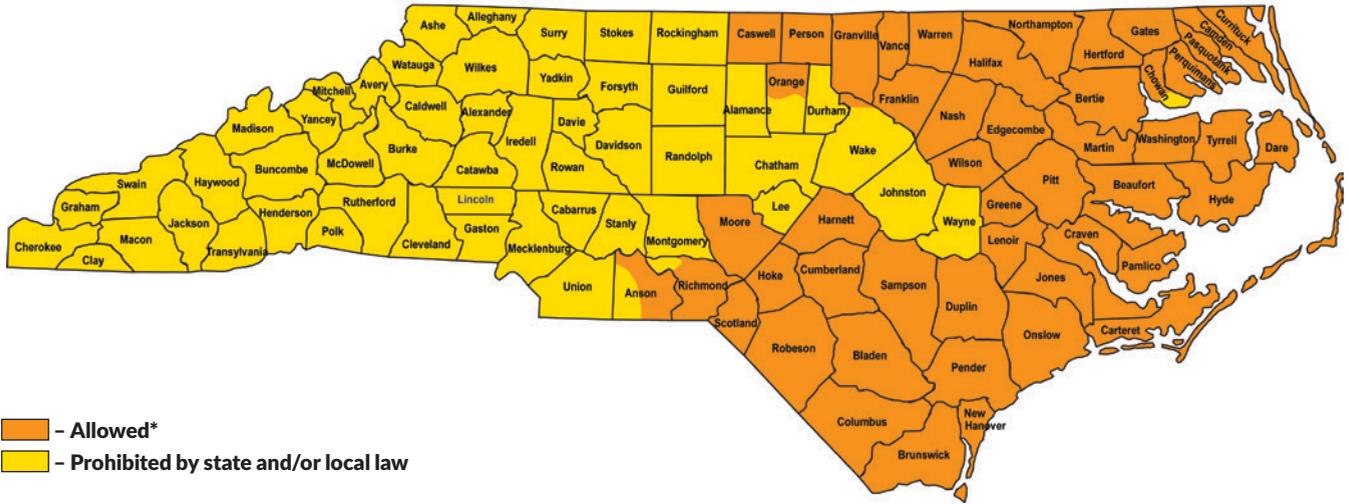
**Gun:**  
Oct. 17, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021

Does not include Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek and Sandhills game lands. (See "Game Lands" section.)

SEASON	DATES	COUNTIES
<b>GUN EITHER-SEX SEASON*</b>		
- Maximum	Oct. 17, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, Wilson
- Maximum	Oct. 17, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021	Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Washington

\*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See "Game Lands" section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

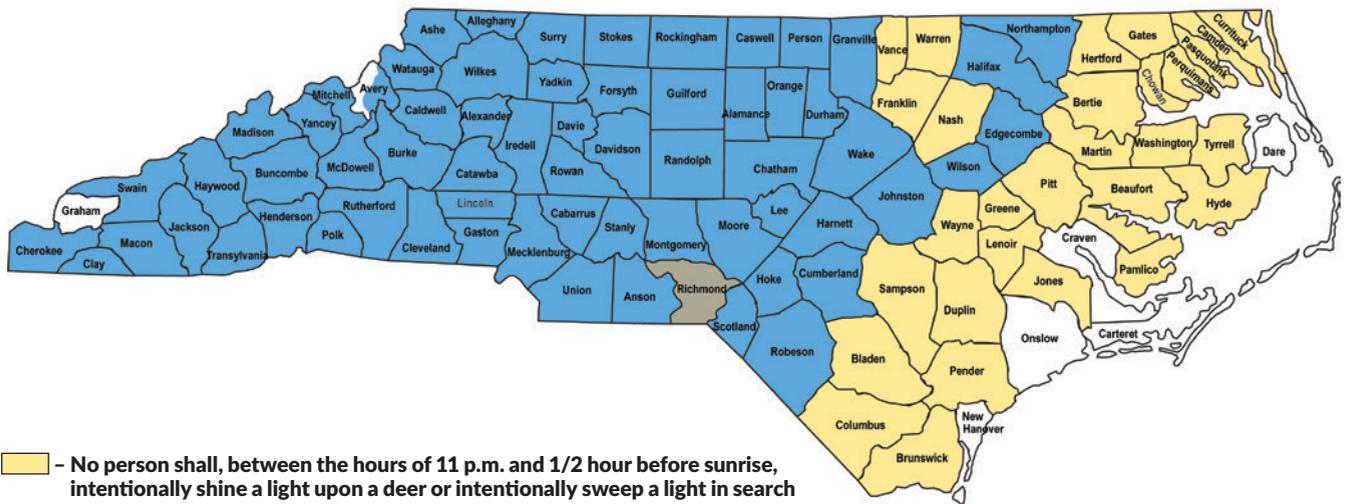
## Deer Hunting With Use of Dogs



\* Check "Local Laws" and "Game Lands" sections for additional restrictions that may apply.

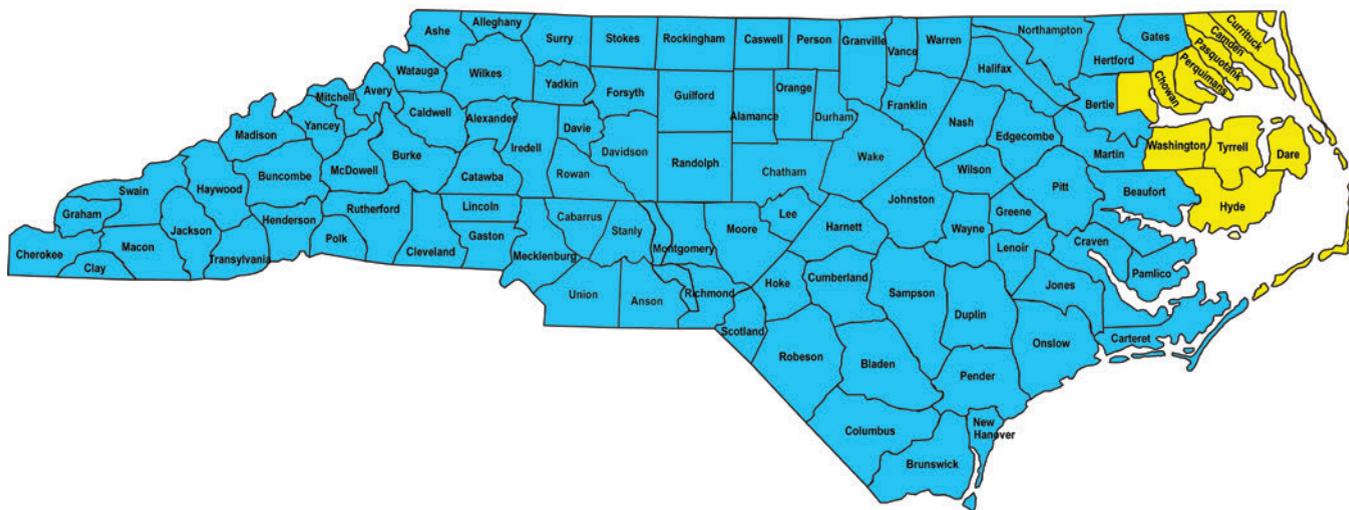
Note: See "Manner of Taking: Hunting with Dogs" section on page 55 for the allowed/prohibited boundaries within split counties.

## Shining Lights in Deer Areas



- - No person shall, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of deer in these areas.
- - No person shall, between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of a deer in these areas.
- - Unlawful to shine a light intentionally upon a deer or to sweep a light in search of a deer at any time.
- No local light laws as of Jan. 1, 2019.

## North Carolina Goose Zones



ZONE	COUNTIES/PARTS OF COUNTIES
 - Resident Population Zone	Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in blue. Parts of counties include: Bertie - that portion south and west of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway. U.S. 17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor. U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford. Co. line
 - Northeast Hunt Zone	Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in yellow. Parts of counties include: Bertie - that portion north and east of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line

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## Small Game and Other

### SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>RACCOON AND OPOSSUM</b>	
Oct. 12 – Feb. 28	Opossum: No bag limits Raccoon daily limit 3; No possession or season limits
<b>General Restrictions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.</li> <li>Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.</li> <li>It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.</li> <li>It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.</li> </ul>	
<b>SQUIRREL</b>	
Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 12 – Feb. 28	Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits
Fox Squirrel (statewide): Oct. 12 – Jan. 31	Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>RABBIT</b>	
Oct. 12 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping*)	Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits
* A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary. The sale of live rabbits is prohibited.	
<b>QUAIL</b>	
Nov. 21 – Feb. 28	Daily limit 6; Possession 12; No season limit
<b>GROUSE</b>	
Oct. 12 – Feb. 28	Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30
<b>BOBCAT</b>	
Oct. 12 – Feb. 28	No limits
<b>GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)</b>	
There is no closed hunting season on private lands. See Game Lands Section for Game Lands regulations.	There is no bag limit

### LANDOWNER PROTECTION ACT

To hunt, fish, or trap on lands posted with signs no more than 200 yards apart or purple paint 100 yards apart individuals need to possess written permission:

- Signed by the landowner or lessee
- Dated within the past 12 months

If a hunting club has leased land, hunters must possess a copy of:

- Hunting club membership
- Landowner permission

- Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.
- Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.
- Coyotes may be hunted at night with artificial lights except in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. In those five counties, the following apply:
  - » Hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset in the above listed five counties
  - » All coyote hunting in the above listed five counties requires a permit
  - » Permits can be obtained at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 888-248-6834
  - » All coyote harvests in the above listed five counties must be reported.

See page 77 for more information about the Canid Cooperator Program and distinguishing the differences between red wolves and coyotes.

<b>PHEASANT</b>	
Nov. 21 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)	Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>FOX</b>	
Year Round (including Sundays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.</li> <li>• Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. Visit <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons">ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons</a> for restrictions.</li> </ul>
Nov. 21 – Jan. 1	Daily limit 2; Season 10
<p>This season applies as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons and Mitchell and Caldwell counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» To see if your county east of I-77 has a different fox hunting season than the one listed above due to local law, visit <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/foxseasons">ncwildlife.org/foxseasons</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.</li> <li>• In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.</li> </ul>	
Jan. 2 – 23	Daily limit 2; Season 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foxes may be taken in the counties listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 19 for more information on fox tags): Clay, Henderson, Tyrrell, Graham, Macon</li> <li>• Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.</li> </ul> <p>There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, visit <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons">ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons</a>, or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.</p>	
<b>BEAVER</b>	
Beaver may be taken year-round with firearms or bow and arrow, provided that permission has been obtained from the owner or lessee of the land on which beaver is being taken.	
<b>CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES</b>	
Oct. 1 – Mar. 31	No limits.
<p>This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks, chukars, Hungarian partridges, and upland game birds) only. No wild turkey may be taken.</p>	



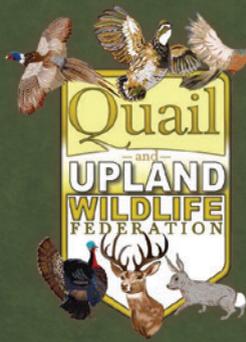

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## Migratory Birds

### Migratory Birds Protected

Federal laws protecting migratory birds (song-birds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at 404-679-7070 for information. During the **April 1 - Aug. 31** time period, depredation permits issued directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission are available when Canada geese are depredating in commercial agriculture situations. Contact the Commission at 919-707-0050 for more information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

### Colonial Waterbird Nesting Areas

Coastal islands and beach areas posted as "Colonial Waterbird Nesting" areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1-Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1-March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

## CROW SEASONS

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
Aug. 5, 2020 - Feb. 27, 2021 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	No restrictions
June 2, 2021 - July 31, 2021 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	
Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday	

## Migratory Game Birds - Hunting Stamps and Privileges

### Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (doves, rails, gallinules, moorhens, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge by going online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent.

### Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp)

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) Refer to page 11 for more information.

### North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. Refer to the "License Types" section on page 12 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

### North Carolina Duck Stamp

Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year's duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call 888-248-6834 for more information.

## Attention Hunters

Please report all bird bands online at [reportband.gov](http://reportband.gov)

Be aware that the toll-free phone number that had previously been available to report bird bands has been discontinued. People calling this toll-free number will be directed to report their bird bands using the REPORTBAND website or by mail.



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# Migratory Game Birds – Seasons

## Shooting Hours

Unless otherwise specified, shooting hours for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Hunting migratory game birds on Sundays is prohibited.

## Possession Limits

Possession Limits for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are 3 times the daily limit unless otherwise specified.

## Nontoxic Shot Requirements

In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl im-

poundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog-training activities.

