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 from the Wildlife Resources Commission, at ncwildlife.org (see Fishing—Where to Fish—Coastal, Joint and Inland Fishing Waters Designations in N.C.), or by calling 919-707-0220. Maps are also available at ncwildlife.org/fishingmap.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR JOINT FISHING WATERS

- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) less than 18 inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) between 22 and 27 inches in length in the joint waters of the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) from May 1 through Sept. 30 in the joint waters of the Central-Southern and Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Areas.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) in the joint waters of the Cape Fear River.
- It is unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit of striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid), in combination, per person per day, regardless of the number of management areas fished.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) that are not in agreement with size and creel limits of the waters being fished, regardless of other management areas that may have been fished that day.
- It is unlawful to net fish for striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) in joint waters except as authorized by rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- It is unlawful to use seines, gill nets or trawl nets in the Lake Mattamuskeet canals.
- It is unlawful to use any net, net stakes, or electrical fishing device within 800 feet downstream of the dam at Lock No. 1 on the Cape Fear River.
- It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American or hickory shad in aggregate, per person per day, taken by hook-and-line. For the current daily creel limits for American shad, see portal.ncdcr.org/web/ml/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits. Otherwise, in joint fishing waters, commercial fishing and licensing—including commercial trotlines—are subject to the coastal fishing laws and regulations; inland game fish and hook-and-line licensing—exclusive of commercial trotlines—are subject to the inland fishing laws and regulations.

How to Measure Inland Game Fish The harvest of several game fishes is regulated by length limits. Fish length is determined by measuring along a straight line (in other words, 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.

INLAND GAME FISH

The following fishes are designated as inland game fish:

- Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)
- Crappie (white and black)
- Sunfish
- Bluegill
- Redbreast sunfish (robin)
- Redear sunfish (shellcracker)
- Pumpkinseed
- Warmouth
- Green sunfish
- Roanoke bass
- Rock bass
- Fluer
- All other species of the family Centrarchidae
- Mountain trout (including but not limited to brook, brown and rainbow trout)
- Kokanee salmon
- Walleye
- Sauger
- Pickerel, chain (jack) and redfin
- Muskellunge
- White bass, in inland waters
- Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid), in inland waters
- Striped bass, in inland waters
- Shad (American and hickory), in inland waters
- White perch, in inland waters
- Yellow perch, in inland waters
- Spotted sea trout, in inland waters
- Flounder, in inland waters
- Red drum (channel bass, red fish and puppy drum), 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.
- 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 30–34) and are subject to daily creel limits (see page 20).
- In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of the U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook may be used from April 1 to June 30. “Barbless” means that the hook either does not have a barb or that the barb is bent down.
- White perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes in all impounded waters west of Interstate 95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.).
Possession and Use of Game Fish
1. It is unlawful to take, in any one day, more than the daily creel limit of any inland game fish having a specified creel limit.
2. 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.
3. It is unlawful to possess fish whose size, creel or season restrictions are not in compliance with the regulations on the waters being fished.
4. 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.
5. It is unlawful to destroy unnecessarily any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters.
6. Inland game fish may be used as bait if they are legally taken and are in agreement with the size and creel limits of the waters being fished and other regulations.

Seasons
There are no closed seasons on inland game fishes with the following exceptions:
1. In Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, where the season for all fishes is closed and fishing is prohibited from March 1–April 3, 2015. This closed season for fishing does not apply to power reservoirs or municipal water supply reservoirs.
2. In undesignated waters where it is unlawful to possess trout caught during the closed season (March 1–April 3, 2015).
3. On U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, where federal regulations apply. See pages 43–45 for a list of refuges and contact information.
4. On the Roanoke River, where the striped bass season is closed from May 1–end of February from the Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to the mouth of the river at the Albemarle Sound, unless changed by proclamation of the Executive Director, Wildlife Resources Commission.
5. In the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area where it

*Bass Identification Chart

Largemouth Bass
Found statewide

Upper jaw extends beyond eye
Deep notch between fins
Horizontal band
No scales at base of fin

No patch of teeth on tongue*

Spotted Bass
Found west of I-77 and in the Cape Fear River Basin

Upper jaw extends to back of eye
Shallow notch between fins
Horizontal streaks
Horizontal band
Scales at base of fin

One patch of teeth on tongue*

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

Upper jaw doesn’t extend beyond back of eye
Three dark bars radiate from eye
Shallow notch between fins
Vertical bars
Scales at base of fin

