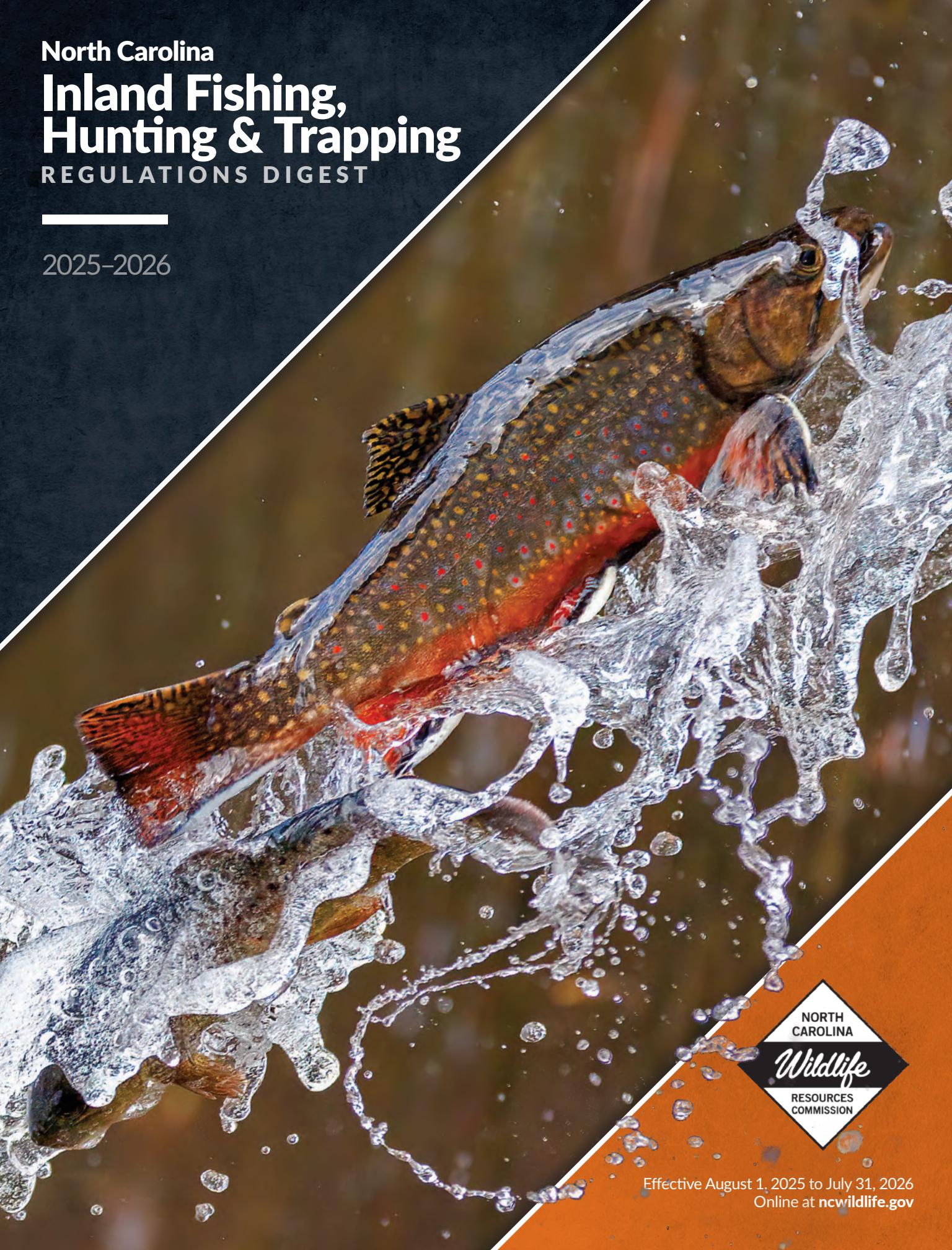


North Carolina

# Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

REGULATIONS DIGEST

2025-2026



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# North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping REGULATIONS DIGEST

2025-2026

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Josh Stein, Governor

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# A Message FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Opening days are always special, and for us, each season brings a different opener. As the weather cools off a little, hunters think about the upcoming deer and dove seasons. As the weather continues to cool down, there are opening days for bear and small game, and let's not forget about waterfowl. Once spring starts coming around, thoughts often turn to wild turkeys. Unless you are an angler.

Springtime in North Carolina's mountains is home to one of the most anticipated opening days for anglers from across the state — the opening of Hatchery-Supported trout season. On the first Saturday in April, thousands of anglers

will line streams to get a chance to wet a line and catch some prized rainbow, brook or brown trout. Hopefully, many of those trout will end up on a smoker, in a frying pan or under a broiler as a meal or two for the anglers who worked hard to catch them. That is exactly why so many of our staff spend countless hours raising and stocking those trout into so many streams across the state.

Like much of Western North Carolina, trout fishing has been impacted by Helene. The Armstrong State Fish Hatchery was significantly damaged, rivers were completely rerouted and roads that access streams were washed out. But, as I have said before, Western North Carolina is resilient. By the time you read this, repairs at Armstrong should be nearing completion and the Commission will be purchasing a new hatchery.

The repairs to Armstrong and adding a new hatchery will be critical to maintaining trout production as we will begin renovating Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery after a year's delay due to the damage to Armstrong. Setzer was built in the late 1950s, and its infrastructure is well past its useful life. Staff are working hard to find alternate sources of trout while the hatchery is under repair, including getting trout from other states and purchasing from private hatcheries. However, we expect an approximately 65% reduction in stockings for Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest waters for approximately three years starting in 2026. I know this seems like a long time, but it is significantly shorter than if we did not renovate the facility and suffered a catastrophic failure.

Along with the renovations, fisheries staff will update the N.C. Trout Management Plan to incorporate angler input and help direct the use of the expanded capacity for trout production to guarantee many more successful opening days in the future.

**Kyle Briggs**  
Executive Director



Scan the QR code to  
learn more about trout  
in North Carolina.



## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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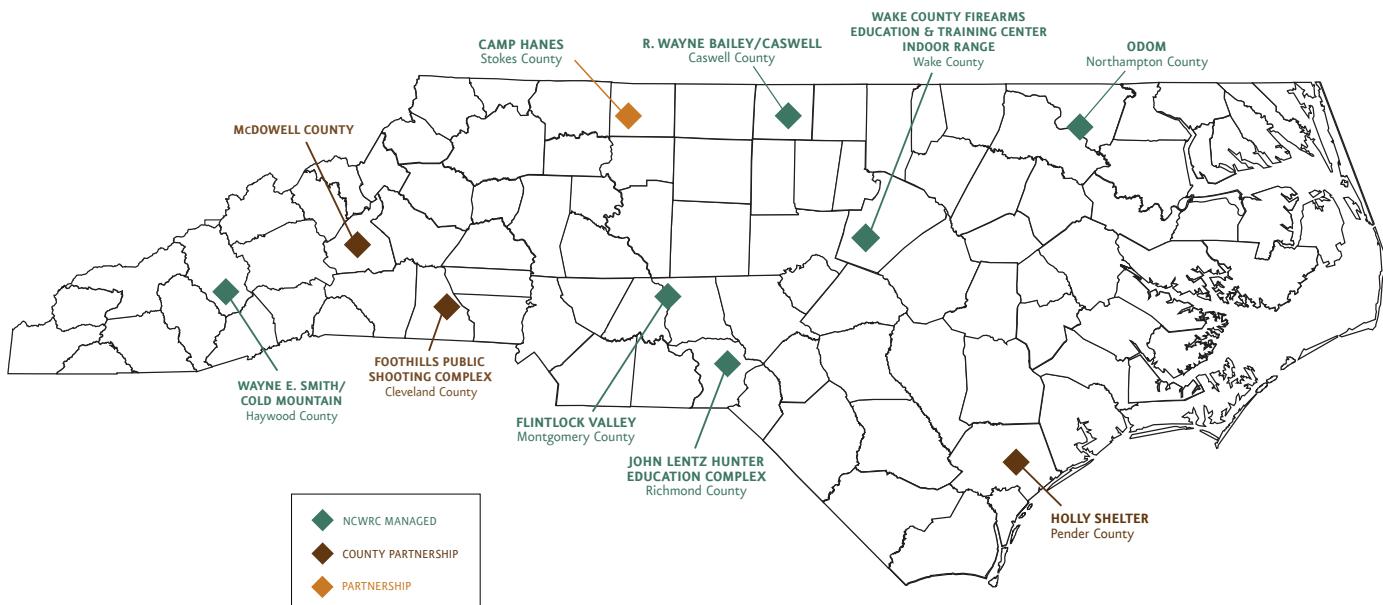
# N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

## INFORMATION

### 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	NCWRC Merchandise .....	833-950-0575
Boater Safety Education – Replacement Certificates .....	833-950-0575	Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine .....	800-786-2721
Enforcement Operations Office .....	919-707-0030	Vessel Registration and Titling .....	833-950-0575
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 .....	833-950-0575	Wildlife Education .....	919-707-0170
Inland Fisheries .....	919-707-0220	Wildlife Helpline .....	866-318-2401
License Information .....	833-950-0575	(information on wildlife behavior, damage, injury, and co-existing)	
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries .....	252-726-7021/800-682-2632	Wildlife Management .....	919-707-0050

### NORTH CAROLINA SHOOTING RANGES



### 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 2025-2026 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**.

### Hunting

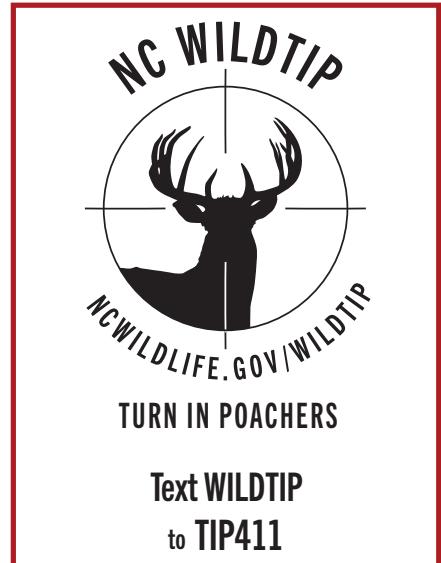
- For youth turkey season and youth days for deer and waterfowl hunting, the age of youth has been reduced from under 18 years of age to under 16 years of age.
- The length of the youth turkey season has been reduced from a full week (7 days) to a weekend (2 days). See page 59.
- The length of the statewide youth deer hunting season has been increased from a single day to a weekend (2 days). See page 62.
- The length of the mountain bear seasons has increased by 11 days, both segments now open on Saturdays, and all hunters may use unprocessed food during the second segment. See pages 60 -61.
- Three additional Designated Bear Management Areas have been opened for hunting by permit only: Panthertown-Bonas Defeat, Pisgah, and Standing Indian. See page 61.
- The daily limit for pintails has been increased from 1 to 3. See page 72.
- One of the youth and veteran/military waterfowl days will be in December. See page 72 and 73.

### Inland Fishing

- The age of a youth is being standardized throughout all rules to under the age of 16.
- Established an 8-inch minimum size limit and a 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie at Shearon Harris Reservoir.
- The daily creel limit for striped and white mullet has changed from 200 to 100 fish in aggregate and established a limit of no more than 400 fish total per boat.

### Trapping

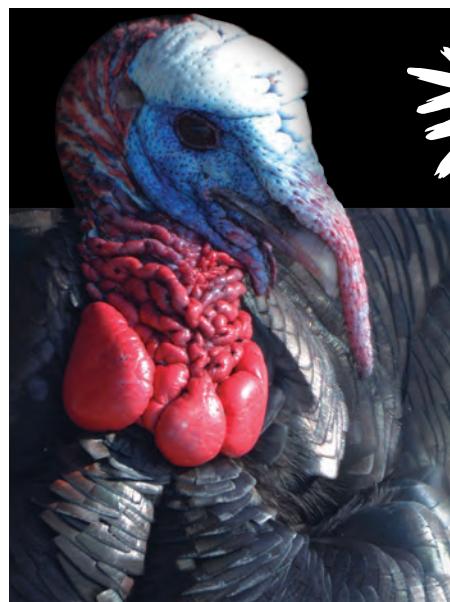
- Submersion trapping systems must be checked at least once every 72 hours, instead of daily. See page 53.



Text **WILDTIP**  
to **TIP411**



Scan the QR code to  
view the inland fishing  
regulations in Spanish.



**North Carolina**  
National Wild Turkey Federation

- Committed **over \$495,244** for Wildlife Resources Commission projects since 2017
- Conserved or enhanced **over 122,600 acres** of wildlife habitat across North Carolina since 2014
- Secured **over 7,300 acres** of hunter access since 2014
- Produced **over 31,852** new or lapsed hunters since 2012



**LEARN MORE at [NWTF.ORG](http://NWTF.ORG)**

## Regulations for hunting near a Duke Energy right of way

For all of us at Duke Energy, safety is an important priority – particularly during hunting season. Structures such as hunting stands or blinds may be dangerous if located on or near electrical facilities. Because of the safety risk, these types of structures should not be placed within our electric transmission rights of way, such as near transmission towers, power poles and other areas. Structures in violation of this regulation are subject to immediate removal and/or legal action by Duke Energy.

**Questions? Call your area's Customer Call Center:**

Duke Energy Progress ..... 800.452.2777  
Duke Energy Carolinas ..... 800.777.9898  
Duke Energy Florida ..... 800.700.8744  
Duke Energy Indiana ..... 800.521.2232  
Duke Energy Kentucky/Ohio ..... 800.544.6900



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An advertisement for Dunham's Sports. The top half features the Dunham's Sports logo with the tagline "Big Names....Low Prices!". Below the logo is a large image of a buck deer in a field. The bottom left corner contains the text "24-P-223".

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**GET IN THE  
GAME**

# 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 \$5 transaction fee will be applied to your total order at time of purchase. Due to the sensitive nature of the documentation required, some license items are only available directly through the Commission online, by mail, or in person at our Raleigh Headquarters.

- Visit [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com)
- Visit a wildlife service agent
- Phone 833-950-0575
- All licenses may be obtained directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission in person at NCSU Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

### Disabled Licenses

Disabled licenses and permits are available to North Carolina residents and must be purchased online at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com) or in person at the Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters building in Raleigh. The Commission does not honor disabled licenses or permits from other states. To learn more about disabled licenses or to obtain an application, visit [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

### License Information

For more information regarding hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, permit hunting opportunities, or finding a Wildlife Service Agent nearest you, visit [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

### Reciprocal Fishing License Agreements

A reciprocal fishing license agreement is in effect between North Carolina and each of the states listed in this section. 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 that provide for honoring the other state's fishing licenses on any boundary waters.

#### Wildlife Endowment Fund

The Wildlife Endowment Fund supports North Carolina's rich wildlife heritage and conservation programs. Funds from lifetime license sales are deposited directly into the Wildlife Endowment Fund and donations can be made directly to the Fund. For additional information, visit [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

## 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 an electronic or physical 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 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 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. For more information visit [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov) or call 919-707-0031.

# Your Ripple Effect.

Manufacturer-paid federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and the portion of fuel taxes attributed to motorboat use and small engines — combined with state fishing licenses — help amplify vital fisheries conservation efforts and expand public access opportunities. Through the Sport Fish Restoration program, your participation generates powerful waves of benefits for fish, habitat, public access, and future generations of anglers and boaters.

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conservation  
heritage*

**200+**

Species of sport  
fish studied and  
managed

*Increased connection  
and access to  
wild places*

**748+**

Clean vessel  
facilities  
constructed  
(2020-2024)

**9,000+**

Public boating and  
fishing areas  
operated and  
maintained

*Strengthened  
community bonds  
through collaboration*

**1 Billion+**

Sport fish raised and stocked

**850,000+**

Students received  
aquatic and angler  
education

*Raised conservation  
and stewardship  
awareness*



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### 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 a N.C. resident 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.
  - » Youth 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.
- A resident or nonresident of this state who served as a member of the Armed Forces and who separated under honorable conditions is exempt from the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters fishing license requirements while fishing in waters designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. In order to qualify the individual shall have valid documentation of their service on his or her person at all times during the fishing activity.

- Residents with a valid Unified Subsistence Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver are exempt from the requirement of an inland and coastal recreational fishing license. See page 13 for more details.

# Dig Safe, Contact



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EVERY TIME.

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



## Get involved by donating your skills & time as **a volunteer**.

Together, we can ensure a future for North Carolina's wonderful wildlife and the habitats critical for their survival. Check out the available opportunities below and learn how you can get involved in your area.

### STATEWIDE

- Fishing Education Volunteer
- Hunting Education Volunteer
- Getting Started Outdoors
- Calling Amphibian Surveys
- Monitoring Songbirds
- Tracking Reptile and Amphibian Populations
- Monitoring Bat Populations

### COAST

- Sea Turtle Projects
- Waterbird Projects

### PIEDMONT

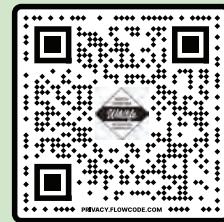
- John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center
- Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Projects

### MOUNTAINS

- Monitoring Bog Turtle Populations



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## License Type Descriptions

Purchase your license online at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com)

### HUNTING AND FISHING COMBINATION LICENSES

Following is a list of annual and lifetime combination 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 pages 16-17 for a complete list of privilege licenses, stamps, and certifications. A \$5 transaction fee will be added to your total order (N.C.G.S. 113-270.1B).

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 the date of purchase.

**Senior Lifetime License eligibility:** Residents are eligible for the senior lifetime license when they turn 70 years of age.

**Disabled Veteran Lifetime License eligibility:** Disabled Veteran: Residents who are 50% or more disabled veterans as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. You may apply online for this license at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

**Totally Disabled eligibility:** 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). You may apply online for this license at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT		
<b>ANNUAL LICENSES</b>				
<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.				
\$42	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.				
\$63	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.				
\$82	N/A			
<b>LIFETIME LICENSES</b>				
<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.				
\$630	\$1511			
\$441	\$441			
\$252	\$252			
\$315	N/A			
\$19	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.				
\$851	\$1952			
\$567	\$567			
\$347	\$347			
\$425.50	N/A			
\$38	N/A			
<b>Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing. 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.				
\$14	N/A			
<b>Disabled Veteran 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 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.				
\$126	N/A			

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## HUNTING AND FISHING COMBINATION LICENSES (CONT.)

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>LIFETIME LICENSES (CONT.)</b>		
<b>Disabled Veteran Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting, inland fishing, and coastal recreational fishing. 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.	\$139	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting and inland fishing. 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.	\$14	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled 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 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.	\$126	N/A
<b>Totally Disabled Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Statewide hunting, inland fishing, and coastal recreational fishing. 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.	\$139	N/A

## FISHING LICENSES

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.

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. 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	\$28
<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.	\$8	\$14
<b>ANNUAL LICENSES</b>		
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. 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.	\$30	\$54
<b>Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters during a license term. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$19	\$38
<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.	\$49	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. Includes fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands 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 44–47 for more information.	\$95	\$630

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<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>			
<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.	\$315	N/A	
Senior (see page 12 for eligibility requirements)	\$19	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.	\$567	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)	\$315	\$630	
Youth (ages 1-11)	\$189	\$189	
Infant (under age 1)	\$126	\$126	
Senior (see page 12 for eligibility requirements)	\$19	N/A	
<b>Disabled Veteran 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.	\$14	N/A	
<b>Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$14	N/A	
<b>Totally Disabled 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.	\$14	N/A	
<b>Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing:</b> Authorizes fishing in coastal and joint waters. It does not authorize fishing in inland waters.	\$14	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

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>SHORT-TERM LICENSES</b>		
Additional privilege licenses may be required with the licenses listed below. Refer to pages 16–17 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	\$95
Residents of Georgia*		\$74
Residents of South Carolina*		\$75
Residents of Tennessee*		\$88
Residents of Virginia*		\$110
<b>ANNUAL LICENSES</b>		
<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.	\$30	\$119
Residents of Georgia		\$100
Residents of South Carolina		\$125
Residents of Tennessee		\$110
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).	\$47	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.	\$27	\$27
<b>Falconry Hunting License:</b> Authorizes taking of wildlife by means of falconry. Hunter must also obtain Falconry License. Refer to page 18 for more information.	\$30	\$30
<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>		
<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).	\$315	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>		
<b>State Trapping:</b> Statewide trapping during a license term, includes trapping on game lands.	\$38	\$158
<b>LIFETIME LICENSE</b>		
<b>State Trapping:</b> Statewide trapping includes trapping on game lands.	\$357	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 \$5 transaction fee will be added to your total order (NCGS 113-270.1B).

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>HUNTING</b>		
<b>Big Game Hunting:</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. A hunting license is required in addition to this privilege.	\$17	\$119
Residents of Georgia		\$225
Residents of South Carolina		\$310
Residents of Tennessee		\$195
Residents of Virginia		\$85
<b>Big Game Hunting 10-Day:</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. A hunting license is required in addition to this privilege.	N/A	\$95
Residents of Georgia*		\$202
Residents of South Carolina*		\$310
Residents of Tennessee		\$195
Residents of Virginia*		\$85
<b>Bear Management E-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-Stamp may be purchased from July 1 until the close of bear season and expire on June 30 of each year.	\$14	\$14
<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	\$284
<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.	\$14	\$14
<b>Game Land License:</b> Individuals with a hunting, trapping, or inland fishing license may use the game lands for any activities authorized by their license without this privilege. Refer to the "Game Lands" section for other activities which may require this license.	\$19	\$19
<b>Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License (state):</b> Needed to hunt waterfowl. A state hunting license and HIP Certification is also required.	\$17	\$17
<b>Federal Duck Stamp:</b> Required to hunt waterfowl. The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 makes each electronically issued Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (formerly Federal Duck E-Stamp) valid through the first June 30 that occurs after the date of issuance of the electronic stamp by the state. The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp may be ordered online at <a href="http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com">gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com</a> , by calling 833-950-0575 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 an electronic Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp that immediately authorizes the same privileges as the physical Federal Duck Stamp. The electronic stamp is nationally recognized as a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and is valid in any other state. The stamp must be available to present to a Wildlife Officer upon request via an electronic device or physical copy. A physical Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to each electronic stamp purchaser between March 10 – June 30 each year.	\$29	\$29

\* 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.

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

**HIP Certification (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. HIP Certification may be obtained July 1 to April 1 and expires June 30 of each year.