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>DOVE (INCLUDES MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE)</b>	
Sep. 5 – Oct. 10, Nov. 14 – Nov. 28 & Dec. 12 – Jan. 30	Daily limit 15; either singly or in the aggregate for mourning doves and white-winged doves
<b>RAILS (INCLUDES KING, CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA RAILS AND SORA)</b>	
Sep. 1 – Nov. 20	Daily Limit 15 King or Clapper Rails either singly or in the aggregate Daily Limit 25 Virginia Rails or Sora either singly or in the aggregate
<b>GALLINULE AND MOORHEN</b>	
Sep. 1 – Nov. 20	Daily Limit 15 Gallinules and Moorhens either singly or in the aggregate
<b>WOODCOCK</b>	
Dec. 10 – Jan. 30	Daily Limit 3
<b>COMMON SNIPE</b>	
Oct. 27 – Feb. 27	Daily Limit 8
<b>SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON (INCLUDES GREEN-WINGED TEAL, BLUE-WINGED TEAL AND CINNAMON TEAL)</b>	
Sep. 12 – Sep. 30	Daily Limit 6 The September Teal Season is open only in that area east of U.S. Highway 17.
<b>DUCKS</b>	
Oct. 7 – Oct. 10, Nov. 7 – Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 – Jan. 30	Daily limit 6 with the following restrictions: 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 mallards (only 1 hen mallard), 2 black ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to Jan. 8 the scaup bag limit is 1, on Jan. 8 and after the scaup bag limit is 2. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. The season on black and mottled ducks is closed until Nov. 21.
<b>COOTS</b>	
Season dates same as ducks	Daily limit 15 coots
<b>MERGANSERS</b>	
Season dates same as ducks	Daily limit 5 mergansers with no more than 2 hooded mergansers

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>SEA DUCKS (IN SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA ONLY)</b>	
Nov. 23 – Jan. 30	Daily limit 5 with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders and 4 long-tailed ducks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The taking of sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks), except during the regular duck season shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas.</li> <li>Because sea ducks are limited to 60 days of hunting exposure in any area, there will be certain dates and locations where sea ducks may or may not be taken. Please see the following:</li> </ul>	
<b>General Duck Season Open – Special Sea Duck Season Closed</b>	
Oct. 7 – Oct. 10 & Nov. 7 – Nov. 21	Sea ducks cannot be taken in the special sea duck area, but can be taken everywhere else. The general bag limit of six ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed ducks and four eiders applies. Although sea ducks may not be taken in the special sea duck area during this time, other ducks may be taken in this area.
<b>General Duck Season Closed – Special Sea Duck Season Open</b>	
Nov. 30 – Dec. 18	Sea ducks can be taken only in the special sea duck area, and cannot be taken in other locations. The special sea duck bag limit applies and consists of five sea ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed ducks and four eiders.
<b>General Duck Season Open – Special Sea Duck Season Open</b>	
Nov. 23 – Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 – Jan. 30	Sea ducks can be taken anywhere. Hunters should remember that the special sea duck limit applies when hunting in the special sea duck area and the general bag limit applies when hunting in all other areas. When both seasons overlap, the special sea duck bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks.

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS (CONT.)

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON</b>	
Sep. 1 – Sep. 30	Daily bag 15
In that area west of U.S. Highway 17 only, expanded hunting methods are allowed for Canada geese. These include: shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset, unplugged guns are allowed, electronic calls are permitted. This applies to this area only during the month of September.	
<b>CANADA GEESE (ALSO INCLUDES WHITE-FRONTED GEESE)</b>	
See Goose Zone Map on Page 71	
<b>RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE</b>	
Oct. 7 – Oct. 17, Nov. 7 – Nov. 28 & Dec. 19 – Feb. 13	Daily bag 5 Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate.
<b>NORTHEAST HUNT ZONE (BY PERMIT ONLY)</b>	
Jan. 15 – Jan. 30	Daily bag 1 Canada goose or white-fronted goose
Refer to <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt">ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt</a> or call 888-248-6834 for application information and requirements.	
<b>TUNDRA SWAN (BY PERMIT ONLY)</b>	
Nov. 7 – Jan. 30	Bag limit 1 per season with special permit
A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans. Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permit holder to harvest one tundra swan. Refer to <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt">ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt</a> or call 888-248-6834 for application information and requirements.	
<b>LIGHT GEESE (INCLUDES SNOW GEESE AND ROSS'S GEESE)</b>	
<b>REGULAR SEASON</b>	
Oct. 13 – Feb. 13	Daily bag 25; no possession limit
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON (BY PERMIT ONLY)</b>	
Feb. 15 – Mar. 31	No daily bag limit; no possession limit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the Conservation Order Season for light geese, expanded hunting methods are allowed. These include the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls. In addition, shooting hours are extended until ½ hour past sunset.</li> <li>• To learn more or to apply for a permit after July 1, go to <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/LightGoose">ncwildlife.org/LightGoose</a></li> </ul>	
<b>BRANT</b>	
Dec. 19 – Jan. 30	Daily bag 1
<b>YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY(S)</b>	
Feb. 6 & Feb. 13	Same bag limits as during the regular waterfowl season(s)
Waterfowl hunting outside the regular season is allowed on the day(s) officially designated as "Youth Waterfowl Day." Legal species include ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots. The youth must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans and Canada geese (NE Hunt Zone only). Youth under the age of 18 may participate in accordance with the guidelines listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth under the age of 16 who have obtained a Hunter Education Certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.</li> </ul>	

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY(S) (CONT.)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth under the age of 16 who have not successfully completed a Hunter Education Course must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older.</li> <li>• Youth age 16 &amp; 17 must be properly licensed, must have HIP certification and a federal duck stamp and must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.</li> <li>• Accompanying adults that are properly licensed may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons on youth waterfowl days.</li> </ul>	
<b>VETERANS/MILITARY WATERFOWL DAY(S)</b>	
Feb. 6 & Feb. 13	Same bag limits as during the regular waterfowl season(s)
Waterfowl hunting outside the regular season is allowed on the day(s) officially designated as "Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day." Legal species include ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots. Veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate in accordance with the guidelines below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be properly licensed <b>with valid credentials</b>, must have HIP certification and a federal duck stamp.</li> <li>• Must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans and Canada geese (NE Hunt Zone only).</li> </ul>	
<b>EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS</b>	
<b>DOVE (INCLUDES MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE) (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON)</b>	
Oct. 17 – Oct. 31	Daily bag 3
<b>KING, CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA, GALLINULE AND MOORHEN (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON)</b>	
Nov. 28 – Jan. 2	Daily bag 3
<b>WOODCOCK (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON)</b>	
Nov. 7 – Nov. 28 & Feb. 1 – Feb. 27	Daily bag 3
<b>DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS)</b>	
Oct. 17 – Oct. 31 & Feb. 1 – Feb. 13	Daily bag 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons for migratory game birds. The daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 9 respectively, also apply while hunting during the gun seasons.</li> <li>• Falconry hours for all species are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset.</li> <li>• Falconry for migratory game birds is not allowed on Sunday.</li> <li>• Daily bag and possession limits are for all species singly or in the aggregate. For example, if the applicable seasons are open a daily bag may consist of 3 doves or 1 dove, 1 duck and 1 woodcock for a total of 3 migratory game birds.</li> </ul>	

## Summary of Federal Regulations

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds. **No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics

- and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased except in pursuit of wounded waterfowl in special sea duck areas;
  - By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
  - By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
  - By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the con-

- centrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

**It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:**

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering

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or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl, coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

## Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

## Non-toxic Shot

No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for blackpowder) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see [fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php](https://fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php)

## Opening Day of a Season

No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

## Field Possession Limit

No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

## Tagging Requirement

No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

## Custody of Birds of Another

No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

## Termination of Possession

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

## Gift of Migratory Game Birds

No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

## Transportation of Birds of Another

No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

## Species Identification Requirement

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

## Marking Package or Container

No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

## Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge-specific regulations see [fws.gov/refuges/](https://fws.gov/refuges/)

## Definitions

- **Migratory Birds** – Birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds

are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with state and federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, doves and pigeons, cranes, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock and snipe, if there is an open season.

- **Daily bag limit** – The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.
- **Aggregate daily bag** – The maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.
- **Possession limit** – The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.
- **Aggregate possession limit** – The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.
- **Personal abode** – One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.
- **Migratory bird preservation facility** – means:
  1. Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or

2. Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
  3. Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.
- **Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation** – A planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
  - **Normal agricultural operation** – A normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recom-

mendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **Normal soil stabilization practice** – A planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.
- **Baited area** – Any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for 10 days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.
- **Baiting** – The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering

of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

- **Manipulation** – The alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.
- **Natural vegetation** – Any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

## BEFORE YOU SHOOT...KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



**Red Wolf**



**Coyote**

<b>Color</b>	Due to the high variation in coloration and body size overlap between the species, it can be very difficult to distinguish between coyotes and red wolves in the field. We have provided typically representative examples for both species, but there exists substantial variation between both coyotes and red wolves.	
<b>Size</b>	~5 feet long nose to tail (taller, larger, and heavier than a coyote)	~3 feet long nose to tail
<b>Weight</b>	~50 to 85 pounds	~20 to 40 pounds
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide head</li> <li>• Broad muzzle</li> <li>• Long legs with large feet</li> <li>• Ears that are proportionally smaller than head</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrow head</li> <li>• Long and pointed muzzle</li> <li>• Long legs; but slim, smaller feet</li> <li>• Ears that are proportionally larger than head</li> </ul> 
<b>Additional Info</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federally protected under the Endangered Species Act</li> <li>• State listed as a Threatened Species</li> <li>• The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working towards collaring all known red wolves with bright orange collars to help the public distinguish them. Keep in mind that currently less than half of the red wolves have orange collars.</li> <li>• If a red wolf is shot, you must report within 24 hours to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 855-496-5837 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</li> <li>- 800-662-7137 (NCWRC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See page 70 for coyote hunting regulations</li> <li>• The Canid Cooperator Program is collecting data on coyotes taken in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell or Washington counties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate by pulling a tuft of hair from the harvested coyote</li> <li>- Mail it along with a data sheet, available at <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/coyote">ncwildlife.org/coyote</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Game Lands

## INFORMATION

Some 2,000,000 acres of public and private lands in North Carolina are managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission for public hunting, trapping and inland fishing. They are designated collectively as “game lands.” Hunting on the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission through a joint venture. Additional regulations apply to the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge. Individual maps are available online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).

### Game Lands License

The use of game lands is now included with most annual and lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. Please see the list of license privileges beginning on page 20 for more information.

Training dogs using wildlife on any game land or participating in field trials using wildlife on any game land either requires the Game Lands License or a valid license that authorizes the use of the game lands. The Game Lands License is required to horseback ride on certain game lands (please see page 82 rules specific to each game land).

For commission-sanctioned field trials using wildlife scheduled on game lands by the Wildlife Resources Commission, judges are exempt and active participants (defined as anyone who handles a dog or uses a firearm) in possession of hunting licenses from their own states may participate without the license. For any other game land field trial using wildlife, both judges and active participants must possess a game lands license or other North Carolina license which conveys the game land use privilege. Persons who are only observing at field trials do not need any license.

### Hunting Seasons

Unless otherwise indicated for a particular game land, game animal and game bird seasons are the same as the private land surrounding the game land. Unless otherwise provided by permit, hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open seasons for game animals and game birds and is restricted to weapons lawful for open game animal or game bird seasons.

### Game Lands Restrictions

#### Waterfowl Hunting

- On waterfowl impoundments with a posted perimeter boundary, it is unlawful on the legal hunting days for hunters to be within the posted impoundment area before 4 a.m., and hunting is prohibited after 1 p.m.; decoys may not be set out prior to 4 a.m. and must be removed by 3 p.m. each day. On designated youth waterfowl days occurring after the end of the regular waterfowl seasons, youth under age 18 may hunt in these game lands impoundments

until sunset (all other restrictions still apply). At all other times, youth are individuals under 18 years of age when hunting on game lands.

- Waterfowl blinds may be constructed on most game lands; however, they become public property and can be used by anyone on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Blinds on areas not owned by the state must be removed after the hunting season; and on some game lands, the property owners may prohibit construction of permanent hunting blinds by posting a sign at the entrances stating such restrictions.
- It is unlawful to hunt in or within 100 yards of a designated Disabled Sportsman's Waterfowl Blind during the waterfowl season, except by a disabled access permit holder and his or her permitted companion or holders of applicable disabled waterfowl hunt permits.
- It is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting.
- It is unlawful to operate internal combustion engine-powered vessels or vehicles on posted waterfowl impoundments.
- If a waterfowl impoundment has a posted scouting-only zone, all activities except hunting and trapping are restricted to that zone from Nov. 1 to March 15.
- When open days for waterfowl include Christmas and New Year's Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day is the following Monday.

#### Vehicle Usage

- Driving a motorized vehicle licensed for highway use is allowed only on those roads constructed, maintained and open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular use. This does not apply to participants in scheduled bird dog field trials held on the Sandhills Game Land.
- Operation of any motorized land vehicle, including ATVs, not licensed for highway use is prohibited, except as otherwise expressly allowed. This does not apply to those areas specifically designated in national forests for unlicensed vehicle use.
- On those game lands or parts thereof specifically listed under the Disabled Access Program (page 81), persons holding a Disabled Veteran or Totally Disabled License, a Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification, or a Disabled Access Permit may operate vehicles, including ATVs on:
  - » any Wildlife Resources Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel
  - » those trails posted for vehicular travel

» ungated and open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic.

- It is unlawful to block traffic or gates or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.
- On roads posted as “limited access” motorized vehicles are prohibited from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. during the months of June, July and August.

#### Weapons

- It is unlawful to discharge any weapon:
  - » from a vehicle,
  - » within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands,
  - » within 150 yards of any game lands building or game lands camping area (unless otherwise posted).

The 150-yard provision of this rule does not apply to the use of archery equipment on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands.