No patch of teeth on tongue

White Bass

Body slender, less than 1/3 length
Stripes distinct and usually continuous

One patch of teeth on tongue

Striped Bass

Body deep, more than 1/3 length
Stripes distinct and usually broken

Two patches of teeth on tongue

Bodie Bass
(striped bass hybrid)

Body deep, more than 1/3 length
Stripes distinct and usually broken

Two patches of teeth on tongue

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

Additional information on these and other species can be found at ncwildlife.org/fishing
is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) from May 1 – Sept. 30.
6. In Cape Fear River and tributaries below Buckhorn Dam where possession of striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) is prohibited.
7. In Sutton Lake, where possession of largemouth bass is prohibited from Dec. 1 – March 31.
8. Fishing is prohibited from Feb. 15 – April 15 in the Linville River from the mouth, as marked at Lake James, upstream to the N.C. 126 bridge.
9. Seasons and size and creel limits for spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see portal.ncdenr.org/web/ml/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

TROTLINE S, SET-HOOKS AND JUG-HOOKS
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks may be fished under any license that authorizes basic fishing privileges.
- It is unlawful to use live bait with trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks.
- Trotlines (a line with multiple hooks) 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 WRC 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, throwlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks must be fished daily, and all fish must be removed daily.
- Untended trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks, as evidenced by the absence of bait, may be removed by the water by wildlife enforcement officers.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with multiple baits without hooks (see restrictions under “Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption” on page 29).

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

**REGULATIONS FOR WARMWATER GAME FISH**

State waters are classified as: inland, joint and coastal (see “General Information” on page 16). These state waters are collectively referred to as public fishing waters. Certain fishes, including largemouth bass, crappie and mountain trout are designated inland game fish and under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Resources Commission in all public waters; whereas, some species, including striped bass, white and yellow perch, flounder and red drum, are designated as inland game fish only in inland waters (see list on page 16).

**LOCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL LIMIT*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- All public waters except those listed below</td>
<td>14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, and Albemarle Sounds and all their tributaries</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chowan River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yeopim River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pasquotank River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Perquimans River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- North River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Northwest River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Scuppernong River</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pungo Lake (Washington and Hyde counties)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Lake (Hyde Co.)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)</td>
<td>16-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)</td>
<td>18-inch minimum</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Shearon Harris Reservoir</td>
<td>14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: “In combination” means the total number for all species combined.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL LIMIT*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Phelps</td>
<td>14-inch minimum and no bass between 16-20 inches may be possessed</td>
<td>5 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)</td>
<td>No minimum size and no bass between 14-20 inches may be possessed</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 1 bass greater than 20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Randleman Reservoir (Randolph and Guilford counties)</td>
<td>14-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 14 inches and only one may be greater than 20 inches</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches and only 1 greater than 20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Cammack (Alamance Co.)</td>
<td>No minimum size limit, and only 2 bass may be greater than 14 inches</td>
<td>10 in combination, including only 2 greater than 14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Holt (Gravenville Co.)</td>
<td>No minimum size limit, and only 5 bass may be greater than 14 inches</td>
<td>No daily creel limit for bass less than 14 inches, and only 5 bass may be greater than 14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Santeetlah (Graham Co.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) (Impounded inland waters and their tributaries)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Phelps</td>
<td>14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 16 inches</td>
<td>8 in combination, including only 2 less than 16 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dan River in Caswell Co., N.C., downstream of Danville, Va.</td>
<td>June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit</td>
<td>June 1–Sept. 30: 4 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cape Fear upstream of Buckhorn Dam and the Deep and Haw rivers to the first impoundment</td>
<td>20-inch minimum</td>
<td>4 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- B. Everett Jordan Reservoir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Rhodhiss</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Hickory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lookout Shoals Reservoir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Gaston</td>
<td>Oct. 1–May 31: 20-inch minimum</td>
<td>4 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Roanoke Rapids Reservoir</td>
<td>June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Norman</td>
<td>16-inch minimum</td>
<td>4 in combination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) (Coastal rivers and impoundments)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke, Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries)</td>
<td>Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 18-inch minimum, no fish between 22-27 inches</td>
<td>Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 2 in combination including only 1 greater than 27 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound and Chowan, Yeopim, Perquimans, Little, Pasquotank, North, Alligator and Scuppernong rivers and their tributaries)</td>
<td>Established by Division of Marine Fisheries</td>
<td>Established by Division of Marine Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland and joint waters including:</td>
<td>Season - Oct. 1–April 30</td>
<td>Season - Oct. 1–April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N &amp; S Railroad Bridge at Washington</td>
<td>18-inch minimum and no fish between 22-27 inches</td>
<td>2 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Neuse River and tributaries from Milburnie Dam downstream to Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pungo River</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All other unlisted inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries, except Cape Fear River and tributaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, coastal waters including:</td>
<td>Established by Division of Marine Fisheries</td>
<td>Established by Division of Marine Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N &amp; S Railroad Bridge at Washington, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Neuse River downstream of Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All other unlisted coastal waters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland, joint and coastal waters of:</td>
<td>No striped bass may be possessed</td>
<td>No striped bass may be possessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cape Fear River and tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland, joint and coastal waters of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam</td>
<td>18-inch minimum</td>
<td>3 in combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lake Mattamuskeet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish Species</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunfish (except species listed below)</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All public fishing waters except those listed below</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the following waters and their tributaries:</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>30 in combination, including no more than 12 redbreast sunfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cape Fear River</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam, Lumber River, including Drowning Creek</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Crappie (black and white)** | None       | None              |
| All public fishing waters except those listed below | None       | None              |
| In the following waters and their tributaries: | None       | 20 in combination |
| - Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam | 8-inch minimum | None              |
| - Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam | None       | None              |
| - Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam | None       | None              |
| - Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam | None       | None              |
| - Cape Fear River | None       | None              |
| - Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam | None       | None              |
| - Lumbar River, including Drowning Creek | None       | None              |
| - All other public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.), Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.) and Roanoke River (see below) | None       | None              |
| - South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam | None       | None              |
| - Yadkin-Fee Dee River from Idols Dam to the South Carolina state line, including High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Reservoir, Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Lake | None       | None              |
| - Lake Norman, Lake Hyco, Lake Ramseur, and Cane Creek Lake | None       | None              |
| - All public waters west of Interstate 77 | None       | None              |
| - B. Everett Jordan Reservoir | None       | None              |
| - Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries | None       | None              |
| - Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties) | None       | None              |