FREE

FREE

**Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permit:** 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.

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## OTHER LICENSES AND PERMITS

LICENSE TYPE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
<b>Bobcat/Otter Tags:</b> Needed to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of bobcat or otter carcasses or pelts. Limit 50 bobcat tags and 150 otter tags per transaction.	FREE	FREE
<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 see pages 94-95.	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.	FREE	FREE
<b>Falconry License:</b> Needed to hunt by the use of any raptor. A falconry hunting license, 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.	\$14	\$14
<b>Fox Tags:</b> Needed to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of a fox carcass or pelt*.	\$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.	\$30	\$60
<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.	\$120	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.	\$19	\$189
<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.	\$126	\$126
<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.	\$60	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).	\$6	N/A

\* Except where local laws do not require fox tagging



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

Refer to "License Type Descriptions" section for a complete description of license types and privileges. Refer to page 21 for a list of Resident Coastal Fishing and Unified Sportsman/Coastal Fishing license types.

PRICE	LICENSES	PRIVILEGES																									
		BIG GAME		HUNTING							OTHER																
		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 Fish incl Game Land Fish	Public Mtn. Trout Waters	Special Device Fishing	Nongame Fish Bow & Arrow	Hunt\Inland Fish Guide
	“●” Indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.																										
<b>HUNTING &amp; INLAND FISHING</b>																											
\$42	Annual Combo Hunting and Inland Fishing							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$63	Annual Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$630	Adult Lifetime Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$441	Youth Lifetime Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$252	Infant Lifetime Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$19	Senior Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$14	Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combo Hunting and Inland Fishing							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$14	Totally Disabled Lifetime Combo Hunting and Inland Fishing							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$126	Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
\$126	Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
<b>HUNTING</b>																											
\$30	Annual State Hunting							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$47	Annual Comprehensive Hunting (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$315	Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting (8)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																											
\$17	Big Game (2) (8)	●	●	●																							
\$14	Bear Management E-Stamp (1)		●																								
\$17	Migratory Waterfowl (state) (2) (3) (7)																		●								
FREE	HIP Certification (5) (6)									●									●								
<b>INLAND FISHING</b>																											
\$11	10-Day Inland Fishing																		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$30	Annual State Inland Fishing																		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
\$315	Lifetime Comprehensive Inland Fishing																		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>TRAPPING</b>																											
\$38	Annual State Trapping																		●	●							
\$357	Lifetime State Trapping																		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>OTHER LICENSES</b>																											
\$19	Annual Hunting/Inland Fishing Guide																			●							
\$27	Controlled Hunting Preserve (4)																				●						
\$95	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 and 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 Descriptions" section for a complete description of license types and privileges. Refer to page 21 for a list of Nonresident Coastal Fishing and Unified Sportsman/Coastal Fishing license types.

PRICE	LICENSES	PRIVILEGES																
		BIG GAME		HUNTING												OTHER		
		Deer	Bear	Turkey	Squirrel	Rabbit	Migratory Game Birds (7)	Quail	Grouse	Pheasant	Raccoon	Opossum	Bobcat	Crow	Beaver	Groundhog	Coyote	Controlled Hunting Preserve
"●" Indicates the privileges authorized for each license type.																		
<b>HUNTING &amp; INLAND FISHING</b>																		
\$1511	Adult Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
\$441	Youth Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
\$252	Infant Lifetime Sportsman	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>HUNTING</b>																		
\$95	10-Day State Hunting (8)				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
\$119	Annual State Hunting (8)				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>ADDITIONAL HUNTING PRIVILEGES</b>																		
\$95	10-Day Big Game (2) (8)	●	●															
\$119	Big Game (season) (2) (8)	●	●	●														
\$284	Bear (1)	●																
\$14	Bear Management E-Stamp (9)	●																
\$17	Migratory Waterfowl (state) (2) (3) (7)														●			
FREE	HIP Certification (5) (6)							●							●			
<b>INLAND FISHING</b>																		
\$28	10-Day Inland Fishing														●	●	●	●
\$54	Annual State Inland Fishing														●	●	●	●
<b>TRAPPING</b>																		
\$158	Annual State Trapping														●	●		
<b>OTHER LICENSES</b>																		
\$189	Annual Hunting/Inland Fishing Guide														●			
\$27	Controlled Hunting Preserve (4)																	
\$630	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 and 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 15-16 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

## ■ - Lifetime License

#### Additional Information:

Additional Information:

- (1) Required to hunt federal migratory and 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 E-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.

# 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

## Inland Game Fish

The following fishes are designated as inland game fish:

- Mountain trout (including but not limited to brook, brown, and rainbow trout)
- Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, Alabama, spotted, and Bartram's)
- Crappie (black and white)
- Sunfish (bluegill, flier, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, redbreast sunfish (robin), redear sunfish (shellcracker), Roanoke bass, rock bass, warmouth, and all other species of the family Centrarchidae)
- Striped bass, in inland waters
- Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid), in inland waters
- White bass, in inland waters
- White perch, in inland waters

- Shad (American and hickory), in inland waters
- Walleye
- Muskellunge
- Sauger
- Kokanee Salmon
- Bullheads (black, brown, flat, yellow, and white catfish), in inland waters
- Flounder, in inland waters
- Red drum (channel bass, red fish, and puppy drum), in inland waters
- Spotted sea trout, in inland waters
- Pickerel (chain or "jack", and redfin)
- Yellow perch, in inland waters

### General Regulations for Inland Game Fish

#### Purchase and Sale

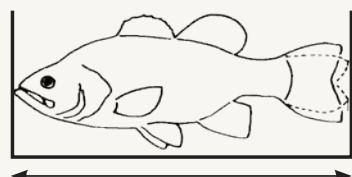
- The purchase and sale of inland game fish are unlawful, except from and by licensed commercial trout ponds and fish propagators.

#### 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 44-47) and are subject to daily creel limits (see page 31).

## How to Measure a Game Fish

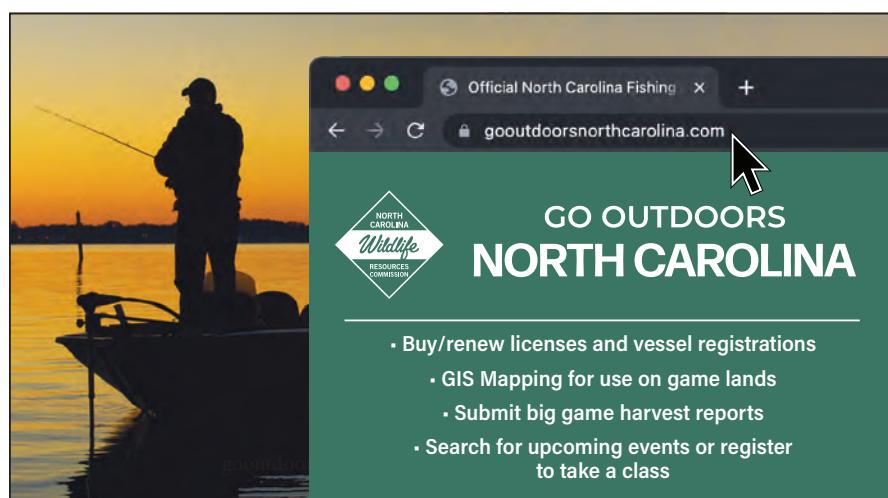
The harvest of many game fish species is regulated by length limits. Fish length is determined by measuring along a straight line (not along the curvature of the body) the distance from the tip of the closed mouth to the tip of the compressed caudal (tail) fin.



- In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of the U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless circle hook may be used when fishing with live or natural bait, and only a single barbless hook may be used with other tackle 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.



### 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 September 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.

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.



- 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 33 for the daily creel limits for American and hickory shad in inland waters. For the current daily creel limits for American shad in coastal waters, see [deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/rules-proclamations-and-size-and-bag-limits/recreational-size-and-bag-limits](http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/rules-proclamations-and-size-and-bag-limits/recreational-size-and-bag-limits).

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#### Knowledge Check!

- Why are drop-offs and other underwater hazards dangerous?
- Name three items to pack for your fishing trip.
- Why is a life jacket essential when fishing from shore or a boat?

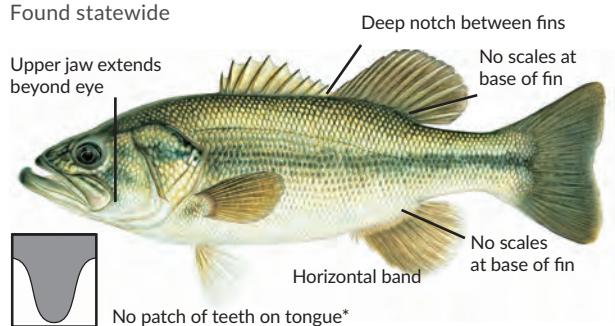


Catch Us on Facebook @WKerrScottReservoir @BEverettJordanLake @FallsLake  
@JohnHKerrReservoirBuggsIslandLake @PleaseWearIt

## Bass Identification Chart

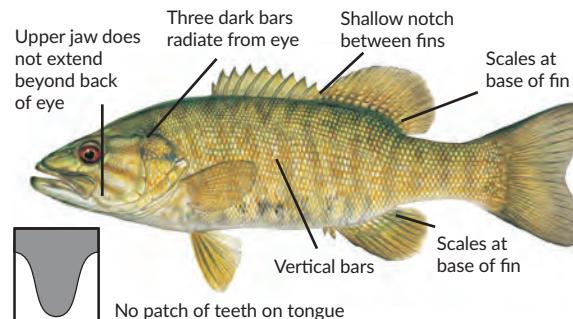
### Largemouth Bass

Found statewide



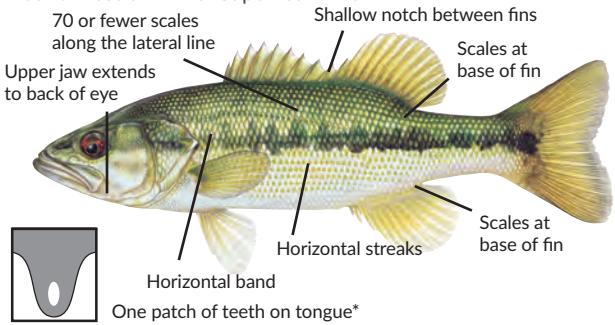
### Smallmouth Bass

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



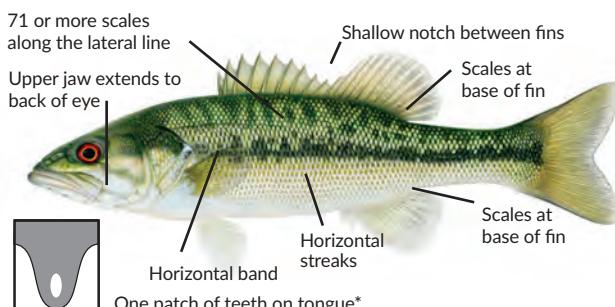
### Spotted Bass

Found west of I-77 & Cape Fear River



### Alabama Bass (Invasive)

Found statewide



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

## Morone Identification Chart

### Striped Bass

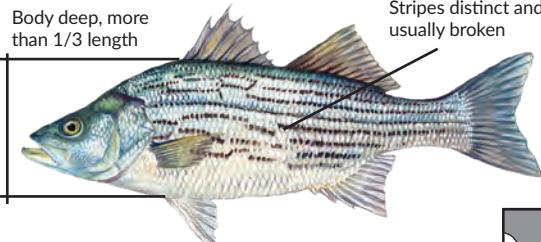
Body slender, less than 1/3 length



Two patches of teeth on tongue

### Bodie Bass (striped bass hybrid)

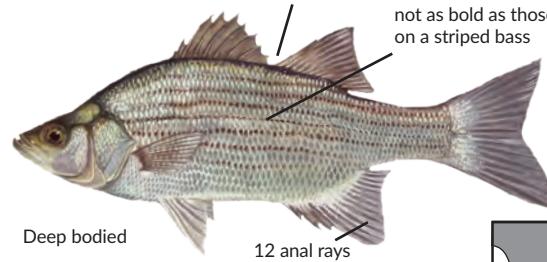
Body deep, more than 1/3 length



Two patches of teeth on tongue

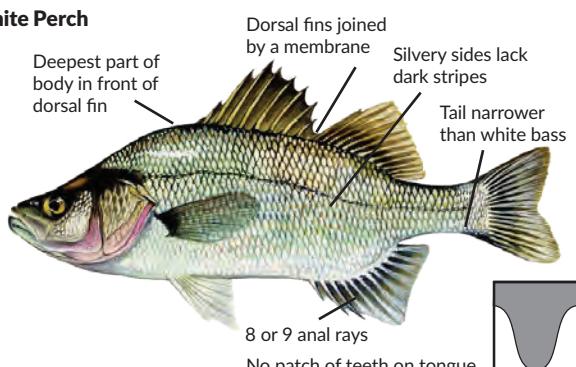
### White Bass

No membrane between dorsal fins



### White Perch

Deepest part of body in front of dorsal fin



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

## Species Identification Chart

### White Crappie

- 5–6 dorsal spines
- 5–10 dark vertical bars on each side

- Best populations found in Piedmont reservoirs and rivers



### Black Crappie

- 7–8 dorsal spines
- Many dark spots on sides and fins

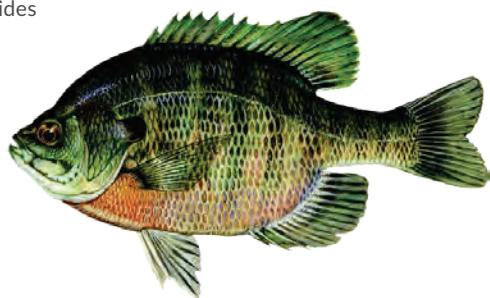
- Common in large rivers in Coastal Plain, clear ponds, natural lakes and reservoirs



### Bluegill

- Ear flap entirely black
- Pattern of vertical bars on sides

- Most common sunfish in state



### Pumpkinseed

- 4–8 wavy lines, often bright blue, on cheek

- Ear flap black with orange-red spot



### Redbreast Sunfish

- Bluish streaks on cheeks and around eyes

- Long, narrow ear flap entirely black



### Redear Sunfish

- Commonly called shellcracker
- Red or orange edge along ear flap

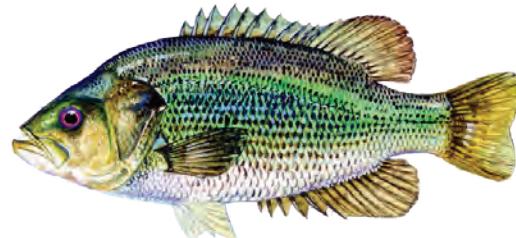
- No blue lines along cheeks



### Roanoke Bass

- Similar shape as rock bass, but is dark olive-green to olive brown

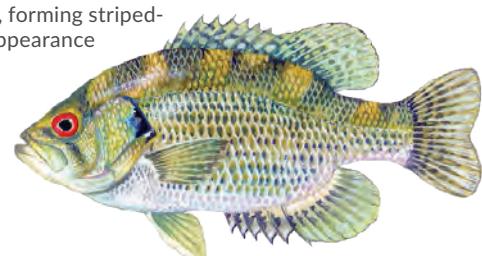
- No scales on cheek
- Only found in Dan, Deep, Neuse, Tar, & Uwharrie rivers



### Rock Bass

- Olive-green top and gold or brassy-colored sides
- Scales on sides have dark spots, forming striped-like appearance

- Unlike Roanoke bass, have scales on cheeks and dark spot near ear flap



## Species Identification Chart (continued)

### Warmouth

- Similar in appearance to rock bass, but has large mouth, similar to bass
- Anal fin has three spines compared to six of rock bass
- Three or four stripes radiate from eyes across to cheek and gill cover



### Brown Trout

- Golden brown to olive with yellowish sides
- Dark spots circled with light yellow or white on back and sides
- Some fish also have orange or red spots on sides
- Reclusive fish, often hanging out near fallen trees and undercut banks



### Rainbow Trout

- Broad lateral stripe, pinkish to red, on sides
- Heavy black speckling on entire body
- Prefer faster currents, such as riffles and swift runs



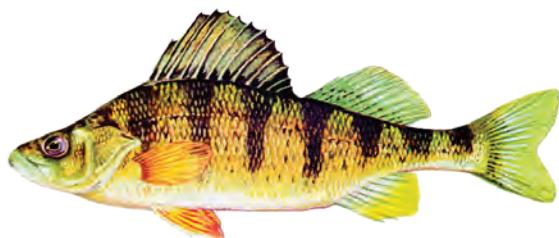
### Brook Trout

- Sometimes called speckled trout
- Greenish brown with light red spots on sides
- Dark, worm-like lines on back
- White edges on fins, including tail
- Only native trout



### Yellow Perch

- Greenish-yellow along back with dark bands on sides
- Two separate dorsal fins
- Very sharp edge on gill covering



### Walleye

- Largest member of perch family
- Found in streams and rivers, but prefer lake environments
- Normally found in depths of 20-60 feet



### Muskellunge

- Member of pike family
- Sides usually have vertical bars or blotches and fins have spots or streaks
- Has 12-18 small pores underneath the jaw
- Prefers cool rivers and lakes with plentiful woody debris, vegetation and rocky habitat



### Chain Pickerel

- Close relative of muskellunge
- Named for chain-like pattern on sides
- Black bar beneath eyes distinguishes it from small muskellunge



### Blue Catfish (Invasive east of Continental Divide)

- Anal fin has straight outer edge and 30–36 rays
- Common in large rivers and often favor faster currents than other catfish
- Because of competition with other species (striped bass) for prey, should not be moved from one waterbody to another



### Bullhead Catfish

- Five species of bullhead exist in North Carolina—brown (pictured), yellow, black, flat and snail



### Channel Catfish

- Deeply forked tail with black spots on back and sides
- Anal fin is round with 24–29 rays
- Highly adaptable, living in ponds, streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs



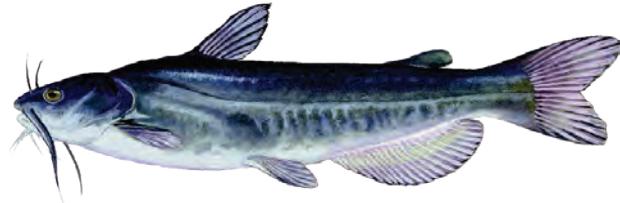
### Flathead Catfish (Invasive east of Continental Divide)

- Broad, flat head with lower jaw protruding beyond upper jaw
- Should not be moved from one waterbody to another
- Feeds primarily on live fish and has been associated with declines of several native fish species



### White Catfish

- Blue-gray above, fading to gray on sides with white belly
- Distinguished from channel catfish by much wider head and lack of black spots on sides
- Aggressive feeders and feed more during daylight than other catfish



## THE WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

funds projects and programs to enhance your outdoor experience, using an excise tax from purchases on:



- Fishing Tackle
- Archery Equipment
- Sporting Arms
- Ammunition
- Motorboat Fuels

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## Regulations for Warmwater Game Fish

State waters are classified as: inland, joint and coastal (see "General Information" on page 22). 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, other 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 22).

### WARMWATER GAME FISH

SPECIES	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
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 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
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.)	12-inch minimum	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
In the following waters and their tributaries:		
• Albemarle, Croatan, Currituck, and Roanoke Sounds • Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal (Intracoastal Waterway) east of the U.S. 264/N.C. 45 bridge) • Big Flatty Creek (Pasquotank Co.) • Chowan River (including the Meherrin River) • Little River (Pasquotank and Perquimans counties) • North River (Camden and Currituck counties) • Northwest River (Currituck Co.) • Pasquotank River • Perquimans River • Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam • Scuppernong River • Yeopim River • All other associated tributaries and canals to the waters listed above	14-inch minimum	5
New Lake (Hyde Co.)		
Pungo Lake (Hyde and Washington counties)		
Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.)		
Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)		
Lake Hampton (Yadkin Co.)	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
Buckhorn Reservoir (Nash and Wilson 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
Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores (Dare Co.)		
Ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park (Craven Co.)	No largemouth bass may be possessed	

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

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

SPECIES	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
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	No minimum size limit	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., VA)	No minimum size limit, 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
<b>ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS</b>		
All public waters except those listed below:	None	None
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	No minimum size limit	10 largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass in combination
New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., VA)	No minimum size limit, 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
<b>BARTRAM'S 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>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)</b>		
All public fishing waters except those listed below:	None	None
Buckhorn Reservoir (Nash and Wilson counties)	None	20 in combination
Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)	None	30 in combination
In the following waters and their tributaries:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B. Everett Jordan Reservoir</li> <li>• Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)</li> <li>• Cape Fear River</li> <li>• Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam</li> <li>• Lake Hampton (Yadkin Co.)</li> <li>• Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam</li> <li>• Hyco Lake</li> <li>• Lumber River including Drowning Creek</li> <li>• Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam</li> <li>• Lake Norman</li> <li>• <b>Shearon Harris Reservoir</b></li> <li>• Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam</li> <li>• Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam</li> <li>• All other public waters east of I-95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.), Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.), and Roanoke River</li> <li>• All public waters west of I-77, except Lake Chatuge (Clay Co.)</li> </ul>	8-inch minimum	20 in combination
John H. Kerr Reservoir	9-inch minimum	25 in combination
Cashie, Eastmost, Middle, and Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), and their tributaries	10-inch minimum	20 in combination
Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)		

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

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
<b>SUNFISH (EXCEPT CRAPPIE, ROCK BASS, &amp; ROANOKE BASS)</b>		
All public fishing waters except those listed below:	None	None
In the following waters and their tributaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cape Fear River</li> <li>• Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam</li> <li>• Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam</li> <li>• Lumber River including Drowning Creek</li> <li>• Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam</li> <li>• Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam</li> <li>• Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam</li> <li>• Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam</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>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
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
Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Townsend, Farmer Lake and Salem Lake	16-inch minimum	4 in combination
Lake Gaston	20-inch minimum (Oct. 1 – May 31) No minimum size limit (June 1 – Sept. 30)	4 in combination
Roanoke Rapids Reservoir	20-inch minimum, and no fish may be greater than 26 inches (Oct. 1 – May 31) No minimum size limit (June 1 – Sept. 30)	2 in combination (Oct. 1 – May 31) 4 in combination (June 1 – Sept. 30)
<b>COASTAL RIVERS AND IMPOUNDMENTS</b>		
Lake Mattamuskeet	18-inch minimum	3 in combination
Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam		
Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area (including Cashie, Eastmost, Middle, and Roanoke rivers from Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound and its tributaries)	18-inch minimum, no fish may be greater than 22 inches (Season opened by proclamation only)	1 in combination (Season by proclamation only)
Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area (including Albemarle, Croatan, Currituck, and Roanoke Sounds; as well as Alligator, Chowan, Little, North, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Scuppernong, and Yeopim 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>• Cape Fear River and tributaries from Buckhorn Dam downstream to Lock and Dam #1</li> <li>• Neuse River and tributaries from Falls Lake Dam downstream to Pitchkettle Creek</li> <li>• Pungo River upstream of the U.S. 264 bridge at Leechville</li> <li>• Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N&amp;S Railroad Bridge at Washington</li> <li>• All other unlisted inland waters of coastal rivers and tributaries</li> </ul>	No striped bass may be possessed.	
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, joint waters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cape Fear River from Lock and Dam #1 downstream to the U.S. 17-74-76 bridge at Wilmington</li> <li>• Neuse River and tributaries from Pitchkettle Creek downstream to Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern</li> <li>• Pungo River downstream of the U.S. 264 bridge at Leechville to Smith Creek</li> <li>• All other unlisted joint waters of coastal rivers and tributaries</li> </ul>	No striped bass may be possessed.	