- Firearms may be carried openly, or concealed with a valid concealed handgun permit, at any time on game lands, except for the game lands noted in this section. Hunting is allowed ONLY during the open seasons on game birds and game animals. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands, and Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74, and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119 during closed seasons and closed hunting days on game birds (waterfowl, doves, woodcock, snipe, rails, gallinules, moorhens, coots, grouse, pheasant, quail, turkey) and game animals (deer, bear, fox, rabbits, squirrels, bobcats, opossum, raccoon), it is unlawful to possess any firearm readily available for use. During that time in which fox season is the only open season for a game animal, it is also unlawful to possess these weapons. However, persons may possess a firearm during the closed season on these game lands if:
  - » it is cased or not immediately available for use;
  - » it is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas;
  - » it is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property;
  - » or if it is a .22-caliber pistol with a barrel, not greater than 7.5 inches in length and shooting only short, long or long rifle ammunition, carried as a side arm.

In accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327, Section 327.13; the possession of loaded firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons is prohibited on Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands unless:

- » in the possession of a Federal, state or local law enforcement officer;
- » being used for hunting or fishing, with devices being unloaded when transported to, from or between hunting and fishing sites;
- » being used at authorized shooting ranges; or
- » written permission has been received from the District Commander.
- Where prohibited, target shooting is defined as the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping or self-defense.

**Training or Hunting with Dogs**

- Except for authorized field trials, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed from April 1 through Aug. 15 on any game land located west of I-95 and from March 15 through June 15 east of I-95.
- On game lands west of I-95, dogs also may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during daylight hours on dates when special hunts are scheduled for the Disabled Sportsman Program. Additional restrictions apply to some bear sanctuaries and game lands.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 to the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

**Bear Sanctuaries**

- It is unlawful to hunt bear on a designated bear sanctuary, except by permit. (See page 59.)
- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear, except during permit hunts that allow hunting bear with dogs.
- It is unlawful to take feral swine on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer blackpowder season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.
- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

**Posted Zones on Game Lands**

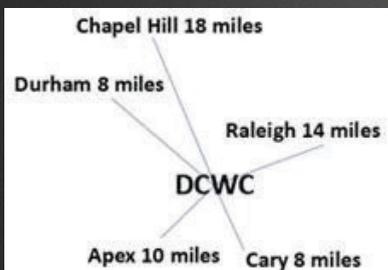
- **Safety Zone** – unlawful to hunt or discharge a weapon. Falconry is allowed.
- **Restricted Zone** – no entry without a permit.
- **Temporary Restricted Zone** – no entry without a permit.
- **Archery Zone** – bow-and-arrow hunting and falconry only. On such areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of any applicable open deer season. Hunting with dogs prohibited.
- **Restricted Firearms Zones** – unlawful to hunt with a centerfire rifle.

- **Scouting-only Zone** – unlawful to discharge firearms or bow and arrow.
- **Restricted Deer Hunting Zone** – use of dogs for taking deer prohibited without a permit.
- **Day use only Zone** – all public use prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- **Sensitive Habitat Zone** – all public use prohibited within specified dates without prior written approval.

**Removal of Plants, Animals and Other Materials**

Only the following plants, animals and materials may be possessed on or removed from game lands:

- Wildlife, birds or fish legally taken under a valid hunting, trapping, fishing or falconry license
- Small amount of edible plants or plant parts for personal consumption, except any plants on a state or federal protected list.
- Insects, worms or other invertebrates collected as fish bait for personal use, except any on a state or federal protected list. Any fish bait collected may not be sold.
- Small amounts of animal parts, plant parts not removed from live plants, dirt, rocks and water. These items may not be collected for commercial purposes or sale.
- Firewood for use while camping on a game land.



**SKET/ TRAP/ ARCHERY/PISTOL/RIFLE/FISHING**

DCWC is a not for profit club in existence for over 70 years and located on 90+ acres in RTP/Morrisville, North Carolina. Our goal is to provide a wide range of opportunities for sporting enthusiasts.

**Annual membership dues are only \$175 (family membership)**

**SHOOTING FEES/HOURS OF OPERATION:**

- Member fees start at \$2.50 for a round (25 clays) of skeet, trap, or sporting clays.
- Archery or Pistol/Rifle fees for members start at \$2.50 for all day use/access of either.
- Members have access to the club 7AM to 10PM, year round.
- Members are permitted to bring guest.

**ARCHERY:**

- Archery range has numerous lanes having targets at various ranges.
- The club also has a walking archery course which runs throughout our 96 acres.

**PISTOL/RIFLE RANGE:**

- Our outdoor pistol/rifle range is 50 yards and has 12 firing positions. The benches and firing line are under roof to permit shooting even during wet weather.

**FISHING:**

- Our 11 acre lake is a great place fish. The lake is stocked annually with upwards of 400 trout in the cold months for a real treat. The lake in the warmer months supports a population of bream, bass, crappie and more.

**SHOTGUN FIELDS:**

- 2 trap fields
- 4 skeet fields
- 1 Five Stand Sporting Clays field (20+ machines)



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- Litter and road kill animals, except when specifically prohibited.
- **Bullfrogs may be taken from April 1 – August 31 with a valid license (Game Land, hunting, fishing, etc.) that allows access to and the use of Wildlife Resources Commission Property.**
- To possess or remove any other plants, animals and materials requires written permission. This includes, but is not limited to, firewood to be taken off the game land, pine straw, ginseng, venus fly-trap, snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and salamanders.
- Game birds or game animals may not be taken with the aid of bait.
- It is unlawful to erect or to occupy for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition shall not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal left remaining in or attached to the tree.
- It is unlawful to camp on game lands, except on an area designated by the landowner for camping, or to camp on those U.S. Forest Service lands that have been closed by posted order of the U.S. Forest Service. See the individual game lands listings beginning on page 84 for further restrictions.
- On game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 – August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping during this period, all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays on three-day-per-week game lands and until midnight on Saturdays on all game lands.
- U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Corps of Engineers regulations prohibit permanent structures (including permanent duck blinds and permanent deer stands) on all lands under their management.
- A permit is needed to enter Hunting Creek Swamp in Davie County.
- John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County is closed to hunting.
- From one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, properly licensed hunters may take feral swine on game lands during the open season for any game animal and game bird using any legal manner of take allowed during those open game seasons. Dogs may be used for hunting feral swine only on those game lands where the use of dogs is allowed for hunting deer or bear and only during the open applicable deer or bear season.
- Coyote hunting on game lands in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties is limited to permit hunts administered through the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program. Elsewhere on game lands, from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, coyotes may be taken by properly licensed hunters during any open season for taking game animals and game birds using weapons that are lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.
- From one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise, hunting feral swine and coyotes on game lands is limited to permit hunts administered through the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program.
- Public nudity on any game land is prohibited.

### Other Restrictions

- Disabled sportsman blinds are for use by those individuals who possess a Disabled Veteran or Totally Disabled License or a Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification, in addition to a valid hunting license and their companions on a first-come basis during nonpermit, open hunting days, except for the Restricted Area of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land. During permit hunts, the Commission will designate use of disabled sportsman blinds.
- Use of game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping and fishing is subject to the control of the landowners.
- It is unlawful to release ANY bird or animal, except hunting dogs and raptors, on game lands without written authorization from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- It is unlawful to hunt while under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug.
- It is unlawful to litter or dispose of refuse, except in receptacles provided for the purpose.
- It is unlawful to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal by mutilation of the carcass.
- Placing bait on game lands is prohibited without written authorization.

### Trapping on Game Lands

Trapping fur-bearing animals is permitted on game lands during the open seasons and in accordance with the trapping regulations, except on posted "Safety," "Temporary Restricted" and "Restricted" zones and the regulated areas listed below that are closed to trapping:

- John's River Waterfowl Refuge, Burke Co.
- Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge, Davie Co.
- J. Robert Gordon Sandhills Field Trial Area

A permit is required to trap on any game land designated as a permit-only area.

Bait may not be used on the national forest lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, U.S. 276 on the north and east, and N.C. 215 on the west.

### Youth Waterfowl Days

No special permit will be required for youth to hunt waterfowl on any game land or game land impoundment, including permit-only areas on those days officially designated as "Youth Waterfowl Days," unless specified for an individual game land that waterfowl hunting on Youth Waterfowl Days is by permit only.

### Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days

On designated Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days, veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

## REMINDERS FOR GAME LAND USE

- Maintain awareness of game land boundaries to avoid entering private property.
- Respect other game land users.
- Remain flexible, in the event of crowding, by having an alternate location in mind.
- Know your target and what is beyond it.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Do not litter.
- It is recommended that all game land users wear a blaze orange garment as is appropriate during the hunting seasons.
- Call 800-662-7137 to report violations.
- Refer to the game lands section of this digest for more information.
- Find interactive maps at [ncwildlife.org/gamelands](http://ncwildlife.org/gamelands).



### Waterfowl Management Areas

On those areas established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for either waterfowl restoration or waterfowl resting and feeding, and posted as waterfowl management areas, it is unlawful to hunt or harass waterfowl.

### Field-Trial Facilities

Field trials may be scheduled on the J. Robert Gordon Sandhills "Field Trial Area" by application in advance, accompanied by the appropriate facility use fee. No person or group shall use these facilities without having obtained specific written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

### Shooting Ranges

Commission-managed shooting ranges are available for the purpose of firearm marksmanship and development of shooting skills. Days and hours of operation may vary and are posted at the entrance to each range. Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules. Those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard may be directed by law enforcement officers or Commission employees to leave the range.

Currently the Commission manages the following shooting ranges:

- Wayne E. Smith Shooting Range on Cold Mountain Game Land.
- Flintlock Valley Shooting Range on Uwharrie Game Land.
- John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex on Sandhills Game Land.
- Caswell Shooting Range on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land.
- Holly Shelter Shooting Range on Holly Shelter Game Land.
- Odom Shooting Range in Northampton County.
- Wake County Shooting Range.

Additional public and private shooting ranges can be found at [ncwildlife.org/ShootingRanges](http://ncwildlife.org/ShootingRanges)

## Disabled Access Program

### Disabled Access Permit

A Disabled Access Permit allows persons with limited physical mobility to operate vehicles, including ATVs, on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel, those trails posted for vehicular travel and on open-gated or un-gated roads, otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands listed in the Disabled Access Program and to have access to special disabled hunting blinds. It does not authorize operation of vehicles on closed roads on game lands not listed in the Disabled Access Program. The disabled hunter will be issued a companion and vehicle access card. One companion may accompany the disabled hunter, provided that person possesses

the companion card. This permit is valid as long as the qualifying disability persists. There is no fee associated with this permit. Refer to the "Disabled Sportsman Information" section on page 23 for qualification and application information.

Note: Disabled individuals, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, may use a wheelchair or other mobility device designed for indoor pedestrian use on any area where foot travel is allowed on properties owned or controlled by the Commission.

### Areas Involved

Vehicular access under this permit is provided on the following game lands: (Additional access may be provided on some U.S. Forest Service-owned game lands. Those areas are not listed below, but details may be obtained by contacting the local ranger station for the district in which you wish to hunt.)

- Bertie
- Bladen Lakes
- Butner-Falls of Neuse (waterfowl blind for disabled hunters only)
- R. Wayne Bailey - Caswell
- Goose Creek (waterfowl blind for disabled hunters only)
- Holly Shelter
- Juniper Creek

- Lantern Acres
- Pee Dee River Game Land
- Roanoke River Wetlands
- Rockfish Creek Game Land
- Sandhills
- South Mountains
- Stones Creek Game Land
- Suggs Mill Pond
- Tillery
- Thurmond Chatham

See current game land maps at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) for details and disabled access locations.

Currently there is a waterfowl blind for the disabled on the Spring Creek Impoundment of Goose Creek Game Land and on the Beaver Dam Impoundment of Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land. A disabled access permit is required. On permitted days on Spring Creek and on the Beaver Dam Impoundment, users must apply through the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program.

### Disabled Sportsman Permit Hunt Program

All of the hunts the Commission offers to the disabled sportsman require permits. Information about qualifications required for these hunts and available disabled blinds can be found at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).

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Jan/Feb Rut Hunts

# Either-Sex Seasons and Other Rules Applying to Individual Game Lands

Each game land falls into one of three categories and is so designated in the individual game lands listings. A special permit may be required for some species on any of these areas (apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)). The three designations are as follows:

- **Six-day-per-week areas:** Game lands on which any game may be taken Monday through Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.
- **Three-day-per-week areas:** Game lands on which any game may be hunted unless otherwise noted. Open days are Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. days. These areas are closed to hunting on other days of the week, unless specifically opened under the individual game lands listings. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.
- **Permit-only areas:** Game lands on which a special permit is required to hunt or trap. To apply for any special permits in the listings below, visit [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).
- **Falconry on Game Lands:** Within established hunting seasons and on open hunting days, falconry is allowed on Archery and Safety Zones in game lands.

## Individual Game Lands

**Alcoa Game Land** – Davie, Davidson, Montgomery, Rowan and Stanly counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 in that portion in Montgomery County (moderate season); Nov. 21 – Jan. 1 in that portion in Davie County and Nov. 14 – Jan. 1 in that portion in Davidson, Rowan and Stanly counties (maximum season).
- On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

**Alligator River Game Land** – Tyrrell County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on November 14, 16, 17 and December 19, 21, 22.

**Angola Bay Game Land** – Duplin and Pender counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Bachelor Bay Game Land** – Bertie, and Washington counties.

