LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All hunters 16 years of age or older must obtain a state hunting license. Several license types are available. See the 2014–2015 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for more information on license types and requirements.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP):

All hunters pursuing migratory game birds (doves, woodcock, waterfowl etc.) must obtain HIP certification prior to hunting. In North Carolina, HIP certification is free of charge and can be obtained at a Wildlife Service Agent (license agent), by phone at 888-248-6834 or online at ncwildlife.org. When obtaining online, lifetime license holders should click on the lifetime license holder seasonal information button. While obtaining HIP certification, you will be asked a series of screening questions that identify which species of migratory game birds you have hunted in the past and general success. These screening questions simply identify you as a migratory game bird hunter. You may be contacted at a later date by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to participate in additional voluntary harvest surveys. Hunters must be HIP certified in North Carolina even if they have been HIP certified in another state. Persons exempt by law from the state hunting license requirement are not required to obtain the HIP certification.

NORTH CAROLINA WATERFOWL PRIVILEGE AND STAMP:

For resident hunters, this additional privilege and fee is not required if you hold a Sportsman’s License (lifetime, disabled, or annual), or a Comprehensive Hunting License (lifetime or annual). You are required to purchase this additional privilege for all other license types. For non-resident hunters this fee is not required for Lifetime Sportman’s license holders, but is required for those non-residents holding a short-term or basic non-resident hunting license. Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes. Call 1-888-248-6834 for more information.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP:

Waterfowl hunters are required to carry on their possession the Federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. Federal duck stamps can be obtained at most U.S. Post Offices or at selected Wildlife Service Agents. Visit duckstamp.com or ncwildlife.org to order the duck stamp online or to find the duck stamp retailer nearest you.
**2014–2015 SEASON DATES & BAG LIMITS**

* Possession Limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise noted.

**Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**

* **Season Dates:** October 1st–October 4th, November 8th–November 29th and December 13th–January 24th (Black ducks and/or mottled ducks may not be taken until November 22nd)

* **Daily Bag:** 6 ducks including no more than 4 scoters, 4 mallards (only 2 can be hen mallards), 2 scap, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 1 canvasback, 1 black or mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

* **Additional Daily Bag Limits:** 15 coots and 5 mergansers (only 2 can be hooded mergansers).

**Brant**

* **Season Dates:** December 22nd–January 24th

* **Daily Bag:** 2

**Sea Ducks** (in special sea duck area only)

* **Season Dates:** October 1st–January 31st

* **Daily Bag:** 7 sea ducks (in special sea duck area only). In other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit. No more than 4 scoters may be taken in either season.

The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and long-tailed ducks), except during the regular duck season shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular duck season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.

**Light Geese**

* **Season Dates:** October 15–October 18th and November 8th–March 7th

* **Daily Bag:** 25 (no possession limit)

* **Note:** Electronic calls and unplugged guns are allowed for Light Geese from February 9th–March 7th

**Tundra Swan**

* **Season Dates:** November 8th–January 31st

1 per season by permit only—5,000 permits will be issued

**Sea Ducks** (in special sea duck area only)

* **Season Dates:** October 1st–January 31st

* **Daily Bag:** 7 sea ducks (in special sea duck area only). In other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit. No more than 4 scoters may be taken in either season.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS**

Species include ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and tundra swans. The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan or a Canada goose (NE Hunt Zone only).

* **Note:** Youth must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult. The adult cannot duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

**SHOOTING HOURS**

Shooting hours for all species are 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

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**NORTH CAROLINA GOOSE ZONES**

See also page 54 in the 2014–15 Regulations Digest or online at ncwildlife.org

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