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

\*\* After this Digest was printed, Spotted Sea Trout regulations were changed to: A daily creel limit of 3 fish per person and a minimum size limit of 14 inches in length. No fish may be harvested between 20–26 inches, only one fish allowed over 26 inches in the daily creel.

## WARMWATER GAME FISH (CONT.)

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, coastal waters including: • Cape Fear River downstream of the U.S. 17-74-76 bridge at Wilmington • Neuse River downstream of Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters • Pungo River downstream of Smith Creek • Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N & S Railroad Bridge at Washington, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters • All other unlisted coastal waters		Established by Division of Marine Fisheries
Ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park (Craven Co.)		No striped bass may be possessed.
<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 and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	14-inch minimum	10
<b>WHITE PERCH</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line, except those listed below:	None	None
All public fishing waters in and west of Buncombe, Haywood, and Rutherford counties		No live white perch may be possessed, transported or released.
<b>SHAD (AMERICAN AND HICKORY)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line, except those listed below:	None	10 in combination, including no more than 1 American shad
Pee Dee, Pungo, and Tar-Pamlico rivers and their tributaries	None	10 in combination
Cape Fear River and its tributaries	None	10 in combination, including no more than 5 American Shad
John H. Kerr Reservoir		
Lake Gaston		
Roanoke Rapids Reservoir		
Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin upstream of Blewett Falls Dam		No American shad may be possessed.
<b>WALLEYE</b>		
All public fishing waters except those listed below:	None	8
Linville River upstream from N.C. 126 bridge	None	4
Lake James and tributaries	15-inch minimum	8
Lake Gaston		
John H. Kerr Reservoir	18-inch minimum	5
Roanoke Rapids 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>BULLHEADS (BLACK, BROWN, FLAT, SNAIL, YELLOW, AND WHITE CATFISH)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	None	10 in combination
<b>FLOUNDER</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line		Visit <a href="http://ncwildlife.gov">ncwildlife.gov</a> for season, size and creel limits
<b>RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, RED FISH, OR PUPPY DRUM)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	18-inch minimum, no fish may be greater than 27 inches	1
<b>SPOTTED SEA TROUT</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	<del>14-inch minimum</del> ** See above	4 ** See above
<b>ALL OTHER WARMWATER GAME FISHES</b>		
All public fishing waters	None	None

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

## 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

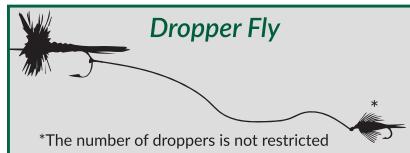
## MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
<b>HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS</b>			
Aug. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026 7 a.m. April 4, 2026 – July 31, 2026 • All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2026 – April 3, 2026 **No fishing allowed • All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	**	**	**
No closed season • Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs	None	7	None
<b>DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS</b>			
Oct. 1, 2025 – June 5, 2026 **No trout may be possessed **No fishing allowed from $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset on June 5, 2026, to 6:00 a.m. on June 6, 2026	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. **
Aug. 1, 2025 – Sept. 30, 2025 June 6, 2026 – July 31, 2026 (Note: youth under 16 years old only fishing from 6:00 a.m. until noon on June 6, 2026)	None	7	None
<b>WILD TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook.
<b>CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial flies and lures 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 33 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.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Public Mountain Trout Waters.



Dropper Fly

\*The number of droppers is not restricted

## ATTENTION 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 your 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**



- 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, Tanasee 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.
- 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 page 42.

## 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 and 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 41-42.

### Class Definitions

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

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies and lures having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-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. From 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

these waters open to youth under age 16 under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations. 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.

## Mountain Trout Regulations

### by County

#### Alleghany County

##### 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 (400 yards upstream of the S.R. 1128 bridge [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 FLIES AND 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 (900 yards upstream of S.R. 1372 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank] to a point adjacent to the intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536)
- 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 (upstream property boundary of NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research Station to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- Roan Creek
- Three Top Creek

## Avery County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES 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)
- 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 (S.R. 1504 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

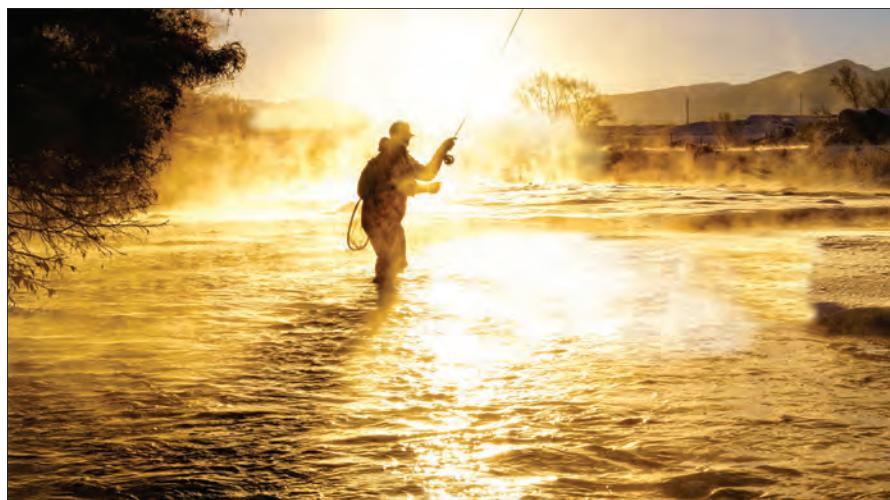
## Buncombe County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND 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)
- 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)

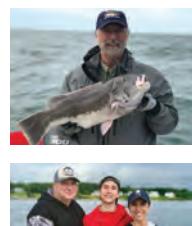


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## Burke County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND 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)
- Linville River portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)

### 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 McCloud 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 (Ashe 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.

## 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)
- Tusquiee 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)

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- 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

#### 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)

#### 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 (Little Hungry River to Green River)

#### Jackson County

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

- Flat Creek
- (East Fork) Tuckasegee River (game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including Duke Energy powerline corridor)

##### 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)

#### Macon County

##### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

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

##### HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS

- Burnington 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 hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
- Queens Creek Lake

#### 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 (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 the confluence with Meadow Fork)
- West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)

#### McDowell County

##### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND 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)
- North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School Rd. 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 S.R. 1325 bridge)
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- East Fork Grassy Creek
- Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 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 of Ararat River bordering Ararat River Greenway downstream of N.C. 103 bridge)
- 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 (portion of Ararat River bordering Ararat River Greenway upstream of 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 AND LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS

- Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek, and John Rock Branch)

### DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS

- East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to a sign located 350 yards downstream of Whitmire Falls)
- 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)

# REELFOOT LAKE



TENNESSEE

REELFOOT LAKE is located in the Northwest corner of Tennessee. This 15,500-acre lake is located 5 miles from the Mississippi River, a major migratory path for waterfowl.

REELFOOT LAKE is the only large, natural lake in Tennessee and one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries making it a favorite fishing lake of America's Pro and recreational fishermen. Created by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, the shallow, cypress-filled waters are ideal for crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish.

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REELFOOT LAKE TOURISM COUNCIL  
1605 State Route 21 E  
Tiptonville, TN 38079  
731-253-2007



## Waterfowl Season

December 5 - January 31



## Watauga County

### CATCH AND RELEASE/ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND 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 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 (S.R. 1136 bridge to the 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 S.R. 1136 bridge)
- 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)
- 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 Low Meadows Lane 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

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- Pike Creek Pond
- South Fork Reddies River (0.25 miles downstream from 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 AND LURES 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)
- Lickskillet 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 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 \$10 for both residents and nonresidents and can be purchased online at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com) or by calling 833-950-0575, 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.

A resident or nonresident of this State who served as a member of the Armed Forces and who separated under honorable conditions is exempt from fishing license requirements while fishing in waters designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as Mountain Heritage Trout waters. In order to qualify the individual shall have valid documentation of their service on their person at all times during the fishing activity.

### 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]

### Buncombe County

- **Black Mountain:** Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to S.R. 2500 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

# 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.GOV](http://NCWILDLIFE.GOV)

# Always wear a life jacket.

SAFE WATERS



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[safewaters.com/public-safety](http://safewaters.com/public-safety)

# Inland Fishing Regulations AND INFORMATION

## 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 Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters regulations apply]

## 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, Cedar Rock Creek, John Rock Branch, 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.
- » Little Fork 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	Water
Alleghany	Brush Creek
Alleghany	Big Pine Creek
Alleghany	Meadow Fork
Avery	Linville River
Buncombe	Swannanoa River
Watauga	Price Lake

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. [nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/fishing.htm](http://nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/fishing.htm)

## 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:

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

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## NONGAME FISH SIZE &amp; CREEL LIMITS

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
<b>AMERICAN EEL</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	9-inch minimum (regardless of origin)	25 (regardless of origin)
<b>ATLANTIC CROAKER</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	None	50
<b>BLACK DRUM</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	14-inch minimum, none may be greater than 25 inches	10
<b>BLUE CRABS</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line, 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>BLUEFISH</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	None	3
<b>CATFISH (BLUE, CHANNEL, &amp; FLATHEAD)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line except those listed below:	None	None
Alamance County (Cedarock Park Pond), Alexander County (Ellendale Community Center Pond), Buncombe County (Azalea Park Pond, Charles Owen Park Pond, Lake Julian, Lake Louise, Lake Tomahawk), Cabarrus County (Frank Liske Park Pond, TN Spencer Park Pond), Cumberland County (Lake Rim*), Edgecombe County (Etheridge Pond*, Indian Lake, Newbold Pond*), Forsyth County (CG Hill Memorial Park Pond, Kernersville Lake, Village Point Lake, Winston Park Pond*), Franklin County (Owens Park Pond), Gaston County (Dallas Park Pond, George Poston Park Pond), Granville County (Lake Devin), Guilford County (Bur-Mill Park Ponds, Country Park Pond, Guilford County Farm Park, Hagan Stone Park Ponds, Keeley Park Ponds, Oka T Hester Pond), Jackson County (Cashiers Recreation Pond), Lee County (San-Lee Park Ponds), Lenoir County (Neuseway Nature Center Pond), Mecklenburg County (Elon Holmes Park Pond, Freedom Park Pond, Hornet's Nest Park Pond, McAlpine Lake*, Robbins Park Ponds, Squirrel Lake), Moore County (Lake Luke Marion, Pages Lake), Nash County (Rocky Mount City Lake), Orange County (Anderson Community Park Pond, Lake Michael), Pitt County (River Park North Ponds), Polk County (Laughter Pond), Richmond County (Ellerbe Community Lake, Hamlet City Lake, Hinson Lake), Rowan County (Dan Nicholas Park Pond, Salisbury Community Park Lake, Lake Corriher), Stanly County (Albemarle City Lake), Surry County (Big Elkin Creek, Tumbling Rock Reservoir), Union County (Dogwood Park Pond), Vance County (Fox Pond), Wake County (Bass Lake, Bond Park Pond, Harris Lake County Park Pond, Pine Lake in Apex Community Park, Lake Raleigh*, Shelley Lake, Simpkins Pond in Lake Wheeler Park), Yadkin County (Yadkin County Park Pond)	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, Dan River (downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA), 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>COBIA</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	36-inch minimum	1 (May 1 – Dec. 31)
<b>FRESHWATER MUSSELS INCLUDING THE ASIAN CLAM (CORBICULA FLUMINEA)</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
University Lake (Orange Co.)	No freshwater mussels including the Asian clam may be taken or possessed.	
Lake Waccamaw		

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

## **NONGAME FISH SIZE & CREEL LIMITS (CONTINUED)**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SIZE LIMIT</b>	<b>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</b>
<b>GRASS CARP</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line except those listed below:	None	None
Lake James Lookout Shoals Lake Mountain Island Reservoir Lake Wylie	No grass carp may be possessed except one fish per day may be taken and possessed with archery equipment (see page 56).	
Lake Gaston John H. Kerr Reservoir Lake Norman 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.	
<b>KING MACKEREL</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	24-inch minimum	3
<b>MADTOMS (MARGINED AND TADPOLE)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	No margined madtom and tadpole madtom may be possessed.	
<b>MULLET (STRIPED AND WHITE)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	None	100 in combination per person; a maximum of 400 in combination per boat.
<b>RIVER HERRING (ALEWIFE AND BLUEBACK HERRING)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line, 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cape Fear River – Buckhorn Dam</li><li>• Neuse River – Falls Lake Dam</li><li>• Pee Dee River – Blewett Falls Dam</li><li>• Roanoke River – Roanoke Rapids Dam</li><li>• Tar River – Rocky Mount Mill Dam</li><li>• Waccamaw River – Lake Waccamaw Dam</li></ul>	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)
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.	
<b>SHARKS</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	No sharks may be possessed.	
<b>SPANISH MACKEREL</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	12-inch minimum	15
<b>SPOT</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	None	50
<b>STURGEON</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	No sturgeon may be possessed.	
<b>TARPON</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	No tarpon may be possessed.	
<b>WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)</b>		
All inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line	12-inch minimum	1

\* 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 in inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters. No fish may be taken by snagging.

Nongame fish may also be taken in inland fishing waters with the following manner of take:

- Grabbling
- Trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks. For special rules governing trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks, see page 44.
- Certain special devices for personal use (bait or personal consumption) using any valid license that provides inland fishing privileges. See restrictions under "Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Personal Use" below.
- Archery equipment (see page 54) under any license that authorizes hunting or fishing privileges. See restrictions under "Archery Equipment" on page 44.
- Special devices (see "Special Fishing Devices" pages 44–47) may be used with a Special Fishing Device License (see page 14) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 44–47).
- 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.
- In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of the U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless circle hook when fishing with live or natural bait or other tackle 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.

### 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.
- 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 44–47).
- 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 47.
- Information and regulations about fishing in the waters or on the property of a state fish hatchery are listed on page 47.

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

- Nongame fishes, crustaceans (crayfish and blue crabs), and mollusks may be taken in inland fishing waters or personal use (bait or personal consumption) only with the equipment listed below, and with 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 44–47).
  - » 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 44–47).
  - » Eel pots (no more than two).
  - » A spear gun in those counties and waters with open seasons (see "Seasons and Waters" pages 44–47).
  - » 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).
- Freshwater mussels can only be collected from impounded waters.
- 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, except American eel greater than 9 inches in length and with a minimum body depth greater than 1/2 inch may be cut for use as bait.

### 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 pages 41–43).
  - » Bowfin may not be sold.
  - » Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland fishing waters or by hook and line in joint fishing 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, Atlantic Croaker, Black Drum, Bluefish, Cobia, King Mackerel, Sheepshead, Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Weakfish (Gray Trout) taken from inland fishing waters or joint fishing waters when caught by hook and line may not be sold.
  - » Those listed under "Species and fishing activity 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 44–47, "Seasons and Waters" on pages 44–47, and "Fishing on Game Lands" on page 47.
- Freshwater mussels can only be collected from impounded waters.
- Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks taken for personal use with equipment listed under "Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Personal Use" on pages 43–44 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 56) 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 42.
- 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 41).
- 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 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.

### 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, ex-

cept 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.
- No trotlines, jug hooks, and set hooks in the inland fishing waters of the Roanoke River from April 1 to June 30.

## Special Fishing Devices

- Special fishing devices for the taking of non-game 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 44–47.

### 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 their 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 their 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 netter be within 100 yards of their 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 waterway.

### 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 their 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 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.
- In inland fishing waters, special devices may be used with a Special Fishing Device License in the following waters during listed seasons:
  - » **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 Hyco 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, Conoconna Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankeey 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. Dec. 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 Coharie 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, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch 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). You may fish on McKinney Lake Reservoir at McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

## Species Prohibitions

It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals or stock any private or public waters of North Carolina from the following species:

- African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*)
- Amur sleeper (*Percottus glenii*)
- Applesnail (any species of genus *Pomacea*)
- Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*)
- Australian red claw or red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species in the genus *Cherax*)
- Bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*)
- Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)
- Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- Brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*)
- Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)
- Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*)
- Crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*)
- European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*)
- Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*)
- Marbled crayfish or Marmorkrebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax* f. *virginalis*)
- Olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*)
- Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)
- Piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*)
- Prussian Carp (*Carassius gibelio*)
- Quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae
- Red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*)
- Red-rim Melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*)
- Redtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*)
- Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)
- Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)
- Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*)
- Rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*)
- Shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*)
- Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
- Snakehead (from the Family Channidae, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*)
- Tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*, *Proterorhinus semilunaris*, and *Proterorhinus semipellucidus*)
- Virile crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*)
- Walking catfish (any member of the genus *Clarias*)
- White amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*; certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.)
- Yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*)
- Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

## Fishing Activity Prohibitions

It is unlawful to do the following:

- Fish by any method (Mar. 1 – May 31) in re-stocked floodplain sloughs connected to French

Broad River and Mud Creek (Henderson Co.):

- » Slough 1 at 35.403661 N, 82.531964 W
- » Slough 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W
- » Slough 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W
- » Slough 4 at 35.298446 N, 82.584666 W

- 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.
- Possess, transport or release live White Perch in waters in and west of Haywood, Buncombe, and Rutherford counties.
- Take or possess any state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.
- Stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission (Fish Stocking Permit applications are available at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov), or for more information about applying, call 919-707-0220).

## Fishing Access Area

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 the following are prohibited.
  - » Swimming
  - » Sunbathing on piers or decks
  - » Launching or mooring jet skis or boats
  - » Skiing
  - » Building fires
  - » Operating concessions
  - » Any other activities not directly associated with fishing
- 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 prohibited on public fishing areas at the following:
  - » 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
  - » R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land, the portion north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119
  - » Any other posted public fishing area
- Use gasoline motors on the following:
  - » Etheridge Pond (Edgecombe County)
  - » Newbold Pond (Edgecombe County)
  - » Lake Rim (Cumberland County)

Public Access for Fishing Only areas will be marked as such and are provided through private property under agreement with the landowner.

- Any licensed angler and accompanying youths may cross private property with this signage in order to access public waters to fish.

## 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, or any organized activity or event without first obtaining a permit from the Division of Lands and Water Access at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov) or by calling 919-707-0150. This permit must be available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers during the permitted activity.
- 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 and rivers:

- 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.

### 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:

Restricted zones extend 200 feet both upstream and downstream of the following hydroelectric stations and dams. Only boating and fishing are authorized within the safety zone, subject to the following restrictions and rivers:

- Any individual in a vessel that enters the Safety Zone is 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.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Discharging a Firearm is prohibited.

Safety zones exist that prohibit vessels from entering for any purpose the area directly downstream or in front of the turbines, powerhouses, or generator discharges that mechanically propel or accelerate the flow of water as follows:

- High Rock and Tuckertown Hydro Electric Stations – within 200 feet.
- Narrows and Falls Hydro Electric Stations – within 100 feet.
- Falls Hydroelectric Station and dam
- High Rock Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Narrows Hydroelectric Station and dam
- Tuckertown Hydroelectric Station and dam

## Other Fishing Information

For fishing information including seasons, sizes, and creel limits relating to land administered by other agencies, contact the appropriate agency:

- **Blue Ridge Parkway** (see page 42)  
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
- **N.C. 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**  
1849 C Street NW, Room 3349  
Washington, DC 20240-0001  
Phone: 800-344-9453

## 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.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/fish/arcg.html](http://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/fish/arcg.html) and click on "Fish Consumption Advisories."

## Freshwater Fishing Records

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, other requirements, and to see a list of state records, visit [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov), or call the Inland Fisheries Division at 919-707-0220.



# GREAT OUTDOORS EXPO



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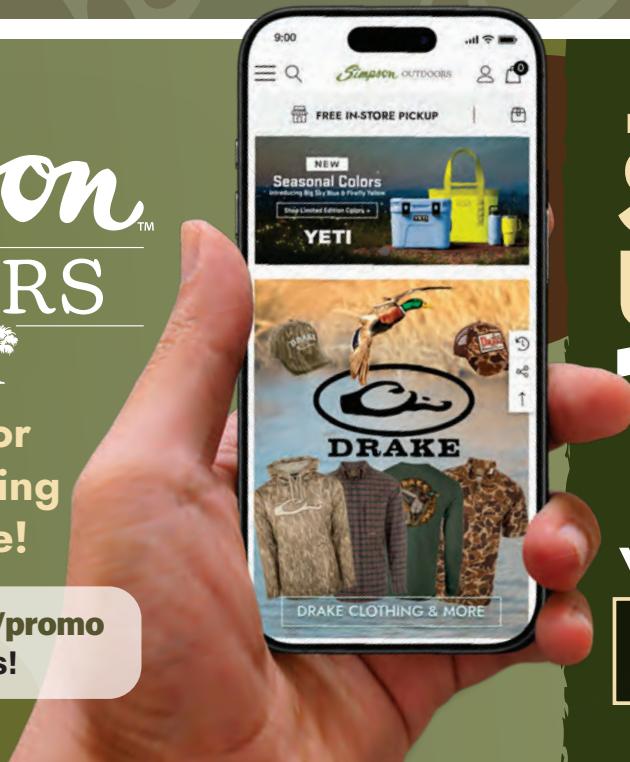
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Valid through July 15 - August 31, 2025



Smith & Wesson



## North Carolina Angler Recognition Program

Any angler who catches a fish meeting specific size requirements can apply to have the catch recognized as a "trophy" fish through the North Carolina Angler Recognition Program. This program provides recognition to all anglers who catch trophy-size fish that are not large enough to qualify as state record fish. Applications to apply for the program can be found by scanning the QR code below or at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

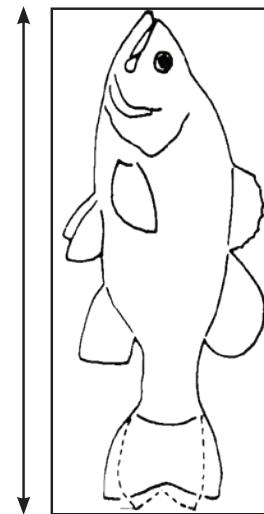
Youth age 15 and younger may apply for a Youth Angler Recognition Program certificate. Youth certificates are available for any fish listed below and do not have to meet any minimum length and weight requirements.