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Bertie County Game Land** – Bertie County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- On the Johnson Landing Tract, discharge of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land** – Bladen County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- On the Singletary Tract, hunting deer and bear with dogs is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting on the Singletary Tract is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Youth-adult permit hunts are available on Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- Discharge of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- **The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes is prohibited Feb. 15 – Aug. 1.**

**Brinkleyville Game Land** – Halifax County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Buckhorn Game Land** – Orange County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.

**Buckridge Game Land** – Tyrrell County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on November 14, 16, 17 and December 19, 21, 22.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Buffalo Cove Game Land** – Caldwell and Wilkes counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Deer Season: Nov. 23 - Dec. 12 in all portions of the game land
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season) in all portions of the game land.
- Blackpowder Season: Sept. 28 – Oct. 10 in all portions of the game land.

- Archery Season: Sept. 12 - Sept. 26, Oct. 12 – Nov. 21, and antlered deer only from Dec. 14 – Jan. 1 in all portions of the game land.
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through Aug. 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 through May 15. This rule includes all equine species.

**Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve** – Robeson County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan 1 (maximum season).

**Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land** – Durham, Granville and Wake counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 in that portion in Durham and Granville counties and Oct. 17 – 30 in that portion in Wake County (moderate season).
- Waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Christmas, Martin Luther King Jr. and New Year's days, and on opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons. On the posted waterfowl impoundments, a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after Nov. 1.
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in designated camping areas, except on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area.
- Camping is allowed at any time on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area, not to exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights, and campfires are prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only (apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)), except on those areas posted as Archery Zones.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of N.C. 50 and south of Falls Lake.
- Except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is allowed only in designated areas from May 15 through August 31 and only on Sundays from September 1 through May 14.

**Buxton Woods Game Land** – Dare County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Oct. 23 (conservative season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land** – Pender and New Hanover counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only on the Roan Island Tract. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- On the Canetuck Tract, hunting deer and bear with dogs is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Carteret County Game Land – Carteret County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Oct. 30 (moderate season)
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- **Bear hunting on the Salters Creek tract is by permit only.**

**R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell**

**Game Land – Caswell County**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 14 – 25 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July and August and on Sundays during the remainder of the year, except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. Participants age 16 or older must obtain a game lands license prior to engaging in horseback riding on this area.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in designated camping areas.
- The area posted with signs stating “CURE Wildlife Game Lands, Special Regulations Apply” and encompassed by the following roads is closed to all quail and woodcock hunting and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on N.C. 62 to the intersection of S.R. 1746, west on S.R. 1746 to the intersection of S.R. 1156, south on S.R. 1156 to the intersection of S.R. 1783, east on S.R. 1783 to the intersection of N.C. 62, north on N.C. 62 to the intersection of S.R. 1736, east on S.R. 1736 to the intersection of S.R. 1730, east on S.R. 1730 to N.C. 86, north on N.C. 86 to N.C. 62.
- On the posted waterfowl impoundments, a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after Nov. 1.
- Target shooting is prohibited except on the Caswell Shooting Range.

**Chatham Game Land – Chatham County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 (moderate season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only during June, July and August and on Sundays during the remainder of the year, except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Chowan Game Land – Chowan County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Chowan Swamp Game Land – Bertie, Gates and Hertford counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.

- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on November 14, 16, 17 and December 19, 21, 22, except that on the portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River the bear season is Nov. 14 – 22 and Dec. 12 – 27.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 – Aug. 31 and on Sundays only Sept. 1 – May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Cold Mountain Game Land – Haywood County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season)
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 – Aug. 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule includes all equine species.

**Columbus County Game Land – Brunswick and Columbus counties**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- **Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)).**

**Croatan Game Land – Carteret, Jones and Craven counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s and Martin Luther King Jr. days; and on the opening and closing of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- On the first two open days of dove season, a permit is needed to hunt on posted areas.
- Hunting from Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake waterfowl impoundment is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Currituck Banks Game Land – Currituck County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season)
- Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound adjacent to these game lands shall be hunted by permit only after Nov. 1. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party, but may not use a firearm.

- The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- Dogs shall be allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted hunters on the day of their hunt.
- No screws, nails or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.

**Dan River Game Land – Rockingham County**

- Three-day-per-week area, deer and turkey hunting by permit-only (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt))
- Target shooting is prohibited
- Horseback riding is prohibited, except on those areas posted for equestrian use. Persons age 16 or older horseback riding must possess a Game Land License

**Dare Game Land – Dare and Hyde counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 23 (conservative season).
- No hunting on posted parts of bombing range. Selected roads may be closed for military training.
- The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 – June 30.
- Bear hunting is by permit only (apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)) on the Dare Bear Sanctuary.

**Dover Bay Game Land – Craven County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season)

**DuPont State Forest Game Land – Henderson and Transylvania counties**

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Training and the use of dogs is prohibited except during scheduled permit hunts.

**Elk Knob Game Land – Watauga County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 21 – 27 (conservative season).

**Embro Game Land – Halifax and Warren counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Goose Creek Game Land – Beaufort and Pamlico counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Prior to Oct 1, waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays and Saturdays and on the opening and closing days of the statewide waterfowl seasons on the posted impoundments.

- Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October and through the end of the waterfowl season, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on posted waterfowl impoundments.
- Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from Sept. 1 through Jan. 1 and April 1 – May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

**Green River Game Land – Henderson and Polk counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov 21, except that portion in Henderson Co. where the season is Nov 28.
- Horseback riding is prohibited. This rule includes all equine species.

**Green Swamp Game Land – Brunswick County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- On the Little Macedonia Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear is prohibited and hunting and trapping is by permit-only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Gull Rock Game Land – Hyde County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- On posted waterfowl impoundments, hunting of any species of wildlife is limited to Tuesdays and Saturdays; Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. days; and opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Bear may only be taken November 14, 16, 17 and December 19, 21, 22, except that portion of the game land designated as bear sanctuary. Bear hunting is prohibited on the bear sanctuary.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

**Harris Game Land – Chatham, Harnett and Wake counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27, except those parts in Wake and Harnett counties where the season is Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate seasons).
- Waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days; and on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

- Turkey hunting is by permit only (apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)), except on those areas posted as Archery Zones.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is prohibited.

**Headwaters State Forest Game Land – Transylvania County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28

**Hill Farm Game Land – Stokes County**

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Holly Shelter Game Land – Pender County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Waterfowl hunting is allowed only on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. days; and on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- Dogs may be used for hunting deer and bear on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days only.
- On the portion of the game land that is north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of N.C. 53 and west of N.C. 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).) Other species may be hunted on this area only during the normal open days for this game land.
- Hunting deer and bear with dogs on the Pender 4 and Greentree impoundment tracts is prohibited.
- Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from Sept. 1 to the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit to operate all terrain vehicles are allowed on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access. See the on-line game land maps for designated trails.
- Target shooting is prohibited except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- Geocaching is allowed only on closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

**Hycoc Game Land – Person County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – Nov. 27 (moderate season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**J. Morgan Futch Game Land – Tyrrell County**

- Permit Only Area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Johns River Game Land – Burke County**

- Permit Only Area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

**Jordan Game Land – Durham, Chatham, Orange and Wake counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – Jan. 1, except that part in Wake Co. where the season is Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum seasons).
- Waterfowl may be taken only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days; and on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas specifically posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open. On all other posted equestrian trails, horseback riding is limited to the months of June, July and August, and Sundays the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Participants age 16 and older must obtain a game land license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only (apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt)), except on those areas posted as Archery Zones.
- Except while hunting, bicycle riding is restricted to designated areas.

**Juniper Creek Game Land – Brunswick and Columbus counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

**Kerr Scott Game Land – Wilkes County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 21 – Jan. 1 (maximum season)
- Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- Deer may be taken by archery equipment only except during the blackpowder season.
- Tree stands may not be left overnight and no screws, nails, or other objects may be used to aid in climbing or to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- Turkey hunting is archery only.

**Lantern Acres Game Land – Tyrrell and Washington counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.

- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Dogs may not be used to hunt deer on the Godley Tract.
- Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Lee Game Land – Lee County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 (moderate season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Light Ground Pocosin Game Land – Pamlico County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Linwood Game Land – Davidson County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Lower Fishing Creek Game Land – Edgecombe and Halifax counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Mayo Game Land – Person County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 (moderate season).
- Waterfowl may be hunted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Christmas and New Year's days; and on opening and closing days, of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Mitchell River Game Land – Alleghany and Surry counties**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 21 – Dec. 2 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails. May 16 – Aug. 31. All horseback riding is prohibited. Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule includes all equine species.

**Nantahala Game Land – Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 in that portion in Transylvania County (introductory season).

**Needmore Game Land – Macon and Swain counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 – Aug. 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule applies to all equine species.
- On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.

**Neuse River Game Land – Craven County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season)
- Camping is allowed but restricted to within 100yds of the Neuse River on the Turkey Quarter Creek Island Tract (west of NC 43)

**New Lake Game Land – Hyde and Tyrrell counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Nicholson Creek Game Land – Hoke County**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 14 – Dec. 12
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 12 – Oct. 30
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Oct. 31 – Nov. 11
- Gun Either-Sex Season: Nov. 14 (introductory season)
- The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Swimming and internal combustion engines are prohibited at Lake Upchurch.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**North River Game Land – Camden and Currituck counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Northwest River Marsh Game Land – Currituck County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

**Pee Dee River Game Land – Anson, Montgomery, Richmond and Stanly counties**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27, except that part in Richmond Co. where the season is Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate seasons).

- **The use of dogs to hunt or pursue deer or bear is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is south of US 74.**

- Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties north of U.S. 74.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is allowed only on roads open to vehicular traffic and only during the months of June, July and August, and Sundays the remainder of the year except during the open turkey and deer seasons.

**Perkins Game Land – Davie County**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov 21 (introductory season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- Target shooting is prohibited

**Pisgah Game Land – Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties**

- Six-day-per week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28, except that portion in Watauga County where the season is Nov. 21 introductory seasons)
- Hunting raccoon, opossum and wildcat on the Harmon Den and Sherwood Bear sanctuaries in Haywood County is allowed.
- Bear hunting on Mt. Mitchell and Daniel Boone bear sanctuaries is by permit only.
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock tracts (Avery, McDowell and Mitchell counties).
- **Biking is restricted to designated trails on the Linville River tract (Burke Co.). This restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.**

**Pond Mountain Game Land – Ashe County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 21 – Nov. 27 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except on designated trails and allowed only from May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.

**Pungo River Game Land – Hyde County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land – Wilkes County**

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 21 – Dec. 2 (conservative season).
- Bear Hunting is prohibited.

**Rhodes Pond Game Land** – Cumberland and Harnett counties

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Swimming is prohibited.

**Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land** – Dare County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land** – Bertie, Halifax, Martin and Northampton counties

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails, except those vehicles operated on official Wildlife Resources Commission business or by permit holders.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas. (Camping is allowed anytime within 100 yards of the Roanoke River.)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Robeson Game Land** – Robeson County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Rockfish Creek Game Land** – Hoke County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 14 - Dec. 12
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 12 – Oct. 30
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Oct. 31 – Nov. 11
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 (introductory season)
- The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Rocky Run Game Land** – Onslow County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Sampson Game Land** – Sampson County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Sandhills Game Land** – Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22 through March 31 except as listed below. This restriction does not apply to permit hunts offered to disabled sportsman.
- Gun Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 14 – Dec. 12 (Deer with visible antlers only),

except on the field-trial grounds, where the season is only on the open days during Nov. 14 – Nov. 28.

- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: By permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 12 – Oct. 30 (Deer of either sex may be taken on these days.) and Dec. 14 – Jan. 1 (Deer with visible antlers only) except on the field trial grounds where the archery season is only on open days during Sept. 12 – Oct. 30.
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Oct. 31 – Nov 11 (Deer of either sex may be taken on these days.) and Dec. 14 – Jan. 1 (Deer with visible antlers only) except on the field trial grounds where the blackpowder season is only on open days during Oct. 31 – Nov 11.
- **Squirrel (fox and gray) hunting on the field-trial grounds is allowed on open days during Nov. 14 – Nov. 28.**
- Opossum and raccoon hunting on the field-trial grounds is allowed on open days during Oct. 12 through the last day of February.
- Rabbit hunting on the field-trial grounds will be allowed on open days during Nov. 14 – Nov. 28.
- Dove hunting on the field-trial grounds will be prohibited from the third Sunday in September through the remainder of the hunting season.
- Horseback riding is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field- Trial Area Oct. 22 – March 31, except by people riding in field trials.
- Waterfowl hunting on the field trial grounds is allowed on open days during any waterfowl season.
- In addition to the regular open days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Dog training is prohibited on the field trial grounds. Elsewhere, dog training is restricted to Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from Oct. 1 – April 1.
- Swimming in lakes is not permitted.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in designated camping areas.
- All of Sandhills Game Land in Moore County is located within the Sandhill Township (See Moore County “local laws” for rifle caliber restrictions and additional restrictions.)
- Target shooting is prohibited except on the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

**Sandy Creek Game Land** – Franklin and Nash Counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Sandy Mush Game Land** – Buncombe and Madison County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 – Aug. 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule includes all equine species.
- Dogs may only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and only during that time period when dog training is allowed on game lands.
- Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove season. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- **Target shooting is prohibited.**

**Second Creek Game Land** – Rowan County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Shocco Creek Game Land** – Franklin, Halifax, Nash and Warren counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**South Mountains Game Land** – Burke, Cleveland, McDowell and Rutherford counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Deer Season: Nov. 23 - Dec. 12 in all portions of the game land.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season) in all portions of the game land.
- Blackpowder Season: Sept. 28 – Oct. 10 in all portions of the game land.
- Archery Season: Sept. 12 – Sept. 26, Oct. 12 – Nov. 21, and antlered deer only from Dec. 14 - Jan. 1 in all portions of the game land.
- **Horseback riding is prohibited, except on designated trails Jan. 2 – March 31 and May 16 – Aug. 31 and on Sundays April 1 – May 15 and Sept. 1 – Jan. 1. This rule includes all equine species.**

**Stones Creek Game Land** – Onslow County

- Six day-per-week area.
- Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. days; and on the opening and closing days of the statewide waterfowl season.
- Dogs may be used for hunting deer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Geocaching is allowed only on closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

**Suggs Mill Pond Game Land** – Cumberland and Bladen counties

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- During scheduled permit hunts, only hunters and trappers with permits may enter the game land, EXCEPT the public may use Campground Road to access the pond at the dam.
- The use of vessels on managed waterfowl impoundments on Suggs Mill Pond Game Land is restricted to permitted waterfowl hunters from November 1 – March 15 and, except for Sundays, from November 1 – January 31 on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake.

**Sutton Lake Game Land** – Brunswick and New Hanover counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 23 (conservative season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Discharge of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**Tar River Game Land** – Edgecombe County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Texas Plantation Game Land** – Tyrrell County

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

**Three Top Mountain Game Land** – Ashe County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 21 – 27 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited. This includes all equine species.

**Thurmond Chatham Game Land** – Alleghany and Wilkes counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 21 – Dec. 4 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 – Aug. 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule includes all equine species. Participants age 16 or older must obtain a game lands license prior to horseback riding on this area.

**Tillery Game Land** – Halifax County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – 30 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Toxaway Game Land** – Transylvania county

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited, except on designated trails May 16 – Aug. 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from Sept. 1 – May 15. This rule includes all equine species.

**Uwharrie Game Land** – Davidson, Montgomery and Randolph counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 14 – 27 (moderate season).
- On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr. days; and on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- Target shooting is prohibited except on the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.

**Vance Game Land** – Vance County

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- The use of dogs, centerfire rifles and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula Tract.

**Van Swamp Game Land** – Beaufort and Washington counties

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on November 14, 16, 17 and December 19, 21, 22

**Voice of America Game Land**

- Beaufort County
- Permit-only area (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**White Oak River Game Land** – Onslow County

- Three-day-per-week area.
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 17 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Prior to Oct. 1, waterfowl may be taken only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; and on the opening and closing days of the statewide waterfowl hunting seasons on the posted impoundments.
- Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October and through the end of the waterfowl season, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on posted waterfowl impoundments.
- Waterfowl hunting on the Huggins and Morton tracts is by permit only for the entire waterfowl season. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- A hunting opportunity permit is needed to access Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road.
- On the Huggins and Morton tracts, dogs may not be used to hunt deer, there is no

discharge of centerfire rifles allowed, AND hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)

- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Whitehall Plantation Game Land** – Bladen and Pender Counties

- Permit-only area. (Apply at [ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt](http://ncwildlife.org/PermitHunt).)
- **The pursuing or chasing of deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Long Ridge Tract is prohibited.**
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

**William H. Silver Game Land** – Haywood County

- Six-day-per-week area
- Gun Either-Sex Deer Season: Nov. 28 (introductory season).

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# Local Laws

## AND INFORMATION

Some local county-by-county legislation also pertains to hunting, inland fishing and trapping activities in North Carolina. Following is a county-by-county listing of acts that might not violate the general laws and regulations, but that are prohibited by local legislation passed by the General Assembly. These laws do not reflect actions taken by the General Assembly after publication of this document.

### Fox Hunting and Trapping

Fox hunting and trapping seasons, bag limits and restrictions vary by county in North Carolina. Some counties do not allow fox hunting or trapping at all, some allow only hunting. Before taking a fox, sportsmen should read the law for that county in the "Fox Seasons Hunting and Trapping Laws" publication available at [ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons](http://ncwildlife.org/FoxSeasons) or by calling 919-707-0050.

## Hunting and Trapping

The following is unlawful in the counties indicated:

### Alamance

- Hunt any wildlife with a firearm from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Hunt a deer or fox by use of dogs at any time.
- NOTE: Entrance to private lands to hunt is regulated by local ordinance.

### Alexander

- Hunt, take or kill or attempt to hunt, take or kill any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of any public road.

### Alleghany

- Discharge a firearm from, on or across a public road without written permission from adjoining landowners.
- Take any game or nongame animal or bird in Sam Brown Park.

### Anson

- Unlawful to hunt on another's land without having, on the person, written permission signed and dated by the owner, lessee, or club president (if applicable). Permission is good for one year unless otherwise stated. During the gun deer season, allowing a dog under one's ownership, possession, or control to run upon or across another's land constitutes hunting thereon.
- Hunt on, from or across any public road.
- Hunt deer with dogs; except that dogs may be used to hunt deer during the last five weeks of the Gun Deer Season east of N.C. 742. This is calculated by counting back five weeks from the last day of the gun season. (Note: If the gun

deer season ends on Jan. 1, this season will be Nov. 28 – Jan. 1. If the gun deer season ends on Jan. 2, this season will be Nov. 29 – Jan. 2)

- Hunt deer with dogs unless the dog has a collar with owner's identification.
- Import and release a fox.

### Ash

- Hunt with a loaded gun or other lethal weapon from the right-of-way of a state-maintained road, or discharge a gun or lethal weapon across any such road.
- Exceed a season bag limit of 20 raccoons.

### Avery

- Take any wildlife, except bobcats, on Grandfather Mountain above the Yonahlossee Road (U.S. 221) on one side, or 4,000 feet elevation on the other.

### Beaufort

- Hunt migratory wildfowl north of the Pamlico River channel between Broad Creek and Washington City Limits.
- To discharge, or attempt to discharge, a firearm or bow and arrow, from, on, or across the roadway or right-of-way of any public road.

### Bertie

- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird, or attempt to hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird, with the use of a firearm or bow and arrow from, on, across or over the roadway or right-of-way of any public road, street or highway.
- Discharge a firearm or bow and arrow from, on, across, or over the roadway of any public road, street, or highway, or to possess a firearm or bow and arrow outside the passenger compartment of a vehicle while on the roadway or right-of-way.
- To hunt, fish, or trap on the land of another without the written permission of the landowner or the landowner's lessee. Written permission shall contain complete contact information for the landowner or the landowner's lessee.
- To take deer from any vessel in the Roanoke River, or its tributaries, except for those portions of the river and its tributaries that are adjacent to the border with Washington County whether the vessel is under power or not.

### Bladen

- Hunt deer with the aid of a boat or floating device on the Cape Fear River or its tributaries.
- Possess a firearm aboard a motor-propelled vessel on the Cape Fear River during open deer season.
- Hunt any game from a public road adjoining posted land without having in possession

- written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Hunt, take or kill any bird or animal or to attempt to hunt, take or kill any bird or animal on property adjacent to Bladen Lakes State Forest without written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Hunt, take or kill any bird or animal or attempt to hunt, take or kill any bird or animal on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road adjacent to property adjacent to Bladen Lakes State Forest without written permission of the owner or lessee.

### Brunswick

- Set or possess a trap or snare on another's land not under written lease.
- Set a leghold steel trap between March 1 and Jan. 1 or the last day of the deer-hunting season, whichever is later.
- Hunt from the right-of-way of a public road, except by the owner or lessee of the abutting land or by a person with the permission of such owner or lessee.
- **Shine a light intentionally upon any wild animal, including, but not limited to, deer, coyotes, or feral swine, from the right-of-way of any public road, street, or highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.**

### Buncombe

- Hunt deer on or from the right-of-way of I-26 or I-40.

### Burke

- Hunt from the right-of-way of public roads any bird or animal except bear, without permission of the owner or lessee of the adjacent land.

### Cabarrus

- Take deer with a centerfire rifle, except from a permanent or portable stationary stand at least nine feet above ground level and with the written permission of the landowner or lessee in one's possession.
- Hunt, take or kill with the use of firearms any bird or game animal from, on or across the right-of-way of any numbered highway.
- Discharge a centerfire rifle on the property of another with-out having in one's possession the written permission of the landowner or lessee.

### Caldwell

- Take any wildlife, except bobcats, on Grandfather Mountain above the Yonahlossee Road (U.S. 221).
- Hunt from the right-of-way of public roads any bird or animal except bear, without written permission of the owner or lessee of the adjacent land. Bear and boar may be hunted from any unpaved road.

### Camden

- Hunt deer with a rifle, except from a stand eight feet high located on land owned or leased by the hunter or on another's land with the owner's permission.

- Set a Conibear®-type 330 or 220 trap or a No. 2 leghold steel trap, except in water where beaver or otter may be lawfully taken.
- Hunt from the right-of-way of S.R. 1239 or of S.R. 1224 from the county line to S.R. 1239.
- Hunt or discharge a firearm from, on or across S.R. 1205.
- To discharge or cause to be discharged any firearm within one-half mile of any public or private school, toward any public or private school, or to cause any projectile discharged from a firearm to enter any public or private school grounds for any reason.

**Carteret**

- Set a steel trap or Conibear®-type trap, or take an animal therefrom, on another's land without a written lease authorizing trapping.
- Take migratory waterfowl within 500 yards of another's permanent hunting location without permission of the landholder upon whose land the waterfowl is taken.
- Hunt deer from a public road adjoining lands of others without written permission of the owners or lessees.

**Caswell**

- Hunt deer from the surface or right-of-way of a public road.
- It is unlawful for a person to take wildlife or attempt to take wildlife on the land of another, or fish on the land of another, without

having on one's person while hunting or fishing the written permission, signed and dated for the current hunting and fishing season.

- It is unlawful for a person to take wildlife or attempt to take wildlife while under the influence of an impairing substance.

**Catawba**

- Hunt, take or kill or attempt to hunt, take or kill any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of any public road.

**Chatham**

- Hunt with a firearm from the surface or right-of-way of a public road.
- Hunt with a firearm or bow and arrow or possess same, except with express written permission, dated within the previous 12 months, of the landowner or lessee.
- Permit a minor under 16 to possess a firearm, unless the child is under the supervision of parents or guardian.
- Possess a loaded firearm on the land of another while under the influence of an impairing substance.

**Cherokee**

- To take or kill any wild animal or wild bird with the use of a firearm or to discharge a firearm from, on, or across the right-of-way of a public road, street, highway or other public vehicular area.

**Chowan**

- Hunt waterfowl on N.C. 32 or on any road south thereof between the Albemarle Sound bridge and the Edenton City Limits.
- Take a bird or animal within Arrowhead Beach subdivision, Cape Colony subdivision or Chowan Beach subdivision.
- Hunt deer, except by still hunting, south of U.S. 17 and U.S. 17 Business and east of a line from the intersection of U.S. 17 Business and the western city limits of Edenton due south to Albemarle Sound.
- Hunt on the land of another without written permission of owner or lessee; permission to be dated within one year.
- Hunt with or possess a centerfire rifle on the land of another or discharge same on, over or across another's land without having on one's person, written permission dated within one year.
- Hunt with or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow from, to or across any state-maintained road or right-of-way.
- To hunt with a centerfire rifle, unless the barrel of the rifle is at least eight feet above ground level.

**Clay**

- To take or kill any wild animal or wild bird with the use of a firearm or to discharge a firearm from, on, or across the right-of-way of a public road, street, highway or other public vehicular area.

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- Shine a light intentionally upon any wild animal, including, but not limited to, deer, coyotes, or feral swine, from the right-of-way of any public road, street, or highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

## Cleveland

- Hunt from a public road right-of-way.

## Columbus

- Set a steel trap between March 1 – Jan. 1.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road or highway without obtaining written permission of the owner or lessee of the land abutting the road or the land across which the weapon is being discharged.

## Craven

- Unless a person owns or possesses a leasehold, it is unlawful to hunt, take, kill or to shoot from, on, or across a road right-of-way on S.R. 1611, S.R. 1613, S.R. 1614, S.R. 1615, S.R. 1617, S.R. 1619 or on S.R. 1401 from Washington Post Road to N.C. 55.
- Hunt on or from a public road within an area posted against such by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Hunt on land within 100 yards of Trent River between the U.S. 70 bridge and a straight line from Haywards Creek to Ready Branch.
- Hunt on land within 100 yards of Brices Creek between Trent River and the S.R. 1004 bridge.
- Hunt from or shoot across S.R. 1600 (Broad Creek Road) east of N.C. 55 to its terminus near Broad Creek.
- Hunt on or from N.C. 306, S.R. 1004, U.S. 70 from S.R. 1225 to .6 mile east, or S.R. 1225 from S.R. 1226 to .6 mile south.
- Take any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of S.R. 1144.
- Hunt, take or kill any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of S.R. 1101 from S.R. 1004 to the U.S. Forestry Service boundary.
- Hunt, take or kill any bird or animal on, from or across the right-of-way of S.R. 1258 from

its intersection with N.C. 55 to the intersection of S.R. 1251.