### NCARP MINIMUM TROPHY FISH WEIGHT OR LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES	WEIGHT	LENGTH
<b>Bass</b>		
Bodie (striped bass hybrid)	8 lbs.	24"
Largemouth	8 lbs.	24"
Smallmouth	3 lbs.	19"
Spotted	2 lbs.	15"
Striped	10 lbs.	27"
White	2 lbs.	17"
<b>Bowfin</b>	10 lbs.	22"
<b>Carp-Common</b>	20 lbs.	34"
<b>Catfish</b>		
Blue	30 lbs.	41"
Bullhead (any species)	2 lbs.	15"
Channel	10 lbs.	30"
Flathead	30 lbs.	41"
White	4 lbs.	21"
<b>Crappie (black or white)</b>	2 lbs.	16"
<b>Freshwater Drum</b>	12 lbs.	28"
Kokanee Salmon	2 lbs.	14"
Longnose Gar	10 lbs.	48"
<b>Mountain Trout</b>		
Brook	2 lbs.	16"
Brown	2 lbs., 8 oz.	18"
Rainbow	2 lbs., 8 oz.	18"

SPECIES	WEIGHT	LENGTH
<b>Muskellunge</b>		
Perch	20 lbs.	41"
White Perch	1 lb.	12"
Yellow Perch	1 lb.	14"
<b>Pickerel</b>		
Chain Pickerel	4 lbs.	26"
Redfin Pickerel	10 oz.	12"
<b>Shad</b>		
American	3 lbs.	16"
Hickory	2 lbs.	13"
<b>Sunfish</b>		
Bluegill	1 lb.	11"
Flier	6 oz.	8"
Green	1 lb.	9"
Pumpkinseed	14 oz.	10"
Redbreast (Robin)	1 lb.	11"
Redear (Shellcracker)	1 lb.	11"
Roanoke Bass	1 lb.	11"
Rock Bass	1 lb.	11"
Warmouth	1 lb.	11"
<b>Walleye</b>	5 lbs.	23"

Fish should be measured to the nearest 1/4 inch. Lay the fish on a flat surface. Using a measuring rule, measure from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.



**Catch a BIG fish?**  
(But not quite state record-breaking)

**Show us and get recognized!**



**N.C. ANGLER  
RECOGNITION  
PROGRAM**



# Nongame Regulations AND INFORMATION

## General Information

Any animal not classified as a game fish, game animal, fur bearer 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 41–47 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 unless defined as a pest by the NC Pesticide Board. If the animal is endangered, threatened or of special concern, an Endangered Species permit is required for research and educational purposes.
- Birds** – Most nongame 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 for the take, possession, or transportation of five or more snapping turtles, lizards, or snakes on an annual basis. For reptiles that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern, an Endangered Species permit is required for research and educational purposes. Limits for snapping turtles are 10 per day and 100 per year. No snapping turtle less than 13 inches (curved top shell length) may be collected. No more than 15 trapping devices may be set per license and devices must be labeled with a waterproof tag showing the licensee's name, WRC customer number, or collection license number. Traps must be checked daily. Collection licenses for snapping turtles are only available to North Carolina residents.
- 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 for research and educational purposes.

### Collection Licenses

- Wildlife Collection License and Scientific Fish Collection License applications are available online at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com). For more information about applying, call 888-248-6834.
- The list of endangered, threatened and special concern species in North Carolina is found in rule section 15A NCAC 10I and online at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).
- More information about nongame wildlife or holding animals in captivity is available online at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).
- It is not necessary to obtain a Collection License before defending yourself or another from a wildlife threat.

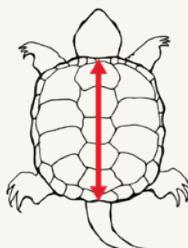
### Restricted Species

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*), Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Greenhouse Frogs, or Argentine Black and White Tegus 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.



## BUY A PLATE, SUPPORT WILDLIFE



### Native Brook Trout Plate

Your purchase supports projects to protect Brook Trout and provide angling access. As North Carolina's only native trout, the Brook Trout is the official freshwater fish of our state.



SCAN TO BUY A PLATE TODAY.



# Trapping Regulations AND INFORMATION

## TRAPPING SEASONS

SEASON	APPLICABLE AREA
Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	<p><b>Statewide.</b></p> <p>In addition to this statewide trapping season, coyotes may be taken in counties, areas, and times where fox trapping is allowed by statute. 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.</p>
Jan. 3 – Jan. 24	<p>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.gov/foxseasons">ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons</a> to see if there is a local fox trapping season in your county.</p>

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, District Biologist, or Wildlife Control Agent 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.

## 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.gov/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.gov/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. Bobcat and otter tags are free of charge and \$2.25 for fox\*. Up to 50 bobcat tags and 150 otter tags may be issued per request. You may purchase these tags by telephone, 833-950-0575, using a Visa or MasterCard, 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. *\*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, which can be sold live by licensed trappers to licensed fox preserves during the applicable trapping season for that species. Live-trapped foxes and coyotes shall not be held for more than 30 days after capture and shall be provided drinking water, food of a type and quantity appropriate for the species, and shelter that protects the foxes and coyotes from direct sunlight and precipitation. Licensed trappers and any individual(s) transporting live foxes and coyotes for live sale shall have a current and valid transportation permit prior to taking possession of the live foxes and coyotes, including removing the animal from the trap. Licensed trappers shall keep accurate written records on a form provided by the Commission for each fox or coyote sold or transferred to a licensed fox preserve
- Take red and gray fox except where provided by state or local law. For more information on fox trapping seasons, visit [ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons).

## SKULLS AND CARCASSES WANTED

**Help monitor populations, improve knowledge of North Carolina furbearers, and ultimately, maintain regulated trapping for future generations by becoming a furbearer cooperator!**



***Donate any of the following and receive an age report and patch:***

- Bobcat and otter skulls or jaws.
- Bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, spotted and striped skunk and weasel carcasses (can be skinned).

**ncwildlife.gov**

- 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 their 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.

### 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).

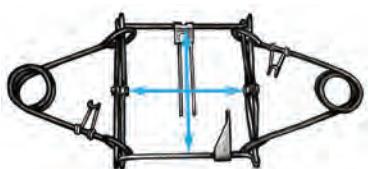


Figure 1. To measure the width and height of a Conibear™-type trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw.

- 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.

- 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).

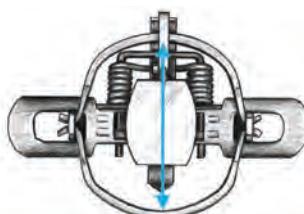


Figure 2. To measure jaw spread of a foot-hold/leghold trap, measure from inside jaw to inside jaw.

- 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.

### Submersion Traps

- Traps, other than snares and Conibear®-type traps, that are set in a manner that allow or cause the captured animal to become irreversibly submerged in water.

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 and submersion trapping systems, which must be visited at least once every 72 hours and any animal caught therein removed.

Remote trap checking systems may be used in lieu of visiting the trap, provided the system has the following features:

- a control unit that monitors the trap in real time and reports trap status and unit status to a centralized application database at least once every 12 hours;
- a software application that notifies the user of unit status, trap activity, and system health issues within 10 minutes of these events via text-based messaging systems, or an in-application notification; and
- on-demand test procedure that is used at each deployment of a unit to confirm that the unit is placed in a location where its wireless communication can be received and processed.

If the remote trap checking system control unit reports a trap closure, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed. If a remote trap checking system control unit fails to report its status after a 12 hour period, or reports a system health issue, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the last time a status report was sent. Remote trap checking system users shall maintain records of trap status and notification alarms for a period of no less than seven days after receipt. Records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a representative of the Commission.

## 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 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 (N.C.G.S. §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.

# 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 season 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, with Sunday hunting restrictions listed in the next paragraph.

On Sundays 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 Sundays 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 72 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 deer, wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals and nongame fish.
- Blunt-type arrow heads may be used in taking small game 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, cylinder, or breech 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 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 as defined on page 61.
- 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 61.
- Possession or use of substances containing a cervid (deer) excretion, including feces, urine,

blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attract, or scout wildlife are prohibited. However, the following substances may be used:

- » Synthetic products that are labeled as such
- » Products containing natural substances collected by a hunter from a cervid legally harvested in North Carolina, except in CWD Surveillance Areas
- » Natural deer urine and other substances collected from a facility in North Carolina with a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and identified and labeled as such
- » Products labeled as participating in the Responsible Hunting Scent Association's Deer Protection Program
- Placement of bait or food to congregate wildlife is prohibited in CWD surveillance areas from January 2 through August 31 each year. See pages 67 and 68 for more details.

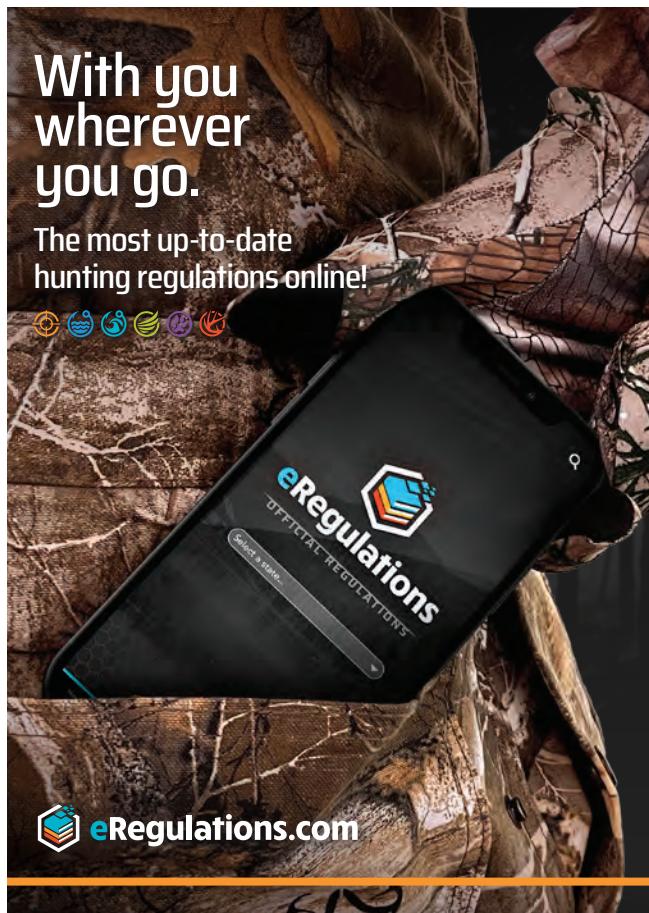
## Hunting with Dogs

- 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. 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.

## 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. 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").



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## North Carolina Trappers Association



- Non-profit organization promoting responsible regulated trapping for over 50 years
- Purchase traps and supplies at the Johnston County Livestock Arena
- Watch demonstrations to learn how to catch coyotes and nest predators to protect deer, turkeys, ducks, quail, rabbits, etc.



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

- 2025 Trapping Convention Smithfield (Sep 26 & 27)
- FREE - Basic Trapper Education Classes
- Membership Information – Sign Up Today

- 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.
- 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov) 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 74); 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 Days. 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 65.
- 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, crossbow 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).

## 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.

## 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

For wildlife violations in progress, or other wildlife questions or concerns call 800-662-7137.

## 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

### Disposal 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;
- caused 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.

See page 67 for cervid carcass movement regulations in CWD surveillance areas.

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.gov/deerdiseases](http://ncwildlife.gov/deerdiseases).

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## Big Game Harvest Reporting

Reporting big game harvests is a requirement in North Carolina. Hunters shall carry a valid paper Big Game Harvest Report Card or an electronic version on their mobile device 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.

A Big Game Report Card contains antlered deer, antlerless deer, and wild turkey tags. To add a bear tag to your report card, a Bear E-stamp item must be obtained.

### 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 paper Big Game Harvest Report Card by cutting or punching out the corresponding day and month the harvest occurred. Hunters using the Go Outdoors North Carolina App can validate and register their harvest either with or without internet service.

### 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 four ways:

1. By using the the Go Outdoors North Carolina App.

2. By calling 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required.
3. By clicking the "Report a Harvest" link located at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).
4. By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location at [license.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com/Licensing/LocateAgent.aspx](http://license.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com/Licensing/LocateAgent.aspx).

- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone can request to receive their Big Game Harvest Report Card via email. If requested, a printed paper version can also be mailed. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must retain the authorization number for the reported harvest. Immediately upon receipt of the paper 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

- Hunters using the Go Outdoors North Carolina App can validate and register their harvest in remote areas with or without internet service.
- 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 paper Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. Hunters registering a harvest on the Go Outdoors North Carolina App will have an authorization number automatically recorded on their device.

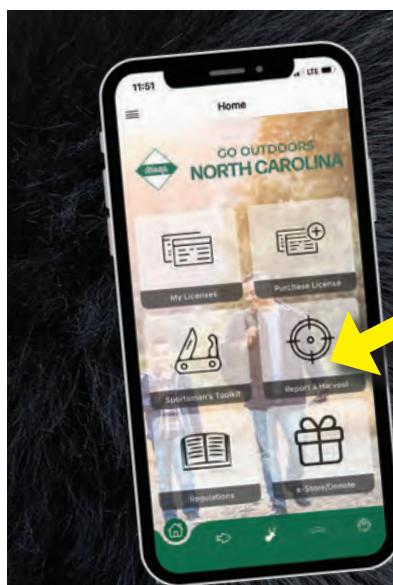
### Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters

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 833-950-0575. (Note: License-Exempt Cards (no cost) are not available online.) Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate their harvest and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed in this section.

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), Community Deer Management Program (CDMAP), or Chronic Wasting Disease Management Assistance Program (CWDMP), and opting to use the special tags, should follow the validation and registration requirements described in the participant packet. When registering their harvest, hunters will be directed to select the "Report a DMAP Tag" option and to provide the pre-printed numbers on the tag. Successful hunters shall record and maintain their authorization numbers. For more information about the DMAP, CDMAP, or CWDMP, visit [ncwildlife.gov/deer-cooperator-programs](http://ncwildlife.gov/deer-cooperator-programs).



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NORTH CAROLINA**

Required for bear, deer and wild turkey.



## 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 4 – 5, 2026	Youth under the age of <b>16</b> may hunt turkey statewide during this season, but some Game Lands require a permit (see "Game Lands" section). 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 11 – May 9, 2026	

#### Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- 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.



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## Big Game – Bear

### 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 management area. (See pages 79–80 for information on Designated Bear Management Areas.)

### Mandatory Bear Tooth Submission

- It is mandatory to submit at least one premolar tooth from your harvested bear by January 31st following the applicable bear hunting season.
- After pulling both upper premolar teeth (see ad below and instructions at [ncwildlife.gov/bearcooperator](http://ncwildlife.gov/bearcooperator)), place one of the teeth in the bear tooth envelope you received in the mail from the Commission. Save the other tooth as a backup until you have been notified by the Commission that we received your tooth.
- **If you lost the bear tooth envelope, call 919-707-0050 to have a new envelope sent to you.**

Information on the use of dogs to hunt bears and the use of unprocessed foods is on pages 54, 55, and 61.

The following additional restrictions apply to Designated Bear Management Areas:

- 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 Designated Bear Management Areas 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.
- Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on designated Designated Bear Management Areas located in and west of the counties and parts of counties in Alamance County south of I-85, Orange County south of I-85, Chatham County, Lee County, Wake County south of N.C. 98; and in and west of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, and Montgomery counties and that part of Anson County west of N.C. 742.

## BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

SEASON DATES	APPLICABLE COUNTY OR COUNTIES
<b>MOUNTAIN BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Oct. 4 – Nov. 22, 2025	In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland. <i>Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the "Game Lands" section for specific game land rules.</i>
Dec. 13, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026	
<b>PIEDMONT BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Oct. 18, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026	Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Wake, Warren
Nov. 15, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026	Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union
Nov. 22, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026	Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, Yadkin
<b>COASTAL BEAR MANAGEMENT UNIT SEASONS</b>	
Nov. 8 – 23 and Dec. 13 – Dec. 28, 2025	Zone 1: Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell
Nov. 8 – 16 and Dec. 13 – Dec. 28, 2025	Zone 2: Camden*, Chowan*, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank*, Perquimans
Nov. 8 – 16 and Dec. 13 – 28, 2025	Zone 3: Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, Washington
Nov. 15 – Dec. 14, 2025	Zone 4: Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, Wilson
Nov. 10, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026	Zone 5: 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. 7.

## ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS!

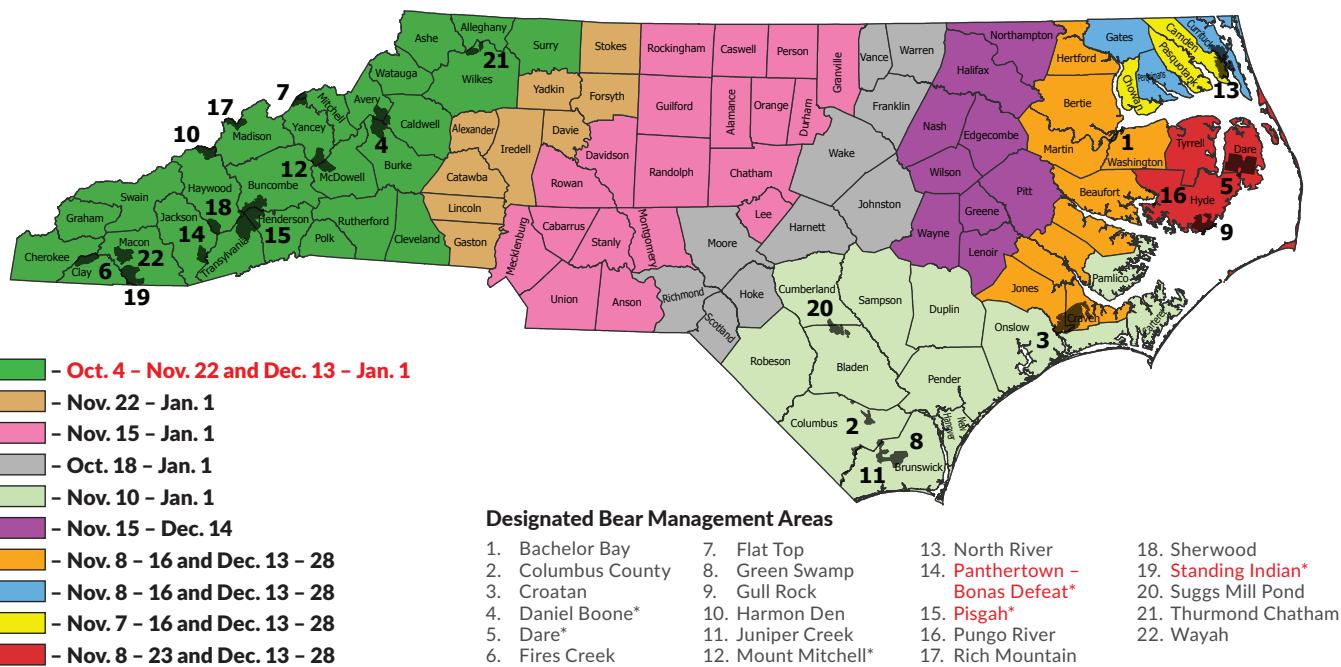
If you harvest a black bear, you must submit a premolar tooth by Jan. 31 after the season.

- Extract the premolar teeth, scan QR code for demo.
- Place one of the teeth in the bear envelope you received in the mail with your bear e-stamp info.
- Keep the other tooth as a backup.
- You will receive an age report and Cooperator hat.

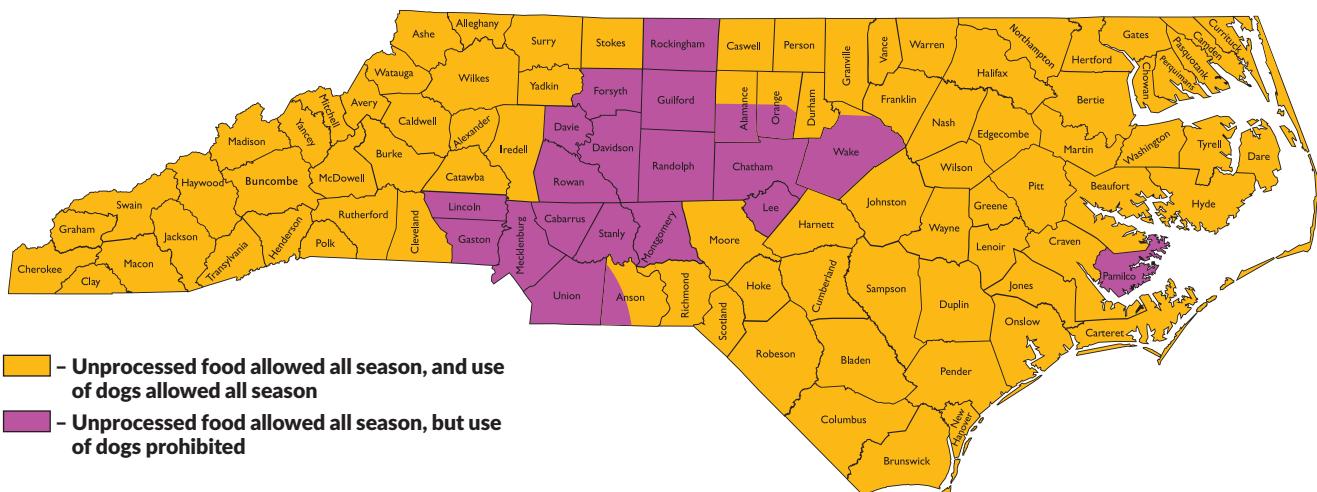
Questions? [beartooth@ncwildlife.gov](mailto:beartooth@ncwildlife.gov)  
919-707-0050



## 2025-2026 Bear Seasons



## Hunting Bear with Dogs and Using Unprocessed Foods



**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.** In all counties unprocessed foods may be used to aid in the taking of bear during any open season for bear.

\* 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.
- Place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears.

## Big Game – Deer

### DEER HUNTING SEASONS

See the map on page 66 for antlered and antlerless season dates and exceptions to the seasons listed in this table.

- Weapon seasons for deer on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located unless otherwise noted. See the "Game Lands" section for additional restrictions and Gun Antlerless Deer Season dates on game lands.