- Hunt, take or kill any bird or animal on, from or across the right-of-ways of S.R. 1230, S.R. 1229 and S.R. 1620.
- Unless a person owns or possesses a leasehold, it is unlawful to hunt, take or kill any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of S.R. 1633, known as Brown Farm Road, S.R. 1637, known as Alligator Road, and state roads 1638 and 1639 known as Maul Swamp Road.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird on, from or across the right-of-way of S.R. 1477.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of S.R. 1459 from Riverside Church north to S.R. 1460.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of S.R. 1460 from its intersection with S.R. 1459 west to the Pitt County line.
- Unless a person owns or possesses a leasehold interest in the real property adjacent to the portion of the road on which the person is located, it is unlawful for that person to discharge a firearm from, on or across the right-of-way of S.R. 1862 from Adams Creek Road to the end of the state-maintained portion of the road.

## Cumberland

- Set a steel-jaw leghold trap on another person's land, except for beaver or muskrat on lands of one with whom the trapper has a contract for trapping.
- Hunt with a firearm from or on a public road or the right-of-way thereof.

## Currituck

- Note: The Poplar Branch Township on the Outer Banks is included within the Maximum Either-Sex Season for Currituck County. During the Regular Gun Deer Season in that portion of Poplar Branch Township on the Outer Banks, there is an open season for hunting or taking deer of either sex using only shotguns, bow and arrow, and blackpowder firearms. The Eastern Deer Season dates and all restrictions that apply to the Bow-and-Arrow and

Blackpowder seasons in Currituck County also apply to the Poplar Branch Township. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, included here, offers limited big game hunting; contact Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge or visit [fws.gov/south-east/reading-room/?search=Currituck+hunt](http://fws.gov/south-east/reading-room/?search=Currituck+hunt) for more information.

- Hunt waterfowl within 500 yards of another's licensed blind. NOTE: A Currituck Game Commission License is not required for temporary waterfowl blinds on game lands. However, unlicensed temporary blinds on game lands in this county shall not be hunted if a licensed float blind is established within 500 yards of the unlicensed blind before game land hunters have occupied the blind. Likewise, licensed float-blind hunters shall not establish a float-blind position within 500 yards of an unlicensed game land blind if game land hunters have occupied the blind first. Unlicensed float blinds on game lands must be used within five yards of the game lands shoreline and shall not be established within 500 yards of a licensed point, bush or float blind. Licensed float-blind hunters shall not establish a float-blind position within 500 yards of an established game land float-blind position if the game land hunters have established the game land float-blind position first.
- Hunt with a firearm from the right-of-way of S.R. 1140, S.R. 1218, S.R. 1227, S.R. 1229, S.R. 1248, S.R. 1249, S.R. 1250, S.R. 1251, S.R. 1252, S.R. 1253 or of U.S. 168 north of Moyock Creek.
- For more information on the Currituck Game Commission's laws, rules and waterfowl blind licenses, please visit [currituckgamecommission.org](http://currituckgamecommission.org), or call 252-429-3472.

NOTE: Dare and Currituck counties require licensing of waterfowl blinds, and certain restrictions apply to hunting waterfowl in these two counties. For more information, contact: Dare County Game and Wildlife Commission, P. O. Box 1000, Manteo, N.C. 27954.

## Dare

- Chase deer with dogs, or permit a dog to chase deer, between March 1 and June 30, except for the mainland and Durant Island.
- Hunt transitory waterfowl from an unlicensed blind, except on or within five yards of the shoreline of game lands.
- Use any trap that has a jaw spread that exceeds 7½ inches until after Jan. 2 of each year or the last day of deer hunting season, whichever is later.
- The Dare County Game and Wildlife Commission has recently updated its regulations regarding waterfowl blinds. For more information on the Dare County Game and Wildlife Commission's laws, rules and waterfowl blind licenses, call 252-475-5631 or visit [darenc.com/Local/GameWildlife.htm](http://darenc.com/Local/GameWildlife.htm) or [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).

## Disposal of Deer Carcasses

- Disposing of deer or any other animal remains on roadsides, waterways or on property (without permission or where restricted) is illegal in North Carolina.
- Irresponsible dumping of deer carcasses sends the wrong image of a great sport, can spread disease, and could result in misdemeanor and felony charges.
- Dispose of game remnants in a prompt and responsible manner.
- Where permissible, bury remains at least two feet deep.
- Contact your area landfill or solid waste management provider for local policies and more information.

Be a responsible and ethical hunter!

**Davidson**

- Hunt, fish or trap on land of another without written permission.
- NOTE: Discharge of firearms or pellet guns from right-of-way of public roads is regulated by local ordinance.
- Hunt, take or kill a wild bird or wild animal with a firearm or discharge a firearm from, on or across the right-of-way of any numbered state-maintained road without written permission of the adjoining landowner.

**Davie**

- Import and release a fox.

**Duplin**

- For information concerning hunting from the roadway in Duplin County, contact the county attorney.

**Durham**

- Discharge a firearm in taking game animals from the right-of-way of a public road adjoining posted land, without permission of the owner or person in charge of such land.
- Discharge a centerfire rifle on another's land, or on or across such land from a public road, without having in possession written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Take deer with dogs.
- Hunt deer from a public road.
- Hunt any wildlife with a firearm from a public road.

**Edgecombe**

- Hunt, take or transport deer from or with the aid of any boat or floating device on that portion of the Tar River from S.R. 1252 to N.C. 33.
- Hunt with a firearm from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Hunt or transport game, except migratory waterfowl, from or by a boat or floating device on Swift Creek.
- Hunt on the land of another without having on one's person while hunting the written permission, signed and dated for the current hunting season, of the landowner or lessee, or the landowner's or lessee's designee.
- Hunt from any vessel in the Tar River from Springfield Road to the Dunbar Bridge, whether the vessel is under power or not, except that a vessel may be used for transportation to and from otherwise lawful hunting stands upon lands owned or leased by a person or upon which a person has written permission to hunt.

**Franklin**

- Hunt deer with a rifle on another's land, or from the right-of-way of a public road adjoining such land, without written permission from the owner to use a rifle.
- Hunt game from the right-of-way of any public road in that part of the county bounded on the north beginning at the Tar River at the Granville County line east to U.S. 1, then south along U.S. 1 to the intersection

of N.C. 56, then east along N.C. 56 to the intersection of U.S. 401, then north along U.S. 401 to the intersection of N.C. 39, then south along N.C. 39 to the intersection of N.C. 98, then east along N.C. 98 to the Nash County line.

- In all other portions of the county to hunt game from the right-of-way of any public road, without written permission of the owners of the lands abutting that road.

**Gaston**

- Hunt, take or kill with a firearm or other deadly weapon, any wild animal or wild bird from or across the right-of-way of any public road, street or highway.

**Gates**

- Take deer with the aid of a boat or floating device, in or within 100 yards of the Chowan River, except in creeks and tributaries.
- Hunt on a public road adjoining posted land without prior written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Hunt with or discharge a centerfire rifle from, on or across a state-maintained road.
- Hunt with or possess a centerfire rifle on another's land without written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Hunt with, or possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or dog on another's land without permission of the owner or lessee.
- Take any game or furbearer by trapping on another person's land between the end of trapping season and Jan. 2.
- Hunt with or possess a centerfire rifle or pistol in that part bordered to the north by U.S. 158, to the west by S.R. 1403/1400, to the south by S.R. 1404 and to the east by N.C. 32. It is also unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged a centerfire rifle or pistol toward Merchants Mill Pond State Park, or to cause any projectile to enter the park property for any reason.

**Granville**

- Hunt deer from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Hunt or possess a firearm or bow and arrow, without acquiring an entry permit, before entering on registered lands or remaining on an abutting portion of highway.
- Release a dog or dogs onto the property of another for the purpose of hunting deer without the written consent of the landowner or lessee.

**Greene**

- Hunt deer with a rifle, except from a position elevated at least eight feet above the ground and not affixed to a motor vehicle.
- Hunt, take, or kill wildlife from, on or across a public roadway while having a firearm or bow and arrow in the persons possession.

**Guilford**

- Hunt an animal with a firearm from a public road.

**Halifax**

- Take deer with the aid of a boat or floating device in Roanoke River between U.S. 17 and U.S.301.
- Hunt with a firearm from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Discharge a firearm on or across a public road.
- **It's unlawful to leave any unattended or unoccupied equipment used for the taking of waterfowl on Roanoke Rapids Lake prior to 04:00 AM each day. All unattended or unoccupied equipment must be removed two hours after sunset each day unless remaining on the shoreline or attached to a dock as authorized by the landowner.**

**Harnett**

- Hunt, take or kill with a firearm or other deadly weapon any wild animal or wild bird on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road, street, highway or thoroughfare.
- Use a centerfire rifle in hunting on the land of another without written permission dated within 12 months and carried on one's person.

**Haywood**

- Discharge of a firearm from, on or across the right-of-way of any public road without written permission from the owner of the abutting lands.

**Henderson**

- Hunt or discharge a firearm on or from the right-of-way of any state road west of U.S. 280.

**Hertford**

- Take deer with the aid of a boat or floating device in or within 100 yards of the Chowan River, except in creeks and tributaries.
- Discharge a centerfire rifle or any rifle larger than .22-caliber on or from the right-of-way of a public road, street or highway.
- Hunt any wild animal or wild bird with the use of a firearm, from, on, across or over the roadway or right-of-way of any public road, street or highway.
- Hunt with or possess a centerfire rifle on another's land without written permission of the owner or lessee.
- Possess a firearm aboard a motor-propelled vessel (except an outboard with the motor removed and stored) on Meherrin River between the Virginia state line and Murfreesboro city limit during the open deer season.

**Hoke**

- Hunt with or discharge a firearm from, onto or across a primary highway.
- Hunt with or discharge a firearm from, onto or across a secondary road without having in possession written permission of the owner or lessee to hunt on abutting land.
- Hunt with a rifle larger than .22-caliber or capable of firing .22 centerfire, unless positioned at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Hunt with a gun or dog on the land of another without written permission of the owner or lessee dated within one year.

## Hyde

- Hunt game animals with dogs, unless accompanied by a licensed hunting guide or with a permit from the owner of the land.
- Hunt migratory waterfowl from a public road.
- Hunt with a rifle from a public road.
- Hunt with guns or dogs or to hunt with a bow and arrow or crossbow upon the lands of another without permission of the owner or lessee.

## Iredell

- Hunt, any animal or bird on or from the right-of-way of any public road.
- Hunt, fish or trap on land of another without written permission.

## Jackson

- Unlawful to kill any wild animal or wild bird with the use of a firearm or to discharge a firearm from, on, or across the right-of-way of a state-maintained road, street or highway.
- Unlawful to shine a light intentionally upon a deer or in search of deer between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.

## Johnston

- Hunt or fish on the land of another without having on one's person the written permission, signed and dated for the current hunting or fishing season, of the landowner or lessee.
- Take wildlife or attempt to take wildlife on the land of another while under the influence of an impairing substance.
- Hunt with a loaded firearm on a state-maintained road.
- Discharge a firearm on or across a state-maintained road.
- Hunt deer with dogs or allow a dog to chase deer.
- Hunt deer with a rifle on another's land or on an adjoining public road without written permission of the owner.

## Jones

- Hunt, with firearms, any animal or bird on, or from, or across the right-of-way of any paved public road or highway.

## Lee

- Hunt with any weapon while on the land of another without written permission dated within one year.
- Hunt with any weapon, any wild animal or bird, or discharge a firearm on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road.

## Lenoir

- Release hunting dogs onto posted land without written consent of the owner.
- Hunt on or from the right-of-way of a public road.

## Macon

- Hunt, take or kill white-tailed deer from, on or across the right-of-way of any public road, street or highway.

- Shine a light intentionally upon any wild animal, including, but not limited to, deer, coyotes, or feral swine, from the right-of-way of any public road, street, or highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

## Madison

- Hunt from a public road right-of-way.

## Martin

- It is unlawful to hunt with or discharge a firearm on, from, or across the right-of-way of any highway or public road. It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm outside the passenger compartment of a vehicle while on the roadway or highway right-of-way, unless the person is the owner or lessee of the land abutting the right-of-way or has on his person the written permission of the owner or lessee of the land abutting the right-of-way to hunt the land, dated within the last 12 months, or the person has a concealed carry permit and is only carrying a loaded, concealed weapon.
- Discharge a rifle of greater than .22-caliber, except from an elevated position in which the rifle is a minimum of eight feet above the ground.
- To take deer from any vessel in the Roanoke River, or its tributaries, except for those portions of the river and its tributaries that are adjacent to the border with Washington County whether the vessel is under power or not.

## McDowell

- Discharge a firearm from the right-of-way of a state-numbered road for the purpose of taking big game animals. This does not apply to those portions along N.C. 105 bordered on both sides by game lands.

## Mecklenburg

- Hunt deer with any rifle, except that a blackpowder rifle may be used during the primitive-weapons season.
- Hunt with a firearm from a public road or highway right-of-way.

## Mitchell

- Hunt, take or kill any wild bird or wild animal except bear or boar with a firearm from, on or across a public road right-of-way.

## Moore

- In Sandhill and Mineral Springs townships: (1) hunt any game animal on another's land without possession of written permission of the owner or lessee; (2) hunt with a rifle of greater than .22 rimfire caliber or capable of firing .22 centerfire ammunition (ie. .223, .22-250, .222 etc are not legal firearms under this law), except that a blackpowder rifle may be used when positioned at least eight feet above the ground. Please refer to township maps for Moore County on County GIS website.