METHOD OF TAKE	SEASON DATES
<b>YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAYS</b>	
Statewide	September 27 – <b>28</b> , 2025
Western Deer Season	November 27 – 28, 2025
On these days, youth under the age of <b>16</b> may use any legal weapon to hunt antlered or antlerless deer. Hunters age <b>16</b> 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 these days, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.	
<b>NORTHEASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN ANTLERED DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 13 – Oct. 3, 2025
Blackpowder	Oct. 4 – Oct. 17, 2025
Gun	Oct. 18, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
<b>CENTRAL ANTLERED DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 13 – Oct. 31, 2025
Blackpowder	Nov. 1 – Nov. 14, 2025
Gun	Nov. 15, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
<b>NORTHWESTERN ANTLERED DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 13 – Nov. 7, 2025
Blackpowder	Nov. 8 – Nov. 21, 2025
Gun	Nov. 22, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
<b>WESTERN ANTLERED DEER SEASON</b>	
Archery	Sept. 13 – Nov. 14, 2025
Blackpowder	Nov. 15 – Nov. 28, 2025
Gun	Nov. 29, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026

### 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 Days, 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.
- Antlered deer may be taken during any open antlered deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during antlerless deer seasons.
- Antlered deer are defined as having visible antlers, 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 and CWD Surveillance Areas (see page 68).
- Possession and use of some types of natural deer excretions (including urine) is not allowed. See the section on Baiting and Attractants on pages 54 and 55 for more information.

### Weapons and Dogs

#### Archery

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

#### Blackpowder

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

#### Gun

- During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows, and slingbows, 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 listed on page 55, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 54 for details.

## BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTS



### GO OUTDOORS NORTH CAROLINA

View reported big game harvest counts  
for the current hunting season in the  
Go Outdoors North Carolina App.



## 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.
- 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 63-64). 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 [goutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://goutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).
- 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.

## Antlerless Deer Seasons

### Youth Deer Hunting Days

- Antlered and antlerless deer may be taken by hunters under the age of **16** on these days statewide and on two additional days in the western deer season (includes game lands).

## Archery Deer Season

- Antlered and antlerless deer may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands).
- Some game lands have special deer seasons that do not follow the county archery deer season. See "Game Lands" section for seasons and rules specific to the game land you will be hunting.

## Blackpowder Firearm Deer Season

- Antlerless deer may only be taken during the blackpowder firearm season dates indicated on pages 66 and 88-93.
- Some game lands have special deer seasons that do not follow the county blackpowder deer season. See "Game Lands" section for seasons and rules specific to the game land you will be hunting.

## Gun Deer Season

- Antlerless deer may only be taken during the gun season dates indicated on pages 66 and 88-93.

## Urban Archery Season

Archery only: Jan. 10 – Feb. 15, 2026

## 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.
- The season bag and possession limits described above for antlerless deer, antlered deer, and for Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards also apply during the Urban Archery Season.
- Antlered and antlerless deer may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season.

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Each feed time can vary  
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# Hunting Regulations AND INFORMATION

The 2026 participating cities, towns and villages are:

Albemarle (Stanly).....704-984-9565  
albemarleenc.gov  
Ansonville (Anson).....704-826-8404  
townoffansonville.godaddysites.com  
Archer Lodge (Johnston).....919-359-9727  
archerlodgenc.gov  
Boiling Springs (Cleveland).....704-434-9691  
boilingspringsnc.gov  
Carthage (Moore).....910-947-2331  
townofcarthage.org  
Catawba (Catawba).....828-241-2215  
townofcatawbanc.org  
Chapel Hill.....919-968-2923  
(Durham and Orange)  
townofchapelhill.org

China Grove (Rowan).....704-857-2466  
chinagrovenc.gov  
Clayton (Johnston).....919-553-5002 ext. 5402  
townofclaytonnc.org  
Cleveland (Rowan).....704-278-4777  
townofclevelandnc.gov  
Concord (Cabarrus).....704-920-5000  
concordnc.gov  
Denton (Davidson).....336-859-4231  
townofdenton.com  
East Bend (Yadkin).....336-699-8560  
eastbendnc.com  
Eden (Rockingham).....336-623-9755  
or 336-623-2110  
Elkin (Surry and Wilkes).....336-258-8900  
elkinnc.org  
Fairview (Union).....704-753-1981  
Franklinville (Randolph).....336-824-2604  
franklinvillenc.org  
Glen Alpine (Burke).....828-584-2622  
townofglenalpine.org  
Granite Quarry (Rowan).....704-279-5596  
granitequarrync.gov  
Harrisburg (Cabarrus).....704-455-0708  
harrisburgnc.org  
Huntersville (Mecklenburg).....704-875-6541  
huntersville.org/248  
Indian Trail (Union).....704-821-5401  
indiantrail.org  
Jamestown (Guilford).....336-454-1138  
jamestown-nc.gov  
Jefferson (Ashe).....336-846-9368  
townofjefferson.org  
Jonesville (Yadkin).....336-835-3426  
townofjonesvillenc.com  
Kannapolis  
(Cabarrus and Rowan).....704-920-4000  
kannapolisnc.gov  
King (Stokes).....336-983-8265  
ci.king.nc.us  
Landis (Rowan).....704-857-4114  
townoflandisnc.gov  
Lattimore (Cleveland).....704-434-2620  
facebook.com/TownofLattimore  
Lenoir (Caldwell).....828-757-2100  
cityoflenoir.com  
Lewisville (Forsyth).....336-945-5558  
lewisvillenc.net  
Locust.....704-888-5260 ext. 101  
(Cabarrus/Stanly)  
locustnc.com  
Midland (Cabarrus).....704-888-2232  
midlandnc.us  
Mineral Springs (Union).....704-243-0505  
mineralspringsnc.com  
Mooresboro (Cleveland).....N/A  
townofmooreboro.org  
Morganton (Burke).....828-438-2345  
morgantonnc.gov  
Mount Gilead (Montgomery).....910-439-5111  
mtgileadnc.com  
Nags Head/  
Kill Devil Hills (Dare).....252-441-2525  
nature.org/nhw  
New London (Stanly).....704-463-5423  
newlondonnc.org

North Wilkesboro (Wilkes).....336-667-7129  
north-wilkesboro.com  
Norwood (Stanly).....704-474-3416  
norwoodgov.com  
Oakboro (Stanly).....704-485-3351  
oakboro.com  
Oak Ridge (Guilford).....336-644-7009  
oakridgenc.com  
Pleasant Garden (Guilford).....336-674-3002  
pleasantgarden.net  
Randleman (Randolph).....336-495-7500  
cityofrandleman.com  
Red Cross (Stanly).....704-485-2002  
townoffredcross.com  
Reidsville (Rockingham).....336-349-1030  
reidsvillenc.gov  
Richfield (Stanly).....704-463-1308  
richfieldnc@aol.com  
Ronda (Wilkes).....336-835-2061  
townofronda.org  
Sanford (Lee).....919-777-1104  
sanfordnc.net  
Sawmills (Caldwell).....828-396-7903  
townofsawmills.com  
Shelby (Cleveland).....704-484-6801  
cityofshelby.com  
Stallings (Union).....704-821-8557  
stallingsnc.org  
Stanfield (Stanly).....704-888-2386  
stanfieldnc.com  
Stokesdale (Guilford).....336-643-4011  
stokesdale.org  
Summerfield (Guilford).....336-643-8655  
summerfieldnc.gov  
Trent Woods (Craven).....252-637-3030  
trentwoodspd.org  
Troutman (Iredell).....704-528-7600  
troutmannnc.gov  
Unionville (Union).....704-226-1989  
unionvillenc.org  
Valdese (Burke).....828-879-2120  
townofvaldese.com  
Wake Forest .....919-435-9623  
(Franklin and Wake)  
wakeforestnc.gov  
Waxhaw (Union).....704-843-2195 ext. 278  
waxhaw.com  
Weddington (Union).....704-846-2709  
townofweddington.com  
Wentworth (Rockingham).....336-342-6288  
townofwentworth.com  
Yadkinville (Yadkin).....336-679-8732  
yadkinville.org

## 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.

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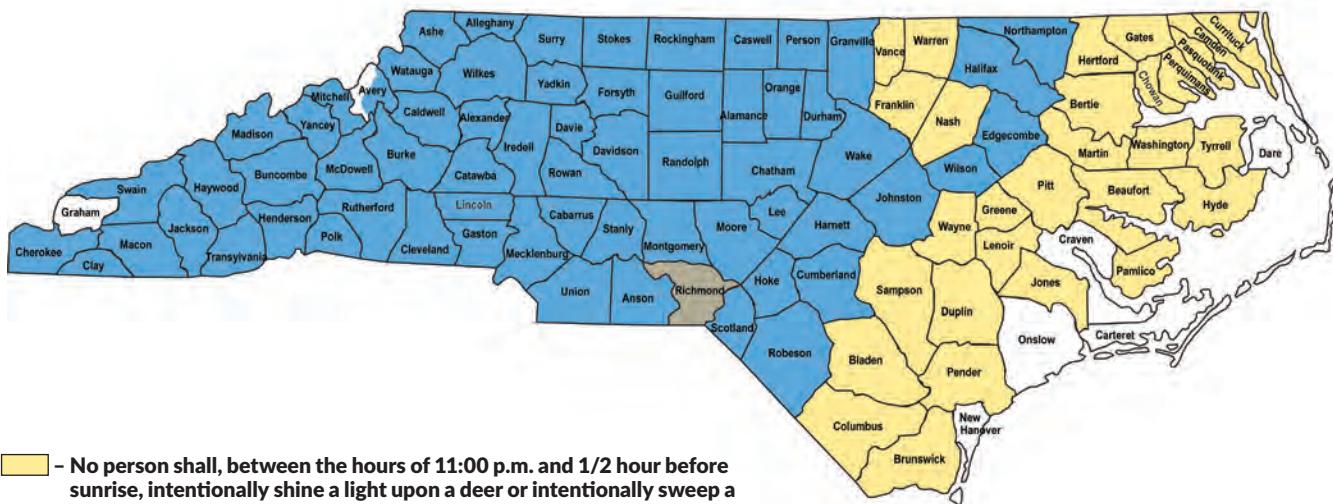


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Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products.

**Please note:** Major regulation changes appear in RED

## Shining Lights in Deer Areas



- No person shall, between the hours of 11:00 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, 2025.



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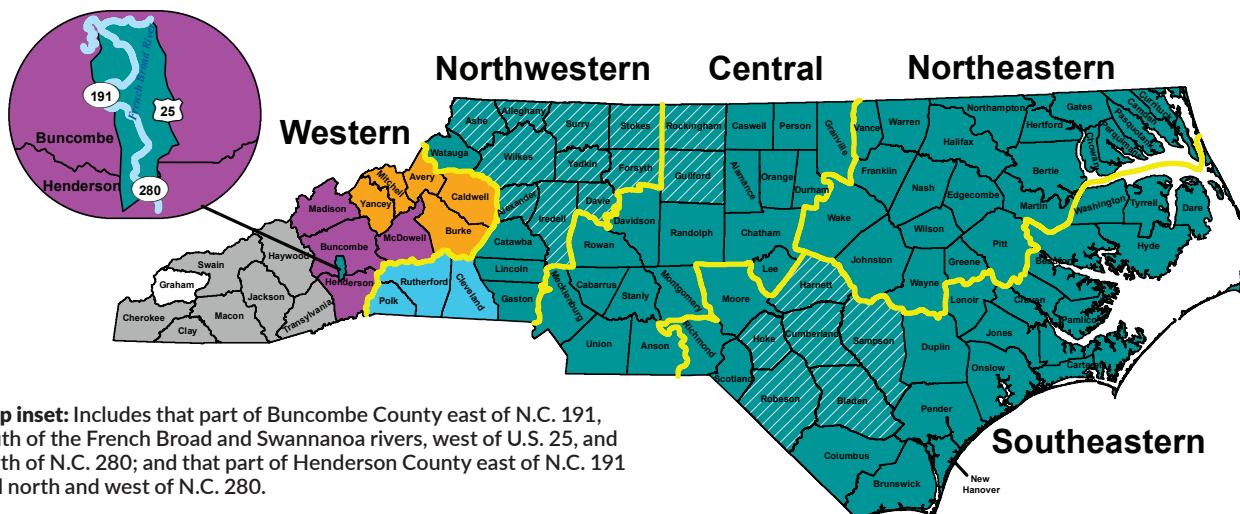


John Dudley  
@nockontv



# Deer Zone Map

**Crosshatching indicates CWD Surveillance Areas. Refer to page 67 for more information, and applicable special regulations.**



## ANTLERED DEER SEASONS

ZONE	ARCHERY	BLACKPOWDER	GUN
Western	Sept. 13 – Nov. 14, 2025	Nov. 15 – Nov. 28, 2025	Nov. 29, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
Northwestern	Sept. 13 – Nov. 7, 2025	Nov. 8 – Nov. 21, 2025	Nov. 22, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
Central	Sept. 13 – Oct. 31, 2025	Nov. 1 – Nov. 14, 2025	Nov. 15, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
Northeastern	Sept. 13 – Oct. 3, 2025	Oct. 4 – Oct. 17, 2025	Oct. 18, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026
Southeastern	Sept. 13 – Oct. 3, 2025	Oct. 4 – Oct. 17, 2025	Oct. 18, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026

## ANTLERLESS DEER SEASONS

Season	Archery	Blackpowder	Gun
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	All open days of applicable antlered blackpowder season	All open days of applicable antlered gun season
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	All open days of applicable antlered blackpowder season	Nov. 22 – Dec. 20, 2025
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	All open days of applicable antlered blackpowder season	Nov. 29 – Dec. 13, 2025
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	All open days of applicable antlered blackpowder season	Nov. 29 – Dec. 6, 2025
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	Nov. 22 – Nov. 28, 2025	Nov. 29, 2025
	All open days of applicable antlered archery season	Nov. 22, 2025	None

## Deer Seasons on Game Lands

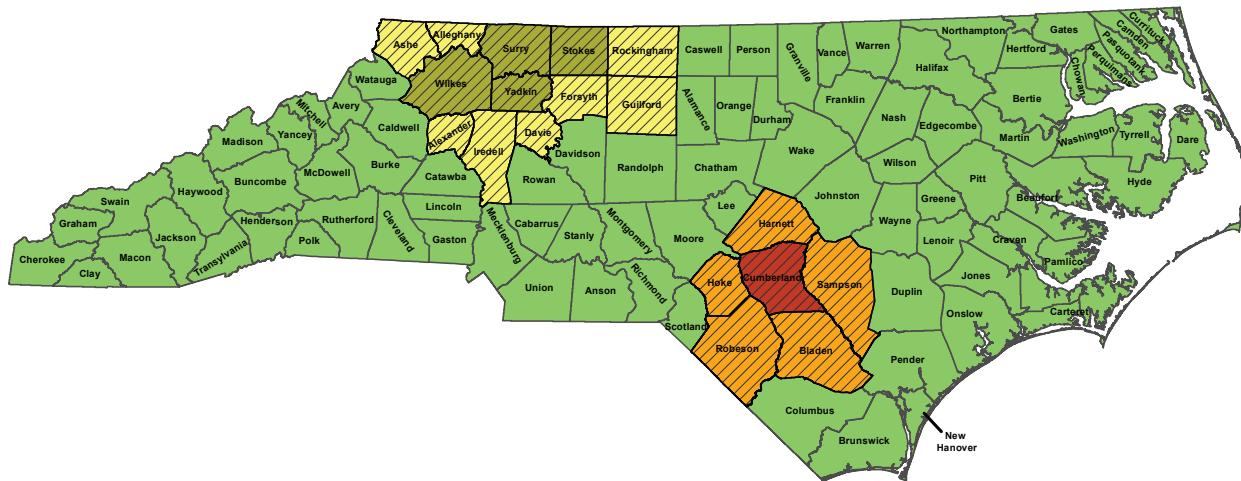
Permit requirements and allowable hunt days often differ on each game land. See "Game Lands" section for specific information on each game land before your visit.

**Antlered deer seasons on game lands** are the same as the surrounding private land, except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains game lands. Refer to the "Game Lands" section of this digest for specific antlered deer seasons and allowable hunt days on these game lands.

**Antlerless deer seasons on game lands** for archery and blackpowder seasons are the same as the surrounding private land, except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains game lands. Additionally, antlerless gun seasons are often more limited than surrounding private land. Refer to the "Game Lands" section of this digest for specific antlerless gun seasons and allowable hunt days on each game land.

# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Areas and Special Regulations

Please refer to [ncwildlife.gov/cwd](http://ncwildlife.gov/cwd) for the most current CWD testing locations, interactive maps, and regulations.



Two Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Areas are defined for the 2025–2026 hunting season. Each surveillance area contains a Primary Surveillance Area of counties in which CWD has been confirmed, and a Secondary Surveillance Area of other nearby counties.

	SURVEILLANCE AREA 1	SURVEILLANCE AREA 2	CARCASS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS
Primary Surveillance Areas	Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin <b>No Mandatory Testing</b>	Cumberland <b>No Mandatory Testing</b>	Carcasses and carcass parts may not be transported out of the county of harvest, except to a contiguous Primary Surveillance Area county and except for the deboned, capped, cleaned, or taxidermy parts described below.
Secondary Surveillance Areas	Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Rockingham <b>No Mandatory Testing</b>	Bladen, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson <b>No Mandatory Testing</b>	Carcasses and carcass parts may not be transported out of the county of harvest, except to a contiguous Primary or Secondary Surveillance Area county and except for the deboned, capped, cleaned, or taxidermy parts described below.
Non-surveillance Area	All counties not listed above <b>No Mandatory Testing</b>		Carcass and carcass parts may be transported statewide, including into or through Surveillance Areas.

## Carcass Transport Restrictions

The transportation of a deer carcass or carcass parts out of a primary or secondary surveillance area is prohibited except for the following, or as otherwise permitted by the Wildlife Commission:

- 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 free from meat or brain tissue
- Cleaned lower jawbones with teeth or cleaned teeth
- Finished taxidermy products and tanned hides

## Voluntary Testing

Voluntary testing is available across the state in CWD surveillance areas and non-surveillance areas. Samples may be submitted to a Commission-staffed facility, to a Cervid Health Cooperator, or deposited in a Commission CWD Testing Drop-off Station. Updated information on locations for submitting samples will be available by September 1, 2025 at [ncwildlife.gov/cwd](http://ncwildlife.gov/cwd).

Please be aware that the NCWRC cooperates with numerous taxidermists and deer processors across North Carolina for routine surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease. If you use these services your deer may be tested for CWD without your knowledge, but the NCWRC will inform you of the test results.

## Fawn Rehabilitation

Fawn rehabilitation within CWD Surveillance Areas is prohibited. Fawns may not be transported out of these Surveillance Areas and cannot be accepted by fawn rehabilitators.

### Wildlife Feeding and Baiting

The placement of minerals or salt to purposely congregate wildlife is prohibited in CWD Surveillance Areas. The placement of bait, food, or food products to purposefully congregate wildlife is prohibited from January 2 – August 31 in CWD Surveillance Areas, except for:

- Bird feeders
- Hunting in urban archery seasons in participating municipalities
- Other activities specifically permitted by the Wildlife Commission

### Attractants and Scents

In addition to the statewide regulations defining legal use of attractants and scents, found on page 55, the possession or use of products containing natural substances collected by a hunter from a legally harvested cervid in North Carolina is prohibited in CWD Surveillance Areas.

# KNOW CWD

**CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE** is a nervous system disease in deer that can cause population declines. It is a serious threat to North Carolina's white-tailed deer herd and hunting traditions.

#### DEER WITH CWD...

- Die within 2 years of infection
- Look healthy for 16+ months before appearing sick
- Spread the disease to other deer
- Should not be eaten



#### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Follow N.C.'s deer carcass importation rules
- Properly dispose of bones, hides, and other deer parts
- Submit your deer's head for CWD testing
- Report sick deer to **866-318-2401**



**ncwildlife.gov/CWD**

## Small Game and Other

### SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

SEASON DATES	LIMITS	SEASON DATES	LIMITS		
<b>RACCOON AND OPOSSUM</b>					
Oct. 13 – Feb. 28	Opossum: No daily, season, or possession limits Raccoon daily limit 3: No possession or season limits	Oct. 13 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping*)	Daily limit 5; 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 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. 13 – Feb. 28	Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits	Oct. 13 – Feb. 28	No daily, season, or possession limits		
Gray (statewide – private lands only): May 11 – 25, 2026	Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits	There is no closed hunting season on private lands. See "Game Lands" section for game land regulations.	No daily, season, or possession limits		
Fox Squirrel (statewide): Oct. 13 – Jan. 31	Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.</li> <li>Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.</li> <li>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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset in the above listed five counties</li> <li>All coyote hunting in the above listed five counties requires a permit</li> <li>All coyote harvests in the above listed five counties must be reported. Hunting permits and Coyote Harvest Report Forms can be found at <a href="http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com">gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)</b>					
<b>BOBCAT</b>					
<b>GROUSE</b>					
<b>QUAIL</b>					
<b>RODENTS</b>					
<b>PHEASANT</b>					
Nov. 22 – Feb. 28 (Barrier Islands of Carteret, Dare, and Hyde Counties for male pheasant only)	Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30	Sept. 1 – Feb. 28 (Remainder of state not included above for pheasants of either sex)	No daily, season, or possession limits		

## Feral Swine Trapping

Feral swine may be trapped year-round with no bag limits under the following conditions:

- A hunting or trapping license is required, except for those persons who are license-exempt (see page 10).
- A feral swine trapping permit is also required, even for those who are license-exempt. This free permit is available at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).
- Only box and corral traps can be used and the permit number must be displayed on all traps. Traps must be constructed so that a non-target animal, such as a bear, can easily escape or be released without harm.
- All feral swine must be euthanized while in the trap and may not be removed alive from any trap.
- Landowner permission is required to trap feral swine. Feral swine trapping is allowed on game lands only with permission from the Commission (919-707-0150).

Nov. 22 – Feb. 28 (Barrier Islands of Carteret, Dare, and Hyde Counties for male pheasant only)	Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30
Sept. 1 – Feb. 28 (Remainder of state not included above for pheasants of either sex)	No daily, season, or possession limits



## Dove • Pheasant • Quail

Season, Oct. 15th - March 1st



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## SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS (CONT.)

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
<b>FOX</b>	
Year Round	<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.gov/foxseasons">ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons</a> for restrictions.</li> </ul>
Nov. 22, 2025 - Jan. 1, 2026	Daily limit 2; Season 10

This season applies as follows:

- 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.
  - » 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 [ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons](http://ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons)
- Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
- In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 3 - 24, 2026	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 18 for more information on fox tags):            Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, Tyrrell</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.gov/foxseasons">ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons</a>, or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.</p>	

### BEAVER

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.

### CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES

Oct. 1 - March 31	No limits
-------------------	-----------

This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks, chukars, Hungarian partridges, and upland game birds) only.  
 No wild turkey may be taken.

## Migratory Birds

### Migratory Birds Protected

Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, 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.

### Waterbird Nesting Areas

Coastal islands and beach areas posted as "Waterbird Nesting Areas" are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons, egrets, and other waterbirds. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from March 1 – September 15 except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from September 16 – February 28 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

## 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 [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com), 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 their person a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp). The physical Federal Duck Stamp must be validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp. The electronic stamp must be available to present to a Wildlife Officer upon request via an electronic device or physical copy. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) See Page

## CROW SEASONS

SEASON DATES	LIMITS
Aug. 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	No restrictions
June 3, 2026 – July 31, 2026 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	

16 for more information on the issuance of the Federal Duck Stamp.

### North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on their person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to either a physical or electronically issued Federal Duck Stamp. Refer to the "License Type" section on page 16 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

## 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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Insta: @rma\_outfitters

[www.rmaoutfitters.com](http://www.rmaoutfitters.com)

## Migratory Game Birds – Seasons

### Shooting Hours

Unless otherwise specified, shooting hours for all migratory game birds, including waterfowl, are  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before sunrise to sunset. Hunting migratory game birds, including waterfowl, 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 impoundments 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	SEASON DATES	LIMITS	
<b>DOVE (INCLUDES MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE)</b>				
Sept. 1 – Oct. 4, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 16 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 15; either singly or in the aggregate for mourning doves and white-winged doves	<b>SNIPE</b>		
Sept. 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	Oct. 28 – Feb. 28	Daily Limit 8	
<b>RAILS (INCLUDES KING, CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA RAILS AND SORA)</b>				
Sept. 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>SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON (INCLUDES GREEN-WINGED TEAL, BLUE-WINGED TEAL AND CINNAMON TEAL)</b>		
Sept. 1 – Nov. 20	Daily Limit 6 The September Teal Season is open only in that area east of U.S. Highway 17.	<b>DUCKS</b>		
<b>GALLINULE AND MOORHEN</b>				
Sept. 1 – Nov. 20	Daily Limit 15 Gallinules and Moorhens either singly or in the aggregate	See Duck Zone Map on Page 74.	Daily Limits are the same in each duck hunting zone. Daily Limit 6 with the following restrictions: 4 total sea ducks including no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (only 1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks, 4 mallards (only 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 3 <b>pintails</b> , 2 black ducks, 2 red-heads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to Jan. 9 the scaup bag limit is 1, on Jan. 9 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. 22.	
<b>WOODCOCK</b>				
Dec. 11 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 3	Oct. 16 – Oct. 18, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 19 – Jan. 31	Inland Zone	
<b>COOTS</b>				
<b>MERGANSERS</b>				
<b>SEA DUCKS</b>				
Oct. 24 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (only 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks.	Oct. 24 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 15 coots	
Season dates same as ducks	Daily Limit 5 with no more than 2 hooded mergansers	Oct. 24 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 5 with no more than 2 hooded mergansers	
Oct. 24 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	• All sea ducks taken, whether inside or outside of the Sea Duck Area, count toward the general daily limit of 6 ducks. • In the designated Sea Duck Area (includes the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and 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) wounded waterfowl may be taken from a motorboat while under power (see Page 74).	Oct. 24 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Nov. 29 & Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (only 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks.	



## MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS (CONT.)

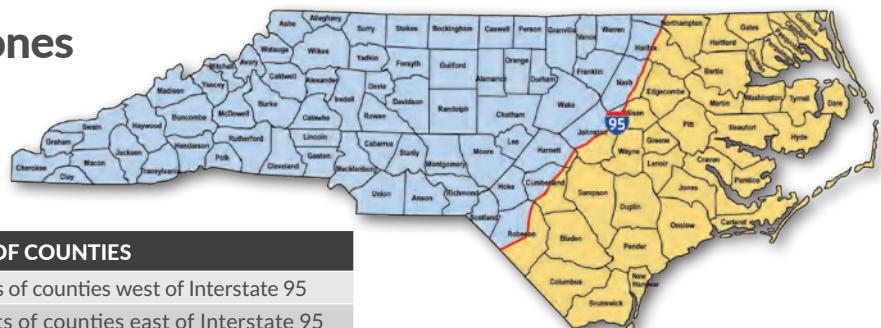
SEASON DATES	LIMITS	SEASON DATES	LIMITS		
<b>SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON</b>					
Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (Statewide. Canada Goose Zones do not apply during the month of September.)	Daily Limit 15  In that area west of U.S. Highway 17 only, expanded hunting methods are allowed for Canada geese. These include: shooting hours are extended to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset, unplugged guns are allowed, electronic calls are permitted. This applies to this area only during the month of September.	<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>• Accompanying adults that are properly licensed may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons on youth waterfowl days.</li> </ul>					
<b>CANADA GEESE (ALSO INCLUDES WHITE-FRONTED GEESE)</b>					
See Goose Zone Map on Page 74					
<b>RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE</b>					
Oct. 16 – Oct. 25, Nov. 8 – Dec. 6 & Dec. 18 – Feb. 7	Daily Limit 5 Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate.	<b>VETERANS/MILITARY WATERFOWL DAY(S)</b>			
Dec. 29 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 1 Canada goose or 1 white-fronted goose.	Dec. 6 & Feb. 7 (statewide)	Same Daily Limits as during the regular waterfowl season(s)		
<b>NORTHEAST HUNT ZONE</b>					
Dec. 29 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 1 Canada goose or 1 white-fronted goose.	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 with valid credentials, must have HIP certification and a Federal Duck Stamp.</li> <li>• Must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans.</li> </ul>					
Refer to Page 78 for guidelines on hunting game lands, including permit-only areas.					
<b>TUNDRA SWAN (BY PERMIT ONLY)</b>					
Nov. 8 – Jan. 31	1 per season with special permit	<b>EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS</b>			
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.gov">ncwildlife.gov</a> for application information and requirements.					
<b>LIGHT GEESE (INCLUDES SNOW GEESE AND ROSS'S GEESE)</b>					
<b>REGULAR SEASON</b>					
Oct. 24 – Feb. 7	Daily Limit 25; no possession limit	Oct. 6 – Oct. 18	Daily Limit 3		
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON (BY PERMIT ONLY)</b>					
Feb. 9 – Mar. 31	No Daily Limit; no possession limit	<b>DOVE (INCLUDES MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE) (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON)</b>			
<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 <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> hour past sunset.</li> <li>• To learn more or to apply for a permit go to <a href="http://ncwildlife.gov">ncwildlife.gov</a> and <a href="http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com">gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com</a>.</li> </ul>					
<b>BRANT</b>					
Dec. 29 – Jan. 31	Daily Limit 1	Dec. 6 – Jan. 10	Daily Limit 3		
<b>YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY(S)</b>					
Dec. 6 & Feb. 7 (statewide)	Same daily limits as during the regular waterfowl season(s)	<b>WOODCOCK (EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON)</b>			
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. Refer to Page 78 for guidelines on hunting game lands, including permit-only areas.					
Youth under the age of 16 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>					
<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 <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> hour before sunrise until sunset.</li> <li>• Falconry for migratory game birds is not allowed on Sundays.</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 limit may consist of 3 doves or 1 dove, 1 duck and 1 woodcock for a total of 3 migratory game birds.</li> </ul>					

## North Carolina Goose Zones (After Sept. 30)



ZONE	COUNTIES/PARTS OF COUNTIES
<span style="background-color: blue; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> - 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
<span style="background-color: yellow; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> - 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

## North Carolina Duck Zones



ZONE	COUNTIES/PARTS OF COUNTIES
<span style="background-color: lightblue; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> - Inland Zone	All counties and parts of counties west of Interstate 95
<span style="background-color: yellow; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> - Coastal Zone	All counties and parts of counties east of Interstate 95

## 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., 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 the designated Sea Duck Area;
- 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., 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 concentrating, 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 or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

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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/story/2022-04/nontoxic-shot-regulations-hunting-waterfowl-and-coots-us](https://www.fws.gov/story/2022-04/nontoxic-shot-regulations-hunting-waterfowl-and-coots-us)

## 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

See page 16 for changes to the Federal Duck Stamp language due to the Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on their person a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp). The physical Federal Duck Stamp must be validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp. The electronic stamp must be available to present to a Wildlife Officer upon request via an electronic device or physical copy.

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://www.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 recommendations 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>	4 to 5 feet long nose to tail (taller, larger, and heavier than a coyote)		No more than 3 feet long (slimmer than a red wolf)
<b>Weight</b>	~40 to 80 pounds		20 to 30 pounds on Albemarle Peninsula
<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 69 for coyote hunting regulations</li> <li>• The NCWRC 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>– More information on how to participate is at <a href="http://ncwildlife.gov/coyotepermit">ncwildlife.gov/coyotepermit</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• If you harvest a collared and/or ear tagged canid, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 252-475-8353 or 252-475-8259.</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 [nepaws.org/ncwrcmaps/gamelands](http://nepaws.org/ncwrcmaps/gamelands).

### 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 19 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 88 for 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.

### Game Lands 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 4:00 a.m., and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m.; decoys may not be set out prior to 4:00 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each day. On designated youth waterfowl days occurring after the end of the regular waterfowl seasons, youth under age 16 may hunt in these game lands impoundments until sunset (all other restrictions still apply). At all other times, youth are individuals under 16 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, ex-

cept 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 November 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.

### Prohibited on Sundays

- Hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- The use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs.
- Hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof.
- Hunting migratory game birds.

### 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 94), persons holding a Disabled Veteran or Totally Disabled License, a Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification, or a Disabled Access Permit may operate vehicles, including ATVs and all-terrain wheelchairs 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.



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- 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, 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, Hunting, and Recreating with Dogs

- Except for authorized field trials, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed from April 1 through August 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 Designated Bear Management Areas and game lands.

#### Designated Bear Management Areas

- It is unlawful to hunt bear on a designated bear management area, except by permit where allowed. (See page 61.)
- 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 Designated Bear Management Areas 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.



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- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on Designated Bear Management Areas located in and west of the counties and parts of counties in Alamance County south of I-85, Orange County south of I-85, Chatham County, Lee County, Wake County south of N.C. 98; and in and west of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, and Montgomery counties and that part of Anson County west of N.C. 742.

## 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** – Archery equipment and falconry only. On such areas, antlered or antlerless deer 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.

## 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 [ncpaws.org/ncwrcmaps/gameland](http://ncpaws.org/ncwrcmaps/gameland).

## Removal of Plants, Animals and Other Materials

Other materials includes: all metals, minerals, rocks, soil, organic debris, buildings, fences, archaeological resources as defined in G.S. 70-12, and water.

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.
- 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 that must be carried on their person at all times. 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, salamanders, all metals, minerals, rocks, soil, organic debris, buildings, fences, archaeological resources as defined in G.S. 70-12, and water.

## 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 an impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b).
- It is unlawful to litter or dispose of refuse, except in receptacles provided for the purpose.
- Attempting to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated is prohibited.
- Placing bait on game lands is prohibited without written authorization except when allowed for trapping.
- Game birds or game animals may not be taken with the aid of bait.
- The hunting of migratory game birds is prohibited on Sundays.
- 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 posted 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 88 for further restrictions.
- On game lands where the Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30-day period. A game land license is required for all campers 16 years of age and older who do not hold a valid hunting, trapping or fishing license. 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 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays on three-day-per-week game lands, until 7:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on four-day-per-week game lands, and until 12:00 midnight on Saturdays on six-day-per-week 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.
- 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.
- It is unlawful to use, enter, or remain on WRC property that is posted as closed.

### Falconry Hunting on Game Lands

Falconry may be practiced on game lands within established hunting seasons and on open hunting days, on Archery and Safety Zones in game lands, and on Sundays on Three-days-per-week and Six-days-per-week game lands.

### Trapping on Game Lands

Trapping armadillo, beaver, bobcat, coyote, groundhog, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk and weasel is permitted on game lands during the open season for that species (see page 52). Foxes can be trapped on game lands during the regulated trapping season from October 1 to the end of February in counties with a local law authorizing fox trapping in that county. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season bag limit of 10 from the 1st to the 4th Saturday in January. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during any fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of October 1 through the end of February. There is a closed trapping season on game lands from March 1 through September 30. Trapping must be in accordance with trapping regulations. Posted "Safety," "Temporary Restricted" and "Restricted" zones and the regulated areas listed below are closed to trapping:

- 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. At each trap, trap-pers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product, is less than 3 cubic inches, and is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers (including those with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

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 modified 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.

### 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before sunrise to sunset.

### 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

## Hunting On Federal Lands

State regulations and license requirements apply on federal lands. Some areas (including national forests/parks/wildlife refuges/seashores, as well as military bases) may be closed to hunting or have special restrictions. For specific property restrictions, contact the appropriate federal entity.



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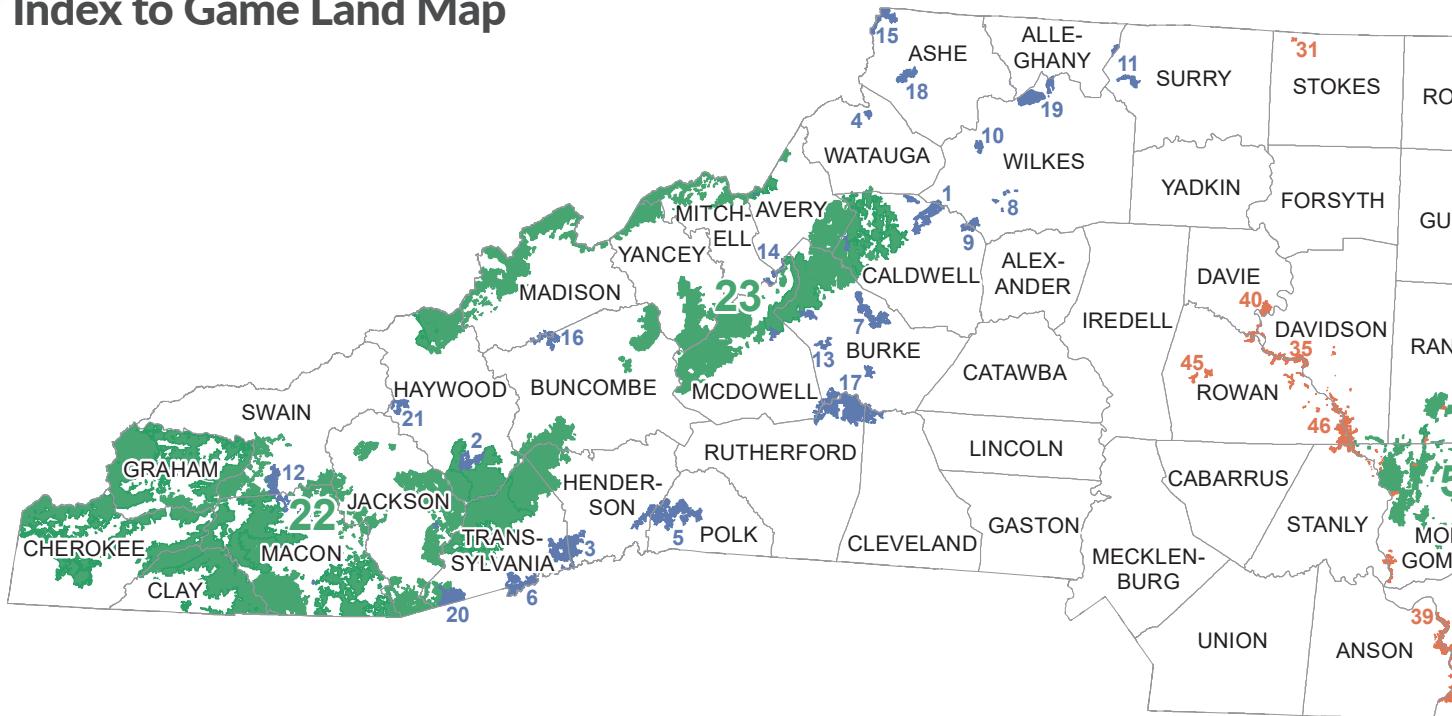


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## Index to Game Land Map

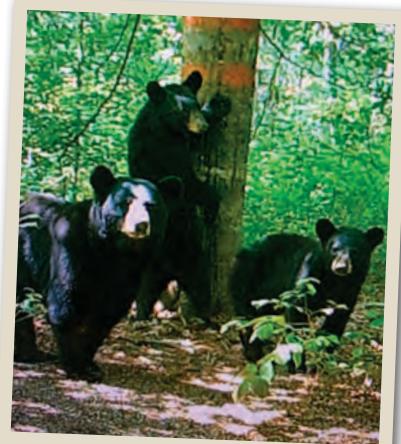


Each game land falls into one of five categories and is so designated in the individual game lands listings. A special permit may be required for some species on any of these areas (apply at [goutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://goutdoorsnorthcarolina.com)). The five designations are as follows:

- **Three-days-per-week areas (3):** Game lands on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. days when these holidays do not fall on a Sunday.
- **Four-day-per-week areas (4):** Game lands on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day,

Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. These areas are closed to hunting on other days of the week, unless specifically opened under the individual game lands listings.

- **Six-day-per-week areas (6):** Game lands on which game may be taken Monday through Saturday during the open seasons.
- **Seven-day-per-week areas (7):** Game lands on which game may be taken Monday through Sunday during the open seasons.
- **Permit-only areas (P):** 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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).
- The hunting of migratory birds is prohibited on Sunday



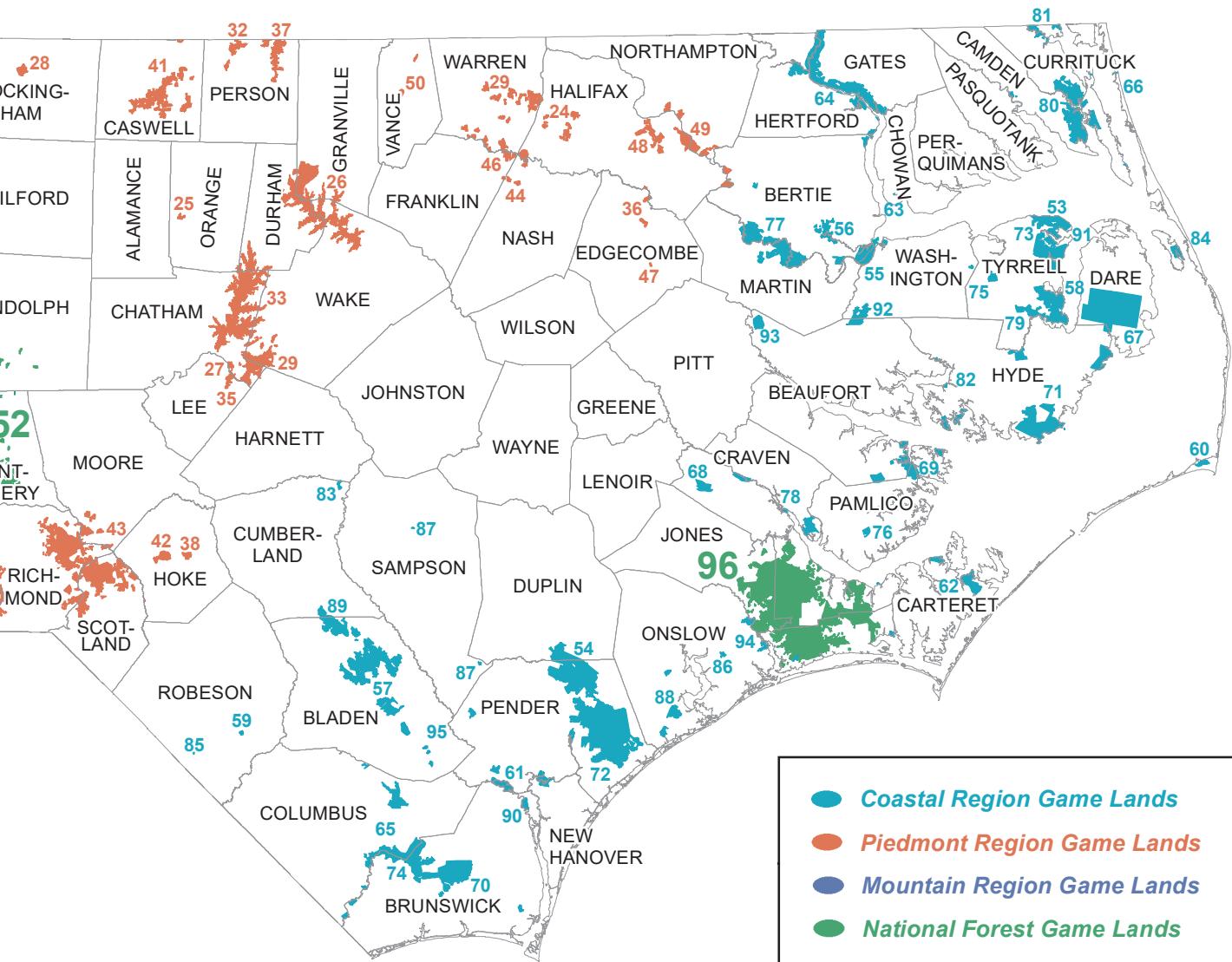
### Mountain Region

1. Buffalo Cove (7)
2. Cold Mountain (7)
3. DuPont State Forest (Permit)
4. Elk Knob (7)
5. Green River (6)
6. Headwaters State Forest (6)
7. Johns River (Permit)
8. Kerr Scott (6)
9. **Kings Creek Game Land (6)**
10. Little Fork State Forest (3)
11. Mitchell River (4)
12. Needmore (7)
13. **North Bend Game Land (P)**
14. Pisgah WRC (7)
15. Pond Mountain (7)

### Piedmont Region

16. Sandy Mush (3)
17. South Mountains (7)
18. Three Top Mountain (7)
19. Thurmond Chatham (7)
20. Toxaway (7)
21. William H. Silver (7)
22. Nantahala National Forest (7)
23. Pisgah National Forest (7)
24. Brinkleyville (7)
25. Buckhorn (Permit)
26. Butner-Falls of Neuse (6)
27. Chatham (7)
28. Dan River (3)
29. Embro (7)
30. Harris (7)
31. Hill Farm (Permit)
32. Hyco (7)
33. Jordan (6)
34. Lee (7)
35. Linwood (7)
36. Lower Fishing Creek (7)
37. Mayo (7)
38. Nicholson Creek (3)