- Shine a light on deer between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.
- Hunt deer on the land of another without written permission dated within one year.
- Hunt, take or kill deer on, from or across a right-of-way of any public road.
- Hunt deer with dogs unless each dog bears a collar, tag or other identification with the owner's full name and address.

## Nash

- Take migratory waterfowl on, from or over the Rocky Mount Tar River Reservoir or within 500 yards thereof, except within "Zone E" with permission of the affected landowner and subject to the rules and regulations of the City of Rocky Mount. See [rockymountnc.gov/parks/hunting.html](http://rockymountnc.gov/parks/hunting.html) for more detail.
- Discharge a firearm from, onto or across a public road.
- Hunt deer with a rifle, except from a stand at least six feet above the ground.
- Hunt or discharge a rifle on or across the right-of-way of any road.
- Hunt on the land of another without written permission from the owner or lessee.

## New Hanover

- Hunt a fox with dogs in Federal Point township south of the Intracoastal Waterway.

## Northampton

- Take deer with the aid of a boat in or within 100 yards of the Roanoke River below U.S. 301.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road or highway.
- Discharge a rifle larger than .22-caliber on another's land or from the right-of-way of a public road across such land without written permission of the owner or lessee and unless positioned at least eight feet above the ground. (This section does not apply to property owned or managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.)
- Possess a firearm on a motor-propelled vessel (except an outboard with the motor removed and stored) on Meherrin River during the open deer season.
- It's unlawful to leave any unattended or unoccupied equipment used for the taking of waterfowl on Roanoke Rapids Lake prior to 04:00 AM each day. All unattended or unoccupied equipment must be removed two hours after sunset each day unless remaining on the shoreline or attached to a dock as authorized by the landowner.

## Onslow

- Hunt any wild animal or bird from the right-of-way of any public road without written permission of the owner or lessee of the land that abuts the road.

## Orange

- Hunt deer from a public road.
- Hunt with firearms from the right-of-way of a public road.

- Hunt or fish on the land of another without having on one's person, written permission, signed and dated for the current hunting season, by the landowner or lessee.
- Unlawful to hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other impairing substances.

#### Pamlico

- Take migratory waterfowl within 500 yards of another's permanent hunting location without permission of the landholder upon whose land the waterfowl is taken.
- Hunt bear with dogs.
- Take any wild animal or wild bird from or across the right-of-way of N.C. 55 and N.C. 306.

#### Pasquotank.

- Use a firearm carelessly and heedlessly, so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property, or any discharge of a firearm that results in a projectile crossing the property of another person without their permission.
- Discharge a centerfire rifle on another's land, or on or across such land from a public road, without having in possession written permission of the owner or lessee.
- To have possession of a loaded shotgun or centerfire rifle while on the right-of-way of any public road or highway while outside the confines of the passenger area of a vehicle, without the written permission of the owner or lessee of the land that abuts the road or highway. To have possession of a loaded shotgun or centerfire rifle while on the traveled surface of any public road or highway when outside the confines of the passenger area of a vehicle.
- To hunt, take or kill any bird or game animal from or on the right-of-way of any public road or highway, without first securing the written permission of the owner or lessee of the land that abuts the road or highway.
- Hunt with a centerfire rifle except from a platform which raises the lower level of the barrel to a minimum of eight feet above ground level. For the purposes of this section, the term "hunt" has the same meaning as "to hunt" as specified in G.S. 113-130.

#### Pender

- Take deer with the aid of a boat or floating device in or within 100 yards of the Black River, Long Creek, Morgan Creek or Turkey Creek between N.C. 210 and the Northeast Cape Fear River.
- Discharge a firearm while hunting from the right-of-way of a state-maintained road onto or across any adjoining land without permission of the owner.

#### Perquimans

- Take a wild animal or bird in Snug Harbor subdivision in Bethel Township or in Longbeach Estates.
- Hunt with a rifle larger than .22-caliber without written permission of the landowner.
- Hunt on the right-of-way of a public road.

- Hunt with or possess a firearm or bow and arrow on another's land without the permission of the landowner or lessee.
- Hunt with a centerfire rifle, except from a stand at least five feet above the ground level.
- Hunt on land of another without the written permission of the owner or lessee of the land, dated for the current hunting season.

#### Person

- Hunt deer from a public road.

#### Pitt

- Hunt with a firearm from or on, or across a public road or the right-of-way thereof.
- Hunt while under the influence of an impairing substance.
- Hunt with a firearm within 300 feet of any residency or occupied building without the written, signed and dated permission of the owner or lessee of the land. Permission must be renewed annually.
- Hunt or to discharge a firearm on or across posted land without the written, signed and dated permission of the owner or lessee. Permission must be renewed annually.
- Release dogs on posted land without the written signed and dated permission of the owner or lessee of the land. Permission must be renewed annually.

#### Polk

- Hunt with a firearm from or on a public road or the right-of-way thereof.
- Unlawful to possess or consume alcohol within 50 feet of any river in Polk County.

#### Randolph

- Hunt from the right-of-way of a public road.

#### Richmond

- Take deer with dogs west of Little River and that portion east of Little River, bounded by N.C. 73 to the north, by Hough Road to the east and by Grassy Island Road to the south.
- Hunt deer from a public road.
- Hunt with firearms from the right-of-way of any public road north of U.S. 74 and west of U.S. 220.
- **Discharge a firearm or bow and arrow or attempt to discharge a firearm or bow and arrow, from, on, across or over the roadway or right-of-way of any public road. For purposes of this section, the term "public road" does not include any unpaved roads within the Wildlife Resources Commission's Sandhills Game Land.**

#### Robeson

- Hunt deer from or through the use of any boat or other floating device.
- Prohibits hunting, taking or killing any wild animal or wild bird, or attempting to hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird, with the use of a firearm or bow and arrow, from, on, across or over the roadway or right-of-way of any public road, street or highway.
- Unlawfully hunt or fish on the land of another without written permission in one's possession.

Permission must be dated and signed by the owner or lessee within the past year.

#### Rockingham

- Hunt any wildlife from the right-of-way of any public road.
- NOTE: Entrance to private lands to hunt is regulated by local ordinance.
- Shine a light intentionally upon any wild animal, including, but not limited to, deer, coyotes, or feral swine, from the right-of-way of any public road, street, or highway between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise.

#### Rowan

- Hunt, fish or trap on the land of another without written permission.
- Hunt with a loaded firearm or discharge the same on or across a state-maintained road.
- NOTE: Entrance to private lands to hunt is regulated by local ordinance.
- Discharge firearms or fireworks or to create noise using mechanical apparatus while in the no-wake zone around Eagle Point Nature Preserve on High Rock Reservoir.

#### Rutherford

- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird on, or across the right-of-way of any public road.
- Discharge a firearm on, from or across the right-of-way of any public road.

#### Sampson

- Hunt with firearms any wild animal or wild bird from or discharge firearms from or across any state-maintained road without obtaining permission of the landowner or lessee of the land abutting the road.

#### Scotland

- Hunt with the use of a centerfire rifle or any firearm capable of firing a centerfire projectile, unless the person is positioned in a stationary and elevated position at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Possess a loaded shotgun or rifle, or discharge any firearm, from, onto or across the right-of-way of a primary or secondary highway, except by an owner of land adjoining a secondary road or a person with an owner's written permission to hunt on such adjoining land.
- Hunt on land of another without written permission from the owner or lessee dated within one year.
- The flashing or display of any artificial light from or attached to a motor-driven conveyance or from any means of conveyance attached to a motor-driven conveyance, between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise, in any area that is frequented or inhabited by wild game.

#### Stanly

- Hunt with a firearm from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Unlawful to take or attempt to take wildlife or fish on the land of another, without having

on one's person written permission signed and dated for the current hunting and fishing season, of the landowner or lessee.

- Unlawful to take or attempt to take wildlife on the land of another while under the influence of an impairing substance.

## Stokes

- Discharge a firearm in taking game animals from the right-of-way of a public road adjoining posted land without permission of the owner or person in charge of such land.
- Hunt an animal with a firearm from a public road.

## Surry

- Hunt any animal with a firearm from a public road, highway or street.

## Transylvania

- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or bird from, on or across the right-of-way of a public road, street, highway or other vehicular area.
- Hunt on the land of another without having written permission from the landowner or lessee dated within the previous 12 months.

## Tyrrell

- To hunt, take, or kill, or to attempt to hunt, take or kill, any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow on, from, or across the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or to discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow on, from, or across the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or highway. This does not apply to hunters lawfully recovering dogs as long as weapons remain in a motor vehicle or to a person lawfully engaged in the act of taking bullfrogs with a rim-fire weapon.
- To possess a loaded firearm while on the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or highway outside the confines of the passenger area of the vehicle.
- To hunt, take, or kill, or to attempt to hunt, take or kill, any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow, or dogs or to possess a loaded firearm outside the confines of the passenger area of the vehicle, on the land of another, without the written permission of the landowner or lessee of the land, dated and valid for no more than one year. This law does not apply to a person who leases land for the purpose of hunting while hunting on that leased land or to a member of a hunting club with a current and valid membership card while hunting on club land.
- Hunt with a gun or dog on another's land without permission of the owner or lessee.

## Union

- Hunt, take or kill a wild animal or wild bird from, on or across the right-of-way of any public road or highway.
- Discharge a firearm from, on or across the right-of-way of any state-maintained road.

- **It is unlawful to hunt or fish on the land of another without having written permission on one's person, signed and dated for the current hunting or fishing season, of the landowner or lessee, or the landowner's or lessee's designee. The written permission shall not be valid for more than one year and may be valid for a shorter period stated in the permission. The written permission shall be displayed upon request of any law enforcement officer of the Wildlife Resources Commission, by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and by other law enforcement officers with general subject matter jurisdiction.**
- **It is unlawful for a person to take wildlife or attempt to take wildlife on the land of another while under the influence of an impairing substance or after having consumed sufficient alcohol that the person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more.**

## Vance

- Hunt or discharge a firearm on any land that has been registered with the sheriff and posted, or on a highway abutting such land, without having in possession a valid entry permit. (Before hunting or discharging a firearm on any land or an abutting highway, it is the affirmative duty of the hunter or marksman to make appropriate inquiry about whether the land is registered and to look for posted signs that may indicate such status.)
- Hunt wild animals or wild birds from, on or across the right-of-way of any public road or highway.
- Discharge a centerfire rifle from, on or across the right-of-way of any public road or highway.

## Wake

- Hunt deer with a dog on another's land without written permission of the owner.
- Shoot at a deer from, on or across the right-of-way of a county road or state highway.
- Take any animal with a centerfire rifle, unless the person is positioned at least eight feet above the ground.
- Possess a loaded firearm or hunt on the land of another without written permission.
- Possess loaded shotguns or centerfire rifles upon highway right-of-ways.
- **It is unlawful to hunt with firearms while under the influence of an impairing substance.**

## Warren

- Hunt or possess a firearm or bow and arrow without acquiring an entry permit before entering on registered lands or remaining on an abutting portion of the highway.
- Take deer with a rifle on another's land or from the right-of-way of a public road adjoining such land, without written permission of the owner.

## Washington

- Use a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow on, from or across the right-of-way of any state-maintained road.

- Possess a loaded shotgun or centerfire rifle while on the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or highway outside the confines of the passenger area of a vehicle (not applicable to the owner of the land).
- Hunt, take or kill a wild animal or wild bird with firearms and dogs, or to possess a loaded firearm outside the confines of the passenger area of a vehicle on the land of another, without the permission of the landowner or lessee.
- Hunt, take or kill any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow on, from or across the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or highway.

## Watauga

- Hunt, take or kill any species of wild animal or wild bird by loaded firearm or lethal weapon from the right-of-way of any state-maintained road or to discharge a firearm or weapon across any such road.

## Wayne

- Set a steel trap or Conibear®-type trap, or take an animal therefrom, on another's land without a written lease authorizing trapping.
- Hunt deer with dogs or allow dogs to chase deer.
- Hunt with a loaded gun or discharge same on or across a state-maintained road.
- Hunt deer with a rifle on another's land, or from a public road adjoining such land, without written permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with guns or dogs or to hunt with a bow and arrow or crossbow upon the lands of another without permission of the owner or lessee.

## Wilkes

- Shoot a raccoon while training coon dogs during closed season.
- Hunt animals with a firearm from a public road, except that bear or wild boar may be taken from any unpaved road.
- Hunt, fish or trap on land of another without written permission.

## Wilson

- Hunt from a public road right-of-way.
- Hunt deer with rifles, except from a stationary stand that is elevated at least eight feet above the ground.
- Hunt on the land of another without having, on one's person, written permission, signed and dated for the current hunting season by the landowner or lessee.

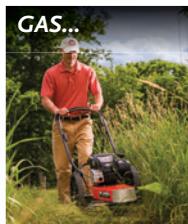
## Yadkin

- Import and release a fox.
- Hunt animals with a firearm from a public road.
- Hunt, fish or trap on the land of another without written permission.