39. Pee Dee River (7)
40. Perkins (4)
41. R. Wayne Bailey – Caswell (3)
42. Rockfish Creek (3)
43. Sandhills (3)
44. Sandy Creek (7)
45. Second Creek (Permit)
46. Shocco Creek (7)
47. Tar River (Permit)
48. Tillery (7)
49. Upper Roanoke River (Permit)
50. Vance (6)
51. Yadkin River (7)
52. Uwharrie National Forest (7)



## Coastal Region

- 53. Alligator River (7)
- 54. Angola Bay (7)
- 55. Bachelor Bay (7)
- 56. Bertie County (6)
- 57. Bladen Lakes State Forest (3)
- 58. Buckridge (3)
- 59. Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve (4)
- 60. Buxton Woods (6)
- 61. Cape Fear River Wetlands (7)
- 62. Carteret County (7)
- 63. Chowan (7)
- 64. Chowan Swamp (6)
- 65. Columbus County (4)
- 66. Currituck Banks & Currituck NWR (7)

67. Dare (7)
68. Dover Bay (6)
69. Goose Creek (7)
70. Green Swamp (6)
71. Gull Rock (7)
72. Holly Shelter (6)
73. J. Morgan Futch (Permit)
74. Juniper Creek (7)
75. Lantern Acres (6)
76. Light Mountain Pocosin (7)
77. Lower Roanoke River and Roanoke River NWR (Permit)
78. Neuse River (6)
79. New Lake (7)
80. North River (7)

81. Northwest River Marsh (7)
82. Pungo River (6)
83. Rhodes Pond (Permit)
84. Roanoke Island Marshes (Permit)
85. Robeson (4)
86. Rocky Run (Permit)
87. Sampson (4)
88. Stones Creek (6)
89. Suggs Mill Pond (Permit)
90. Sutton Lake (7)
91. Texas Plantation (Permit)
92. Van Swamp (7)
93. Voice of America (Permit)
94. White Oak River (3)
95. Whitehall Plantation (Permit)

**96. Croatan National Forest (7)**

GAME LAND	GAME LAND TYPE				PRIMARY GAME AND FISH SPECIES												ACCESS/FACILITIES					
	3-DAYS-PER-WEEK	4-DAYS-PER-WEEK	6-DAYS-PER-WEEK	7-DAYS-PER-WEEK	PERMIT HUNT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE	DEER	BEAR	TURKEY	FOX	RABBIT	RACCOON	SQUIRREL	QUAIL	GROUSE	DOVE	WATERFOWL	WARM WATER FISHES	MOUNTAIN TROUT	UNRESTRICTED CAMPING PERMITTED	CAMPING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY	NO CAMPING PERMITTED	SHOOTING RANGE
<b>COASTAL REGION</b>																						
Alligator River					7																	X
Angola Bay					7																	X
Bachelor Bay					7																	X
Bertie County				6																		X
Bladen Lakes State Forest	3																					▲
Buckridge	3																					X
Bullard & Branch		4																				X
Buxton Woods		6																				X
Cape Fear River Wetlands		7																				X
Carteret County		7																				X
Chowan		7																				X
Chowan Swamp		6																				▲
Columbus County	4																					X
Currituck Banks		7																				X
Dare		7																				X
Dover Bay		6																				X
Goose Creek		7																				▲
Green Swamp		6																				X
Gull Rock		7																				▲
Holly Shelter		6																				©
J. Morgan Futch																						X
Juniper Creek			7																			▲
Lantern Acres		6																				X
Light Ground Pocosin		7																				X
Neuse River		6																				▲
New Lake		7																				X
North River		7																				X
Northwest River Marsh		7																				X
Pungo River		6																				X
Rhodes Pond																						X
Roanoke Island Marshes																						X
Lower Roanoke River Wetlands and Roanoke River																						▲
Robeson	4																					X
Rocky Run																						X
Sampson	4																					X
Stones Creek		6																				X
Suggs Mill Pond																						▲
Sutton Lake		7																				X
Texas Plantation																						X
Van Swamp		7																				X
Voice of America																						X
White Oak River	3																					X
Whitehall Plantation																						▲

GAME LAND	GAME LAND TYPE				PERMIT HUNT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE	PRIMARY GAME AND FISH SPECIES										ACCESS/FACILITIES		
	3-DAYS-PER-WEEK	4-DAYS-PER-WEEK	6-DAYS-PER-WEEK	7-DAYS-PER-WEEK		DEER	BEAR	TURKEY	FOX	RABBIT	RACCOON	SQUIRREL	QUAIL	GROUSE	DOVE	WATERFOWL	WARM WATER FISHES	MOUNTAIN TROUT
<b>PIEDMONT REGION</b>																		
Brinkleyville				7														X
Buckhorn																		X
Butner-Falls of Neuse			6		✓	✓	✓	✓										▲
Chatham				7	✓	✓	✓	✓										X
Dan River	3				✓	✓	✓	✓										X
Embro				7														X
Harris				7														X
Hill Farm																		X
Hyco				7														X
Jordan		6			✓	✓	✓	✓										▲
Lee				7														X
Linwood				7														X
Lower Fishing Creek				7														X
Mayo				7														X
Nicholson Creek	3				✓													X
Pee Dee River			7															▲
Perkins		4																X
R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell	3				✓													▲
Rockfish Creek	3				✓													X
Sandhills	3				✓													◎
Sandy Creek			7		✓													X
Second Creek					✓													X
Shocco Creek			7		✓													▲
Tar River					✓													X
Tillery			7		✓													X
Upper Roanoke River Wetlands					✓													◎
Vance		6			✓													X
Yadkin River			7		✓													X

Note: Refer to the Hunting Regulations section of the Digest for hunting restrictions on certain species. Permit Only Areas refer to those game lands where all hunting and trapping requires a special permit. Other game lands offer special hunts or require permits to hunt certain species. Refer to the Regulations Digest and the Permit Hunt Opportunities guide for application procedures.

\* See definition of three, four, six, and seven days per week areas, and permit-only areas on page 82.

Apply for a permit hunt at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

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GAME LAND	GAME LAND TYPE				PERMIT HUNT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE	PRIMARY GAME AND FISH SPECIES										ACCESS/FACILITIES			
	3-DAYS-PER-WEEK	4-DAYS-PER-WEEK	6-DAYS-PER-WEEK	7-DAYS-PER-WEEK		DEER	BEAR	TURKEY	FOX	RABBIT	RACCOON	SQUIRREL	QUAIL	GROUSE	DOVE	WATERFOWL	WARM WATER FISHES	MOUNTAIN TROUT	
<b>MOUNTAIN REGION</b>																			
Buffalo Cove				7															▲
Cold Mountain				7															X
DuPont State Forest																			X
Elk Knob				7															X
Green River			6																▲
Headwaters State Forest			6																X
Johns River																			▲
Kerr Scott			6																X
<b>Kings Creek Game Land</b>			<b>6</b>																X
Little Fork State Forest			<b>6</b>																X
Mitchell River		4																	X
Needmore			7																X
<b>North Bend Game Land</b>																			X
Pisgah WRC			7																X
Pond Mountain			7																▲
Sandy Mush	3																		X
South Mountains			7																▲
Three Top Mountain			7																X
Thurmond Chatham			7																▲
Toxaway			7																▲
William H. Silver			7																X
<b>NATIONAL FORESTS</b>																			
Croatan			7																▲
Nantahala			7																◎
Pisgah			7																◎
Uwharrie			7																◎

Note: Refer to the Hunting Regulations section of the Digest for hunting restrictions on certain species. Permit Only Areas refer to those game lands where all hunting and trapping requires a special permit. Other game lands offer special hunts or require permits to hunt certain species. Refer to the Regulations Digest and the Permit Hunt Opportunities guide for application procedures.

\* See definition of three, four, six, and seven days per week areas, and permit-only areas on page 82.

Apply for a permit hunt at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

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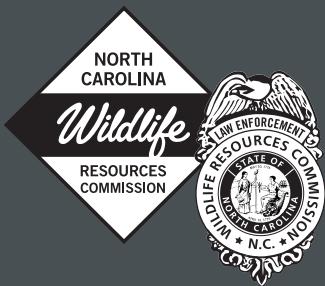
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## Deer Seasons and Other Rules Applying to Individual Game Lands

The allowable days to hunt per week is indicated next to each game land in parenthesis. Example: (7) is a 7-days-per-week game land and (P) is a permit-only game land. Refer to page 82 for definitions of each area.

Permit applications can be found at [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

### Individual Game Lands

#### Alligator River Game Land (7) – Tyrrell County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on Nov. 8, 10, 11 and Dec. 20, 22, 23.

#### Angola Bay Game Land (7) – Duplin and Pender counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### Bachelor Bay Game Land (7) – Bertie, and Washington counties.

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear hunting is prohibited on the Designated Bear Management Area.

#### Bertie County Game Land (6) – Bertie County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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 (3) – Bladen County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – 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.
- Youth-adult permit hunts are available on Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest.
- 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 (7) – Halifax County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Buckhorn Game Land (P) – Orange County

- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.

#### Buckridge Game Land (3) – Tyrrell County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on November 8, 10, 11 and December 20, 22, 23.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Buffalo Cove Game Land (7) – Caldwell and Wilkes counties

- Gun Deer Season: Nov. 29 – Jan. 1 in all portions of the game land.
- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (introductory season) in all portions of the game land.
- Blackpowder Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 in all portions of the game land. (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.)
- Archery Season: Sept. 13 – Nov. 14.
- 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.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve (4) – Robeson County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land (6) – Durham, Granville and Wake counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 in that portion in Durham and Granville counties and Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 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 Feb. and March 31 – May 14, 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, 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 – Aug. 31 and only on Sundays from Sept. 1 – May 14.

#### Buxton Woods Game Land (6) – Dare County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 24 (conservative season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land (7) – Pender and New Hanover Counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only on the Roan Island Tract.
- On the Canetuck Tract, hunting deer and bear with dogs is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### Carteret County Game Land (7) – Carteret County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (moderate season).
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- Bear hunting on the Salters Creek tract is by permit only.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land (3) – Caswell County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 15 – Nov. 26 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – Aug. 31, and on Sundays only Sept. 1 – May 15. 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 Feb. and March 31 – May 14.
- The area posted with signs stating "Caswell Small Game Focal Area, Special Regulations Apply" is closed to all quail and woodcock hunting except by permit only.
- 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 (7) – Chatham County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 (moderate season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only.
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – Aug. 31, and on Sundays only Sept. 1 – May 15.

- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is prohibited.

#### **Chowan Game Land (7) – Chowan County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### **Chowan Swamp Game Land (6) – Bertie, Gates and Hertford counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on Nov. 8, 10, 11 and Dec. 20, 22, 23, 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. 8, 10-15 and Dec. 13, 15-20 and Dec. 22-27.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. 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 (7) – Haywood County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (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.
- **Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Cold Mountain Shooting Range.**

#### **Columbus County Game Land (4) – Brunswick and Columbus Counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract is by permit only.

#### **Croatan Game Land (7) – Carteret, Jones and Craven counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- Bear hunting is prohibited on the Designated Bear Management Area.
- **Target shooting is prohibited.**

#### **Currituck Banks Game Land (7) – Currituck County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound adjacent to these game lands shall be hunted by permit only after Nov. 1.
- 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.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

#### **Dan River Game Land (3) – Rockingham County**

- Deer and turkey hunting by permit-only.
- 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 (7) – Dare and Hyde counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 24 (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 on the Dare Designated Bear Management Area.

#### **Dover Bay Game Land (6) – Craven County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### **DuPont State Forest Game Land (P) – Henderson and Transylvania counties**

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

#### **Elk Knob Game Land (7) – Watauga County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – Nov. 28 (conservative season).

#### **Embro Game Land (7) – Halifax and Warren counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### **Goose Creek Game Land (7) – Beaufort and Pamlico counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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 – Jan. 1 and April 1 – May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- On the Beaufort County portion north of N.C. 33 except for that portion east of Smith Creek and south of Campbell Creek, the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear is prohibited.
- **Deer, bear and turkey hunting on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.**

#### **Green River Game Land (6) – Henderson and Polk counties**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22, except that portion in Henderson Co. where the season is Nov. 29.
- Horseback riding is prohibited. This rule includes all equine species.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### **Green Swamp Game Land (6) – Brunswick County**

- Six-day-per-week area.
- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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.
- Bear hunting is prohibited on the Designated Bear Management Area.

#### **Gull Rock Game Land (7) – Hyde County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Waterfowl on the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment shall only be taken on the following days: 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 Nov. 8, 10, 11 and Dec. 20, 22, 23, except that portion of the game land in the Designated Bear Management Area. Bear hunting is prohibited on the Designated Bear Management Area.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- **Waterfowl hunting on the Willow Point Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.**

## Harris Game Land (7) – Chatham, Harnett and Wake counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 except those parts in Wake and Harnett counties where the season is Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (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, except on those areas posted as Archery Zones.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is prohibited.
- Except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is prohibited.

## Headwaters State Forest

### Game Land (6) – Transylvania County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29.

### Hill Farm Game Land (P) – Stokes County

### Holly Shelter Game Land (6) – Pender County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – 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 Feb. 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. 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 through the last day of Feb. and April 1 – May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits.
- 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 online 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.

### Hycos Game Land (7) – Person County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 (moderate season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.

### J. Morgan Futch Game Land (P) –

Tyrrell County

### Johns River Game Land (P) – Burke County

- 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.
- The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- **During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, the use of bicycles is restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.**

### Jordan Game Land (6) – Durham,

Chatham, Orange and Wake counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1, except that part in Wake Co. where the season is Oct. 18 – 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 allowed seven days per week from May 16 – Aug. 31, and on Sundays only from Sept. 1 – May 15. 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, except on those areas posted as Archery Zones.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. and March 31 through May 14.
- Except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is restricted to the American Tobacco Trail.

### Juniper Creek Game Land (7) –

Brunswick and Columbus counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- Bear hunting is prohibited on that portion in the Designated Bear Management Area.
- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

### Kerr Scott Game Land (6) – Wilkes County

- Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – 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.

### Kings Creek Game Land (6) –

Caldwell and Wilkes Counties

- Gun Deer Season: Nov. 29 – Jan. 1 in all portions of the game land.
- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (introductory season) in all portions of the game land.
- Blackpowder Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 in all portions of the game land. (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.)
- Archery Season: Sept. 13 – Nov. 14.

### Lantern Acres Game Land (6) – Tyrrell

and Washington counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Turkey hunting is by permit only.
- Dogs may not be used to hunt deer on the Godley Tract.
- **Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments from Oct. 1 – Feb. 14 is by permit only.**

### Lee Game Land (7) – Lee County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 (moderate season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is prohibited.

### Light Ground Pocosin Game Land (7) –

Pamlico County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

### Linwood Game Land (7) – Davidson County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

### Little Fork State Forest Game Land (6) –

Wilkes County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 22 – Dec. 3 (conservative season).
- Bear hunting is prohibited.

### Lower Fishing Creek Game Land (7) –

Edgecombe and Halifax counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (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 (7) – Person County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 (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 (4) –**

Alleghany and Surry counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 22 – 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 (7) – Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties**

- Dogs may be used to hunt feral swine during the open bear season and from January 1 – 31.
- **Bear Hunting on the Panthertown- Bonas Defeat and Standing Indian Designated Bear Management Areas is by permit only.**
- **There is no Gun Antlerless Deer Season.**

**Needmore Game Land (7) –**

Macon and Swain counties

- There is no Gun Antlerless Deer season.
- 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 (6) – Craven County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Camping is allowed but restricted to within 100 yds of the Neuse River on the Turkey Quarter Creek Island Tract (west of N.C. 43).

**New Lake Game Land (7) – Hyde**

and Tyrrell counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

**Nicholson Creek Game Land (3) –**

Hoke County

- Gun Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 15 – Dec. 13.
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 13 – Oct. 31.
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Nov. 1 – Nov. 12 (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.)
- Gun Antlerless Season: Nov. 15 (introductory season).
- The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only. (Apply at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).)
- Swimming and internal combustion engines are prohibited at Lake Upchurch.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**North Bend Game Land (P)**

- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is prohibited.
- Except for hunters in engaged in the act of hunting, bicycle riding is restricted to designated trails only.

**North River Game Land (7) –**

Camden and Currituck counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- Bear hunting is prohibited in the Designated Bear Management Area, except by permit only.
- All activities on the North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments, except waterfowl hunting and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone from Nov. 1 through March 15.

**Northwest River Marsh Game Land (7) –**

Currituck County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

**Pee Dee River Game Land (7) – Anson,**

Montgomery, Richmond and Stanly counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 except that part in Richmond Co. where the season is Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (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 U.S. 74.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – Aug. 31, and on Sundays only from Sept. 1 – May 15 only on roads open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

**Perkins Game Land (4) – Davie County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – Dec. 2 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited from Nov. 1 – Jan. 1.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Pisgah Game Land (7) – Avery, Buncombe,**

Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29, except that portion in Watauga County where the season is Nov. 22 (introductory seasons).
- Hunting raccoon, opossum and bobcat on the Harmon Den and Sherwood Designated Bear Management Areas in Haywood County is allowed.

- Bear hunting on Daniel Boone, Mt. Mitchell and Pisgah Designated Bear Management Areas 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.

- Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties). Alcohol and fires are prohibited on the Lutz track and Wilson Creek portions.

**Pond Mountain Game Land (7) – Ashe County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – Nov. 28 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except on designated trails and allowed only from May 16 – Aug. 31 and on Sundays only from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from Nov. 1 – May 15.

**Pungo River Game Land (6) – Hyde County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).

**Rhodes Pond Game Land (P) –**

Cumberland and Harnett counties

- Swimming is prohibited.

**Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land (P) –**

Dare County

**Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land (P) –**

Bertie, Halifax, Martin and Northampton counties

- 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 Feb. and March 31 – May 14. (Camping is allowed anytime within 100 yards of the Roanoke River.)
- Target shooting is prohibited.

**Robeson Game Land (4) – Robeson County**

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

**Rockfish Creek Game Land (3) – Hoke County**

- Gun Deer Season: Open days during Nov. 15 – Dec. 13.
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 13 – Oct. 31.
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Nov. 1 – Nov. 12 (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.)

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 (introductory season)
- The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only.
- Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

## **Rocky Run Game Land (P)** – Onslow County

- Target shooting is prohibited.

## **Sampson Game Land (4)** – Sampson County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.

## **Sandhills Game Land (3)** – Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties

- Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from Oct. 15 – 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. 15 – Dec. 13 (Deer with visible antlers only), except on the field-trial grounds, where the season is only on the open days during Nov. 15 – Nov. 29.
- Gun Antlerless Deer harvest by permit only.
- Archery Season: Open days during Sept. 13 – Oct. 31 (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.) and Dec. 15 – Jan. 1 (Deer with visible antlers only) except on the field trial grounds where the archery season is only on open days during Sept. 13 – Oct. 31.
- Blackpowder Season: Open days during Nov. 1 – Nov. 12 (Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on these days.) and Dec. 15 – Jan. 1 (Deer with visible antlers only) except on the field trial grounds where the blackpowder season is only on open days during Nov. 1 – Nov. 12.
- Squirrel (fox and gray) hunting on the field-trial grounds is allowed on open days during Nov. 15 – Nov. 29.
- Opossum and raccoon hunting on the field-trial grounds is allowed on open days during Oct. 13 through the last day of Feb.
- Rabbit hunting on the field-trial grounds will be allowed on open days during Nov. 15 – Nov. 29.
- 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. 15 – March 31, except by people riding in field trials.
- Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder of Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (7)** –

Franklin and Nash Counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (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 (3)** –

Buncombe and Madison County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (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.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

## **Second Creek Game Land (P)** – Rowan County

## **Shocco Creek Game Land (7)** – Franklin, Halifax, Nash and Warren counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (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.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

## **South Mountains Game Land (7)** – Burke, Cleveland, McDowell and Rutherford counties

- Gun Deer Season: Nov. 29 – Jan. 1 in all portions of the game land.
- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (introductory season) in all portions of the game land.
- Blackpowder Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 in all portions of the game land. (Antlered and antlerless deer may be taken on these days.)
- Archery Season: Sept. 13 – Nov. 14 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.

- Target shooting 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.

## **Stones Creek Game Land (6)** – Onslow County

- Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- Gun Antlerless Deer Season Oct. 18 – 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 (P)** –

Cumberland and Bladen counties

- 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 Nov. 1 – March 15 and, except for Sundays, from Nov. 1 – Jan. 31 on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake.

## **Sutton Lake Game Land (7)** – Brunswick and New Hanover counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 24 (conservative season).
- Harvesting of bear is prohibited on Sunday.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Discharge of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

## **Tar River Game Land (P)** – Edgecombe County

- Target shooting is prohibited.

## **Texas Plantation Game Land (P)** –

Tyrrell County

## **Three Top Mountain Game Land (7)** –

Ashe County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – Nov. 28 (conservative season).
- Horseback riding is prohibited. This includes all equine species.

## **Thurmond Chatham Game Land (7)** –

Alleghany and Wilkes counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 22 – Dec. 5 (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.

- Camping is restricted to Sept. 1 through the last day of Feb. and March 31 – May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

#### Tillery Game Land (7) – Halifax County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Oct. 31 (moderate season).
- Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- Dogs may not be used for hunting deer.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Toxaway Game Land (7) – Transylvania county

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (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 (7) – Davidson, Montgomery and Randolph counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28 (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 (6) – Vance County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – 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 (7) – Beaufort and Washington counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- Bear may only be taken on Nov. 8, 10, 11 and Dec. 20, 22, 23.

#### Voice of America Game Land (P) – Beaufort County

- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### White Oak River Game Land (3) – Onslow County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Open days during Oct. 18 – 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.

- 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.
- Turkey hunting is by permit only.
- Target shooting is prohibited.

#### Whitehall Plantation Game Land (P) – Bladen and Pender Counties

- 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 (7) – Haywood County

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 29 (introductory season).

#### Yadkin River Game Land (7) – Davie, Davidson, Montgomery, Rowan and Stanly counties

- Gun Antlerless Deer Season: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1, except that part in Davie County where the season is Nov. 22 – Jan. 1 (maximum season).
- On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

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## Disabled Access and Opportunities

The Wildlife Resources Commission has established increased access and opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy the State's wildlife resources. A brief description and the qualifications for each program are provided below.

### Disabled Access Program

The Disabled Access Program is designed to generally improve access for persons with disabilities on game lands where landowners agree. The Disabled Access Permit authorizes individuals 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 ungated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on certain game lands; and to have access to special waterfowl hunting blinds designed for hunters with disabilities. See table for a list of game lands or designated areas within a game land for which this permit is valid.