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# Sunrise and Sunset Table

AT CHARLOTTE, N.C., EASTERN STANDARD TIME

	AUG. 2020	SEP. 2020	OCT. 2020	NOV. 2020	DEC. 2020	JAN. 2021	FEB. 2021	MAR. 2021	APR. 2021	MAY. 2021	JUN. 2021	JUL. 2021
DATE	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.											
01	6:32/8:27	6:56/7:51	7:18/7:08	6:45/5:29	7:13/5:11	7:32/5:22	7:23/5:51	6:53/6:18	7:10/7:44	6:32/8:09	6:10/8:32	6:12/8:42
02	6:33/8:26	6:57/7:49	7:19/7:06	6:46/5:28	7:14/5:11	7:32/5:22	7:22/5:52	6:52/6:19	7:09/7:45	6:31/8:09	6:10/8:33	6:13/8:42
03	6:34/8:25	6:57/7:48	7:20/7:05	6:47/5:27	7:15/5:11	7:32/5:23	7:21/5:53	6:51/6:20	7:08/7:46	6:30/8:10	6:10/8:33	6:13/8:42
04	6:35/8:24	6:58/7:47	7:21/7:04	6:48/5:26	7:16/5:11	7:32/5:24	7:20/5:54	6:49/6:21	7:06/7:47	6:29/8:11	6:09/8:34	6:14/8:42
05	6:35/8:23	6:59/7:45	7:21/7:02	6:48/5:25	7:17/5:11	7:32/5:25	7:19/5:55	6:48/6:22	7:05/7:47	6:28/8:12	6:09/8:35	6:14/8:41
06	6:36/8:22	7:00/7:44	7:22/7:01	6:49/5:24	7:18/5:11	7:32/5:26	7:19/5:56	6:47/6:23	7:03/7:48	6:27/8:13	6:09/8:35	6:15/8:41
07	6:37/8:21	7:00/7:42	7:23/6:59	6:50/5:24	7:19/5:11	7:32/5:27	7:18/5:57	6:45/6:24	7:02/7:49	6:26/8:13	6:09/8:36	6:15/8:41
08	6:38/8:20	7:01/7:41	7:24/6:58	6:51/5:23	7:19/5:11	7:32/5:27	7:17/5:58	6:44/6:24	7:01/7:50	6:25/8:14	6:09/8:36	6:16/8:41
09	6:39/8:19	7:02/7:40	7:25/6:57	6:52/5:22	7:20/5:11	7:32/5:28	7:16/5:59	6:43/6:25	6:59/7:51	6:24/8:15	6:08/8:37	6:16/8:41
10	6:39/8:18	7:03/7:38	7:25/6:55	6:53/5:21	7:21/5:11	7:32/5:29	7:15/6:00	6:41/6:26	6:58/7:51	6:24/8:16	6:08/8:37	6:17/8:40
11	6:40/8:17	7:03/7:37	7:26/6:54	6:54/5:20	7:22/5:11	7:32/5:30	7:14/6:01	6:40/6:27	6:57/7:52	6:23/8:17	6:08/8:38	6:18/8:40
12	6:41/8:16	7:04/7:35	7:27/6:53	6:55/5:20	7:22/5:12	7:32/5:31	7:13/6:02	6:38/6:28	6:55/7:53	6:22/8:18	6:08/8:38	6:18/8:40
13	6:42/8:15	7:05/7:34	7:28/6:51	6:56/5:19	7:23/5:12	7:32/5:32	7:12/6:03	6:37/6:29	6:54/7:54	6:21/8:18	6:08/8:38	6:19/8:39
14	6:42/8:14	7:05/7:32	7:29/6:50	6:57/5:18	7:24/5:12	7:32/5:33	7:11/6:04	7:36/7:30	6:53/7:55	6:20/8:19	6:08/8:39	6:19/8:39
15	6:43/8:13	7:06/7:31	7:29/6:49	6:58/5:18	7:24/5:12	7:31/5:34	7:10/6:05	7:34/7:30	6:51/7:55	6:19/8:20	6:08/8:39	6:20/8:38
16	6:44/8:11	7:07/7:29	7:30/6:47	6:59/5:17	7:25/5:13	7:31/5:35	7:09/6:06	7:33/7:31	6:50/7:56	6:19/8:21	6:08/8:40	6:21/8:38
17	6:45/8:10	7:08/7:28	7:31/6:46	7:00/5:16	7:26/5:13	7:31/5:36	7:08/6:07	7:31/7:32	6:49/7:57	6:18/8:21	6:09/8:40	6:21/8:38
18	6:45/8:09	7:08/7:27	7:32/6:45	7:01/5:16	7:26/5:13	7:30/5:37	7:06/6:08	7:30/7:33	6:48/7:58	6:17/8:22	6:09/8:40	6:22/8:37
19	6:46/8:08	7:09/7:25	7:33/6:44	7:02/5:15	7:27/5:14	7:30/5:38	7:05/6:09	7:29/7:34	6:46/7:59	6:17/8:23	6:09/8:40	6:23/8:36
20	6:47/8:07	7:10/7:24	7:34/6:42	7:03/5:15	7:27/5:14	7:30/5:39	7:04/6:10	7:27/7:34	6:45/8:00	6:16/8:24	6:09/8:41	6:23/8:36
21	6:48/8:05	7:11/7:22	7:35/6:41	7:04/5:14	7:28/5:15	7:29/5:40	7:03/6:11	7:26/7:35	6:44/8:00	6:15/8:25	6:09/8:41	6:24/8:35
22	6:48/8:04	7:11/7:21	7:36/6:40	7:05/5:14	7:28/5:15	7:29/5:41	7:02/6:12	7:24/7:36	6:43/8:01	6:15/8:25	6:09/8:41	6:25/8:35
23	6:49/8:03	7:12/7:19	7:36/6:39	7:06/5:13	7:29/5:16	7:28/5:42	7:01/6:13	7:23/7:37	6:41/8:02	6:14/8:26	6:10/8:41	6:26/8:34
24	6:50/8:01	7:13/7:18	7:37/6:38	7:07/5:13	7:29/5:16	7:28/5:43	6:59/6:14	7:22/7:38	6:40/8:03	6:14/8:27	6:10/8:42	6:26/8:33
25	6:51/8:00	7:14/7:16	7:38/6:37	7:08/5:13	7:30/5:17	7:27/5:44	6:58/6:15	7:20/7:39	6:39/8:04	6:13/8:27	6:10/8:42	6:27/8:33
26	6:51/7:59	7:14/7:15	7:39/6:35	7:09/5:12	7:30/5:18	7:27/5:45	6:57/6:16	7:19/7:39	6:38/8:04	6:13/8:28	6:11/8:42	6:28/8:32
27	6:52/7:58	7:15/7:14	7:40/6:34	7:10/5:12	7:30/5:18	7:26/5:46	6:56/6:16	7:17/7:40	6:37/8:05	6:12/8:29	6:11/8:42	6:29/8:31
28	6:53/7:56	7:16/7:12	7:41/6:33	7:11/5:12	7:31/5:19	7:25/5:47	6:54/6:17	7:16/7:41	6:36/8:06	6:12/8:30	6:11/8:42	6:29/8:30
29	6:54/7:55	7:17/7:11	7:42/6:32	7:12/5:12	7:31/5:20	7:25/5:48		7:15/7:42	6:34/8:07	6:11/8:30	6:12/8:42	6:30/8:30
30	6:54/7:54	7:17/7:09	7:43/6:31	7:13/5:11	7:31/5:20	7:24/5:49		7:13/7:43	6:33/8:08	6:11/8:31	6:12/8:42	6:31/8:29
31	6:55/7:52		7:44/6:30		7:32/5:21	7:23/5:50		7:12/7:43		6:10/8:32		6:31/8:28

\* Boldface type = Daylight Savings Time (March 8 - November 1, 2020 and March 14 - November 7, 2021)

To determine sunrise and sunset times for the following N.C. locations:

Add or subtract minutes as indicated below from the Sunrise and Sunset Table at top of this page:

County .....Differs from Charlotte

Alamance County.....-4.00	Cumberland County.....-8.00	Johnston County.....-9.00	Randolph County.....-3.00
Alexander County.....+3.00	Currituck County.....-17.00	Jones County.....-14.00	Richmond County.....-5.00
Alleghany County.....+3.00	Dare County.....-18.00	Lee County.....-6.00	Robeson County.....-8.00
Anson County.....-3.00	Davidson County.....-1.00	Lenoir County.....-13.00	Rockingham County.....-2.00
Ashe County.....+5.00	Davie County.....0.00	Lincoln County.....+2.00	Rowan County.....-1.00
Avery County.....+6.00	Duplin County.....-12.00	Macon County.....+10.00	Rutherford County.....+5.00
Beaufort County.....-14.00	Durham County.....-6.00	Madison County.....+8.00	Sampson County.....-10.00
Bertie County.....-14.00	Edgecombe County.....-12.00	Martin County.....-14.00	Scotland County.....-6.00
Bladen County.....-10.00	Forsyth County.....-1.00	McDowell County.....+6.00	Stanly County.....-2.00
Brunswick County.....-12.00	Franklin County.....-9.00	Mecklenburg County.....0.00	Stokes County.....0.00
Buncombe County.....+8.00	Gaston County.....+2.00	Mitchell County.....+7.00	Surry County.....+2.00
Burke County.....+4.00	Gates County.....-14.00	Montgomery County.....-3.00	Swain County.....+11.00
Cabarrus County.....-1.00	Graham County.....+12.00	Moore County.....-5.00	Transylvania County.....+8.00
Caldwell County.....+4.00	Granville County.....-7.00	Nash County.....-10.00	Tyrrell County.....-17.00
Camden County.....-17.00	Greene County.....-12.00	New Hanover County.....-13.00	Union County.....-1.00
Carteret County.....-17.00	Guilford County.....-3.00	Northampton County.....-12.00	Vance County.....-8.00
Caswell County.....-4.00	Halifax County.....-11.00	Onslow County.....-14.00	Wake County.....-8.00
Catawba County.....+2.00	Harnett County.....-8.00	Orange County.....-5.00	Warren County.....-9.00
Chatham County.....-6.00	Haywood County.....+9.00	Pamlico County.....-16.00	Washington County.....-15.00
Cherokee County.....+13.00	Henderson County.....+7.00	Pasquotank County.....-17.00	Watauga County.....+5.00
Chowan County.....-15.00	Hertford County.....-14.00	Pender County.....-13.00	Wayne County.....-11.00
Clay County.....+12.00	Hoke County.....-7.00	Perquimans County.....-16.00	Wilkes County.....+3.00
Cleveland County.....+3.00	Hyde County.....-17.00	Person County.....-5.00	Wilson County.....-11.00
Columbus County.....-10.00	Iredell County.....+1.00	Pitt County.....-13.00	Yadkin County.....+1.00
Craven County.....-15.00	Jackson County.....+10.00	Polk County.....+6.00	Yancey County.....+7.00

**TOP-HARVEST REGION  
HALIFAX COUNTY**



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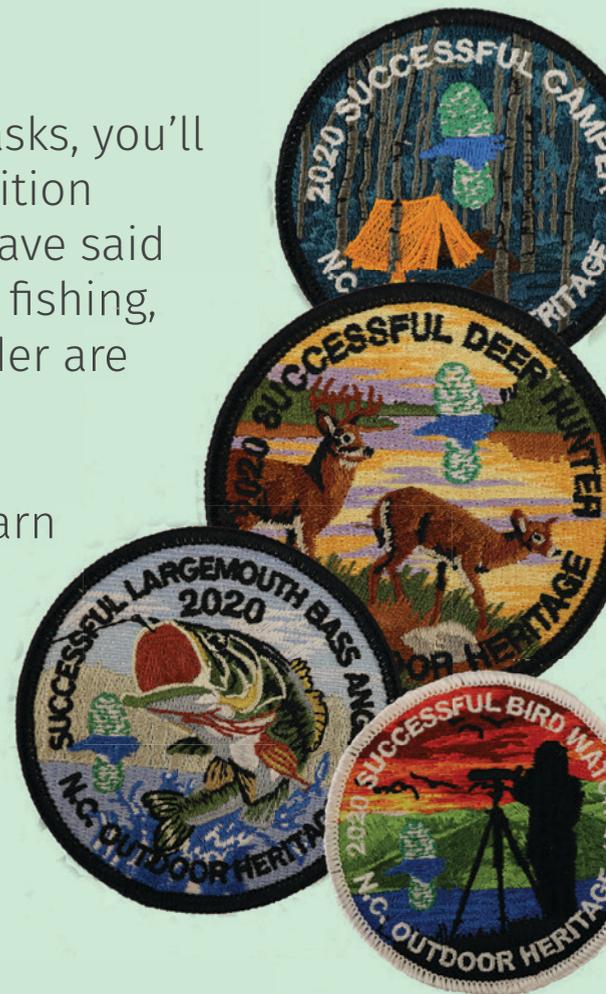
## NC OUTDOOR HERITAGE PATCH PROGRAM

### *Complete a Task. Earn a Patch.*

When you complete any of our featured tasks, you'll qualify to receive one of our 14 limited-edition patches. Thanks to donors, like you who have said yes to donating when renewing a hunting, fishing, trapping or vessel license; kids 16 and under are able to earn their patches for **FREE**.

Adults and youth over the age of 16 can earn each of our patches for a \$5 donation per patch.

To start earning your patches, or to learn more about our programs that aim to get kids outdoors, visit our website at [www.OutdoorHeritage.NC.gov](http://www.OutdoorHeritage.NC.gov)



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