The disabled hunter will be issued a companion and vehicle access card. One companion may accompany the disabled hunter, provided that individual 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/nfsc/recreation/ohv](http://fs.usda.gov/activity/nfsc/recreation/ohv).

### Disabled Hunting Blinds

Disabled hunting blinds are available at several game lands throughout the state on a first-come first-served basis or through the Permit Hunt Opportunities. The blinds are enclosed 8x8 foot wooden structures with shooting windows and shooting shelves (rails) on three sides, designed specifically for wheelchair use. The fourth side of the blind has an ADA compliant door and ramp for easy entry and exit.

### Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification

The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification is a medical certification used to establish eligibility for participation in disabled permit hunt opportunities. This certification is only necessary

GAME LAND	GAME LAND TYPE				ACCESS/OPPORTUNITIES				
	3-DAYS-PER-WEEK	4-DAYS-PER-WEEK	6-DAYS-PER-WEEK	7-DAYS-PER-WEEK	PERMIT ONLY	TIER II OR III HUNT AVAILABLE	DISABLED SPORTSMEN ACCESS ROAD(S)	HANDICAPPED WATERFOWL BLIND	
<b>COASTAL REGION</b>									
Bertie County			X				X		X
Bladen Lakes State Forest	X						X		
Croatan National Forest			X			X		X	
Goose Creek			X			X		X	
Gull Rock			X					X	
Holly Shelter		X				X	X		X X
J. Morgan Futch				X	X			X	
Juniper Creek		X					X		X
Lantern Acres	X						X		X
Lower Roanoke River Wetlands and Roanoke River			X	X			X		X
Stones Creek		X							
Suggs Mill Pond			X	X			X		X
White Oak River	X				X	X			X
<b>PIEDMONT REGION</b>									
Butner Falls of Neuse		X				X		X	
Pee Dee River			X						X
R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell	X					X	X		X X
Rockfish Creek	X						X		
Sandhills	X					X			X X
Tillery			X				X		
Upper Roanoke River Wetlands				X	X		X		X X
Uwharrie National Forest			X						X
<b>MOUNTAINS REGION</b>									
Cold Mountain			X						X
DuPont				X	X				
Green River		X							X
Johns River				X	X		X		X
Needmore			X				X		X
Pisgah			X						X
Sandy Mush	X						X		X
South Mountains			X				X		X
Thurmond Chatham			X		X		X		X
Toxaway			X		X				

NOTE: Refer to interactive game land map at [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov) and download "Detailed Map (PDF)" of each game land for details on access.

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.

#### Qualifications

Medical certification in one of the following disabilities:

- Missing 50% 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.

#### Disabled Permit Hunts

The Commission has a three-tier permit hunting system for hunters with disabilities designed to offer a variety of opportunities with different levels of support.

**Tier I** hunts are those on game lands where areas and access have been designated for hunters with disabilities. These hunts are not a part of the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program and do not require a special hunt permit, but may require a Disabled Access Permit.

**Tier II** hunts are those on game lands and refuges that are included in the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program and allow managed participation for hunters with disabilities and their companion in order to provide unique hunting opportunities. A permit is required for these hunts. Some may have designated blinds.

**Tier III** hunts are Commission-facilitated and assisted hunts located on a game land within each region. These hunts offer managed participation for hunters with disabilities and their companion in areas where blinds are provided and offer a unique hunting opportunity. A permit and orientation are required for these hunts.

To qualify for a disabled hunt permit, individuals must possess at least one of the following:

- Disabled Veteran License
- Totally Disabled License
- Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification and valid hunting license

For more information on disabled hunt opportunities, visit [gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).

Applicants will be charged a \$10 nonrefundable administrative fee that covers all disabled hunts applied for in one transaction.

- Unless otherwise stated, permit holders may bring a companion to assist and hunt. The companion must carry the companion card received with the permit and must hunt alongside the permit holder at all times. There is no fee or application required for the companion. Companions may not apply for disabled hunts individually.
- On multiple day hunts, the companion may be different for each hunt day as long as they have the companion card.
- If orientation is required, the disabled hunter must attend in order for the permit to be valid.

#### Huntmaster Units

The Commission has 10 Huntmaster mobile hunting and wildlife viewing blinds that can be set up by one individual for hunting or wildlife watching activities. Huntmasters feature all-steel heavy-duty construction throughout. A fail-safe hydraulic system is powered by a solar-powered, 12v deep-cycle battery. Set-up features include four rugged, steel-beam outriggers, each with adjustable stabilizers. The Huntmaster has a 6x6-foot interior and can lift up to 750 pounds to 20 feet, providing a great vantage point and reducing the element of human scent.

Through partnership with N.C. Handicapped Sportsman, the Commission offers 10 Huntmaster mobile hunting and wildlife viewing blinds across the state that may be reserved for organized wildlife recreation events. Applications require the name and contact information of the organization holding the event. The Huntmaster may also be reserved for use at expos or other special events to promote hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for disabled North Carolinians. For more information visit: [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

#### Track Chairs

To provide opportunity to individuals with limited mobility to experience and enjoy wildlife-associated recreation, the Commission, with the help of generous donors like the N.C. Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, offers nine Action Trackchairs® (Model ST20) across the state.

Trackchairs are available on a first-come, first-reserved basis at no cost. Trackchairs are equipped with rubberized tracks and two 12-volt batteries, allowing the user to overcome many types of terrain for up to five hours or seven miles. Each one is outfitted with a fishing rod and long gun holder, but can be used for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife-watching, birding, and many other outdoor activities.

Each Trackchair is stored in an enclosed tow-behind trailer and may be checked-out by the user or their companion (companions are required for users under 18 years of age) and used across North Carolina. Trackchairs can be used on open game lands and other accessible and open public and private land. Always verify accessibility prior to your trip by contacting the appropriate management organization or landowner. For more information and to reserve a Trackchair, visit [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

#### Shooting Ranges

There are 10 ADA compliant, public shooting ranges across the state. Each range has handicapped parking, paved sidewalk access, and at least one shooting bench set to ADA height standards for wheelchair users. For specific information on accessible infrastructure at each range, visit [ncwildlife.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov).

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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.gov](http://ncwildlife.gov) 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.
- Unlawful to enter upon private lands of another to hunt or fish or with the intent to hunt or fish without the written permission of the owner or lessee. Written permission shall be dated and valid for one year. If permission is given to a hunt club to hunt by the owner or lessee of land, each member of the hunt club must carry a copy of the written permission along with certification from the hunt club designating the person to be a person of said club.

#### 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.

#### Ashe

- 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.



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### 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.
- 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 Antlerless Deer 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

antlered or antlerless deer 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/southeast/reading-room/?search=Currituck+hunt](http://fws.gov/southeast/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.com](http://currituckgamecommission.com), 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 252-475-5633.

## 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.

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 unlawful to leave or place any equipment or vessels that may be used for the purpose of taking migratory waterfowl, including, but not limited to, mobile or temporary blinds, layout boats, and decoys between two hours after sunset and 4:00 a.m. each day unless remaining on a portion of the shoreline or attached to a dock as authorized by the owner of the shoreline or dock.

**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  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after sunset and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before sunrise.

## Johnston

- It is unlawful to take wildlife or attempt to take wildlife on the land of another, or to 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 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.
- 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 (i.e. .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.
- It is unlawful to hunt on OR discharge any 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 is unlawful to leave or place any equipment or vessels that may be used for the purpose of taking migratory waterfowl, including, but not limited to, mobile or temporary blinds, layout boats, and decoys between two hours after sunset and 4:00 a.m. each day unless remaining on a portion of the shoreline or attached to a dock as authorized by the owner of the shoreline or dock.

## 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 rimfire 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. 2025	SEPT. 2025	OCT. 2025	NOV. 2025	DEC. 2025	JAN. 2026	FEB. 2026	MAR. 2026	APR. 2026	MAY. 2026	JUN. 2026	JUL. 2026
DATE	RISE/SET a.m./p.m.											
01	<b>6:31/8:28</b>	<b>6:55/7:51</b>	<b>7:17/7:08</b>	<b>7:44/6:30</b>	7:13/5:13	7:31/5:24	7:21/5:53	6:51/6:20	<b>7:08/7:46</b>	<b>6:30/8:10</b>	<b>6:08/8:34</b>	<b>6:11/8:43</b>
02	<b>6:32/8:27</b>	<b>6:56/7:50</b>	<b>7:18/7:07</b>	6:45/5:29	7:14/5:13	7:31/5:25	7:20/5:54	6:50/6:21	<b>7:07/7:47</b>	<b>6:29/8:11</b>	<b>6:08/8:35</b>	<b>6:12/8:43</b>
03	<b>6:34/8:26</b>	<b>6:56/7:49</b>	<b>7:19/7:06</b>	6:46/5:28	7:15/5:13	7:31/5:26	7:20/5:55	6:49/6:22	<b>7:06/7:47</b>	<b>6:28/8:12</b>	<b>6:07/8:35</b>	<b>6:12/8:43</b>
04	<b>6:34/8:25</b>	<b>6:57/7:47</b>	<b>7:20/7:04</b>	6:47/5:27	7:15/5:13	7:31/5:26	7:19/5:56	6:48/6:23	<b>7:04/7:48</b>	<b>6:27/8:13</b>	<b>6:08/8:36</b>	<b>6:13/8:43</b>
05	<b>6:34/8:24</b>	<b>6:58/7:46</b>	<b>7:20/7:03</b>	6:48/5:26	7:16/5:13	7:31/5:27	7:18/5:57	6:46/6:24	<b>7:03/7:49</b>	<b>6:26/8:14</b>	<b>6:07/8:36</b>	<b>6:13/8:43</b>
06	<b>6:35/8:23</b>	<b>6:59/7:44</b>	<b>7:21/7:01</b>	6:49/5:26	7:17/5:13	7:31/5:28	7:17/5:58	6:45/6:25	<b>7:01/7:50</b>	<b>6:25/8:15</b>	<b>6:07/8:37</b>	<b>6:14/8:43</b>
07	<b>6:36/8:22</b>	<b>6:59/7:43</b>	<b>7:22/7:00</b>	6:50/5:25	7:18/5:13	7:31/5:29	7:16/5:59	6:44/6:26	<b>7:00/7:51</b>	<b>6:24/8:15</b>	<b>6:07/8:37</b>	<b>6:14/8:43</b>
08	<b>6:37/8:21</b>	<b>7:00/7:42</b>	<b>7:23/6:59</b>	6:51/5:24	7:19/5:13	7:31/5:30	7:15/6:00	<b>7:42/7:27</b>	<b>6:59/7:52</b>	<b>6:23/8:16</b>	<b>6:07/8:38</b>	<b>6:15/8:42</b>
09	<b>6:38/8:20</b>	<b>7:01/7:40</b>	<b>7:24/6:57</b>	6:52/5:23	7:19/5:13	7:31/5:31	7:14/6:01	<b>7:41/7:27</b>	<b>6:57/7:52</b>	<b>6:23/8:17</b>	<b>6:07/8:38</b>	<b>6:15/8:42</b>
10	<b>6:38/8:19</b>	<b>7:02/7:39</b>	<b>7:24/6:56</b>	6:53/5:22	7:20/5:13	7:31/5:32	7:13/6:02	<b>7:40/7:28</b>	<b>6:56/7:53</b>	<b>6:22/8:18</b>	<b>6:07/8:39</b>	<b>6:16/8:42</b>
11	<b>6:39/8:18</b>	<b>7:02/7:37</b>	<b>7:25/6:55</b>	6:54/5:22	7:21/5:13	7:31/5:32	7:12/6:03	<b>7:38/7:29</b>	<b>6:55/7:54</b>	<b>6:21/8:19</b>	<b>6:07/8:39</b>	<b>6:16/8:41</b>
12	<b>6:40/8:17</b>	<b>7:03/7:36</b>	<b>7:26/6:53</b>	6:55/5:21	7:22/5:14	7:31/5:33	7:11/6:04	<b>7:37/7:30</b>	<b>6:53/7:55</b>	<b>6:20/8:19</b>	<b>6:07/8:40</b>	<b>6:17/8:41</b>
13	<b>6:40/8:16</b>	<b>7:04/7:34</b>	<b>7:27/6:52</b>	6:56/5:20	7:22/5:14	7:31/5:34	7:10/6:05	<b>7:35/7:31</b>	<b>6:52/7:56</b>	<b>6:19/8:20</b>	<b>6:07/8:40</b>	<b>6:18/8:41</b>
14	<b>6:41/8:14</b>	<b>7:05/7:33</b>	<b>7:28/6:51</b>	6:57/5:20	7:23/5:14	7:30/5:35	7:09/6:06	<b>7:34/7:32</b>	<b>6:51/7:57</b>	<b>6:18/8:21</b>	<b>6:07/8:40</b>	<b>6:18/8:40</b>
15	<b>6:42/8:13</b>	<b>7:05/7:32</b>	<b>7:29/6:49</b>	6:58/5:19	7:24/5:14	7:30/5:36	7:08/6:07	<b>7:33/7:33</b>	<b>6:49/7:57</b>	<b>6:18/8:22</b>	<b>6:07/8:41</b>	<b>6:19/8:40</b>
16	<b>6:43/8:12</b>	<b>7:06/7:30</b>	<b>7:29/6:48</b>	6:59/5:18	7:24/5:15	7:30/5:37	7:07/6:08	<b>7:31/7:33</b>	<b>6:48/7:58</b>	<b>6:17/8:23</b>	<b>6:07/8:41</b>	<b>6:20/8:39</b>
17	<b>6:44/8:11</b>	<b>7:07/7:29</b>	<b>7:30/6:47</b>	7:00/5:18	7:25/5:15	7:30/5:38	7:06/6:09	<b>7:30/7:34</b>	<b>6:47/7:59</b>	<b>6:16/8:23</b>	<b>6:07/8:42</b>	<b>6:20/8:39</b>
18	<b>6:44/8:10</b>	<b>7:07/7:27</b>	<b>7:31/6:46</b>	7:01/5:17	7:26/5:16	7:29/5:39	7:05/6:10	<b>7:28/7:35</b>	<b>6:46/8:00</b>	<b>6:15/8:24</b>	<b>6:07/8:42</b>	<b>6:21/8:38</b>
19	<b>6:45/8:08</b>	<b>7:08/7:26</b>	<b>7:32/6:44</b>	7:02/5:17	7:26/5:16	7:29/5:40	7:04/6:11	<b>7:27/7:35</b>	<b>6:44/8:01</b>	<b>6:15/8:25</b>	<b>6:07/8:42</b>	<b>6:22/8:38</b>
20	<b>6:46/8:07</b>	<b>7:09/7:24</b>	<b>7:33/6:43</b>	7:03/5:16	7:27/5:16	7:28/5:41	7:03/6:12	<b>7:26/7:36</b>	<b>6:43/8:01</b>	<b>6:14/8:26</b>	<b>6:08/8:42</b>	<b>6:22/8:37</b>
21	<b>6:47/8:06</b>	<b>7:10/7:23</b>	<b>7:34/6:42</b>	7:04/5:16	7:27/5:17	7:28/5:42	7:01/6:12	<b>7:24/7:37</b>	<b>6:42/8:02</b>	<b>6:14/8:26</b>	<b>6:08/8:43</b>	<b>6:23/8:37</b>
22	<b>6:47/8:05</b>	<b>7:10/7:21</b>	<b>7:35/6:41</b>	7:05/5:15	7:28/5:17	7:28/5:43	7:00/6:14	<b>7:23/7:38</b>	<b>6:41/8:03</b>	<b>6:13/8:27</b>	<b>6:08/8:43</b>	<b>6:24/8:36</b>
23	<b>6:48/8:03</b>	<b>7:11/7:20</b>	<b>7:36/6:40</b>	7:06/5:15	7:28/5:18	7:27/5:44	6:59/6:15	<b>7:21/7:39</b>	<b>6:39/8:04</b>	<b>6:12/8:28</b>	<b>6:08/8:43</b>	<b>6:25/8:35</b>
24	<b>6:49/8:02</b>	<b>7:12/7:18</b>	<b>7:36/6:38</b>	7:06/5:15	7:29/5:19	7:27/5:45	6:58/6:16	<b>7:20/7:40</b>	<b>6:38/8:05</b>	<b>6:12/8:29</b>	<b>6:09/8:43</b>	<b>6:25/8:35</b>
25	<b>6:50/8:01</b>	<b>7:13/7:17</b>	<b>7:37/6:37</b>	7:07/5:14	7:29/5:19	7:26/5:46	6:57/6:17	<b>7:19/7:41</b>	<b>6:37/8:06</b>	<b>6:11/8:29</b>	<b>6:09/8:43</b>	<b>6:26/8:34</b>
26	<b>6:50/7:59</b>	<b>7:13/7:16</b>	<b>7:38/6:36</b>	7:08/5:14	7:29/5:20	7:25/5:47	6:55/6:18	<b>7:17/7:42</b>	<b>6:36/8:06</b>	<b>6:11/8:30</b>	<b>6:09/8:43</b>	<b>6:27/8:33</b>
27	<b>6:51/7:58</b>	<b>7:14/7:14</b>	<b>7:39/6:35</b>	7:09/5:14	7:30/5:20	7:25/5:48	6:54/6:19	<b>7:16/7:42</b>	<b>6:35/8:07</b>	<b>6:10/8:31</b>	<b>6:10/8:43</b>	<b>6:27/8:32</b>
28	<b>6:52/7:57</b>	<b>7:15/7:13</b>	<b>7:40/6:34</b>	7:10/5:14	7:30/5:21	7:24/5:49	6:53/6:20	<b>7:14/7:43</b>	<b>6:34/8:08</b>	<b>6:10/8:31</b>	<b>6:10/8:44</b>	<b>6:28/8:32</b>
29	<b>6:53/7:55</b>	<b>7:16/7:11</b>	<b>7:41/6:33</b>	7:11/5:13	7:30/5:22	7:23/5:50		<b>7:13/7:44</b>	<b>6:33/8:09</b>	<b>6:10/8:32</b>	<b>6:10/8:44</b>	<b>6:29/8:31</b>
30	<b>6:53/7:54</b>	<b>7:17/7:10</b>	<b>7:42/6:32</b>	7:12/5:13	7:30/5:22	7:23/5:51		<b>7:12/7:45</b>	<b>6:31/8:10</b>	<b>6:09/8:33</b>	<b>6:11/8:43</b>	<b>6:30/8:30</b>
31	<b>6:54/7:53</b>							<b>7:10/7:46</b>		<b>6:09/8:33</b>		<b>6:30/8:29</b>

\* Boldface type = Daylight Savings Time

To determine sunrise and sunset times for the following N.C. locations:

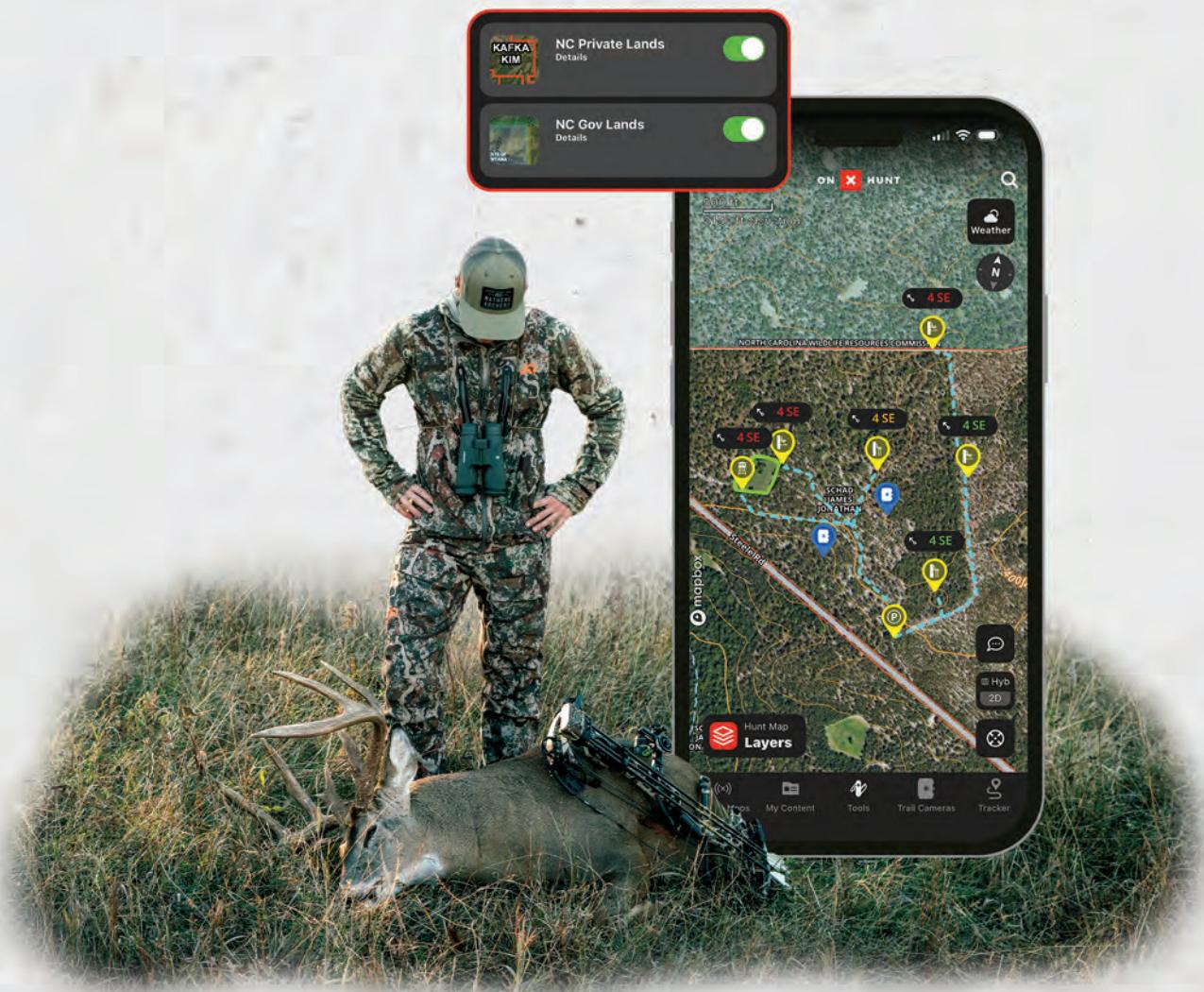
Add or subtract minutes as indicated below from the Sunrise and Sunset Table at top of this page:

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

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