| **Rock bass and Roanoke bass** | None       | None              |
| All other public fishing waters except those listed below | None       | None              |
| All public waters east of Interstate 77 | None       | None              |
| - All inland fishing waters | None       | 8 in combination  |
| - American and hickory shad | None       | 25               |
| All inland fishing waters | None       | 10 in combination  |
| - Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam to the U.S. 258 bridge near Scotland Neck | None       | None              |
| - Neuse River and its tributaries | None       | None              |
| - Cape Fear River and its tributaries | None       | None              |
| - Lake Gaston | None       | None              |
| - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir | None       | None              |
| - John H. Kerr Reservoir | None       | None              |

| **Spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum** | None       | None              |
| All inland fishing waters | None       | None              |
| Same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, visit portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632. | None       | None              |

| **Walleye** | None       | None              |
| All other public fishing waters except those listed below | None       | 8               |
| - Lake James and tributaries | 15-inch minimum | 8               |
| - Linville River upstream from N.C. 126 bridge | None       | 4               |
| - Lake Gaston | None       | None              |
| - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir | 18-inch minimum | 5               |
| - John H. Kerr Reservoir | None       | None              |

| **Muskellunge** | None       | None              |
| All public fishing waters | None       | None              |
| - 42-inch minimum | 1               |

| **Sauger** | None       | None              |
| All public fishing waters | None       | None              |
| - 15-inch minimum | 8               |

| **Kokanee salmon** | None       | None              |
| All public fishing waters | None       | 7               |

| **All other warmwater game fishes** | None       | None              |
| All public fishing waters | None       | None              |
STATE FISH HATCHERIES
- It is unlawful to fish at any time in the waters or on the property of any state fish hatchery, including Bones Creek from the Lake Rim Dam to the U.S. 401 Bypass (Raeford Road), except McKinney Lake Reservoir at McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

Fishing on Game Lands
- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
  - Re-stocked ponds when posted against fishing.
  - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
  - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
  - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.

- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.
- 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 41) 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION/SEASON</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</th>
<th>LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1, 2014 – Feb. 28, 2015</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m. April 4, 2015 – July 31, 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2015 – April 3, 2015</td>
<td>**No fishing allowed</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WILD TROUT WATERS
- No closed season | 7 inches | 4 | Artificial lures with a single hook. |

WILD TROUT NATURAL BAITS WATERS
- No closed season | 7 inches | 4 | Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait. |

DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS
- Oct. 1, 2014 – June 5, 2015 | ** | ** | Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. ** |
- **No trout may be possessed | | | |
- **No fishing allowed from ½ hour after sunset on June 5, 2015, to 6 a.m. on June 6, 2015 | | | |
- Aug. 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2014 | None | 7 | None |
- June 6, 2015 – July 31, 2015 | | | |
- (Note: youth under 16 years old only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 6, 2015) | | | |

CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS
- No closed season | ** | ** | Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. |

CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS
- No closed season | ** | ** | Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. |

SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS
- No closed season | Only one fish may be greater than 14 inches long | 7 | None |
- - Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam | | | |

UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS
- Aug. 1, 2014 – Feb. 28, 2015 | None | 7 | None |
- 7 a.m. April 4, 2015 – July 31, 2015 | | | |
- March 1, 2015 – April 3, 2015 | ** | ** | None |
- **Fishing allowed, but no trout may be possessed, except in waters listed below | | | |
- No closed season | None | 7 | None |
- - Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs | | | |

*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lure and natural bait
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 amount of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed for public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Public Mountain Trout Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and choose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at ncwildlife.org/fishingmap.

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.
- 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.
- It is unlawful to fish bait or bait fish from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch and Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to fish with more than one line per person, except on power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs.
- 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.
- 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 27.

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 restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. A trout fishing license is not required to fish undesignated waters, and there is no closed season for fishing. However, trout may not be possessed or retained in the creel when fishing undesignated waters during the closed season for Hatchery Supported Trout Waters except on power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs.

Public Mountain Trout Waters
Public Mountain Trout Waters are classified for management purposes as either “Hatchery Supported Trout Waters” or “Wild Trout Waters.” Hatchery Supported Trout Waters must be stocked periodically with trout to sustain angling. Wild Trout Waters are high-quality waters that sustain trout populations by natural reproduction. Some Public Mountain Trout Waters are specially regulated to meet specific management objectives. These are further classified as follows:
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters”
- “Delayed Harvest Trout Waters”
- “Special Regulation 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 page 27.

Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters
These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-gold signs.

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters
These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-gold 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, 2014 and 30 minutes after sunset on June 5, 2015. These waters are closed to fishing between 30 minutes after sunset on June 5 and 6 a.m. on June 6. At 6 a.m. on June 6, 2015, these waters open to fishing for youths under 16 years old under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations—no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on June 6, 2015, 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-gold signs.

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

ALLEGHANY COUNTY
Delayed Harvest Trout Waters
Little River (Whitehead to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])
**Inland Fishing Regulations & Information**

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

**Wild Trout Waters**
- Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**Ashe County**
- Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters
  - Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
  - Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (game land portion)
- Delayed Harvest Trout Waters
  - Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 Bridge to North Fork New River)
  - Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)
  - South Fork New River (Todd Island Park)
  - Trout Lake

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Beaver Creek
- Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
- Big Laurel Creek
- 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
- Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- Roan Creek
- Three Top Creek (except game land portion)

**Avery County**
- Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters
  - Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
  - Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
- Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters
  - Wilson Creek (game land portion)

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

**Wild Trout Waters**
- Birchfield Creek
- Cow Camp Creek
- Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
- Gragg Prong
- Horse Creek
- Jones Creek
- Kentucky Creek
- North Harper Creek
- Plume Creek
- Roaring Creek
- Rockhouse Creek
- Shawnee Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
- South Harper Creek
- Webb Prong

**Buncombe County**
- Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters
  - Carter Creek (game land portion)

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
- Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Lake Powhatan
- Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
- Stony Creek
- Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)

**Burke County**
- Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters
  - Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

**Delayed Harvest Trout Waters**
- Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

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

**Special Regulation Trout Waters**
- Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is seven trout per day; only one of which may be greater than 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)
INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

Graham County
- Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah Hydropower Pipeline to Cheoah River)
- Little Buffalo Creek
- South Fork Squally Creek
- Squally Creek

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

Henderson County
- Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- Cedar Cliff Lake
- Balsam Lake
- Dog Creek
- Warmwater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)

Jackson County
- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Rockhouse Creek
- Little Buffalo Creek
- Little Buffalo Creek
- South Fork Squally Creek
- Squally Creek

Macon County
- Delays Harvest Trout Waters

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.
Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
- Cartoogchaye 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 (Nantahala Dam to Whiteoak Creek)
- Nantahala River—lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)

**Queens Creek Lake**

**Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters**
- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
- Kimsey Creek
- Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- Park Creek
- Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

**MADISON COUNTY**

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

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

**Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters**
- Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)

**MCDOWELL COUNTY**

**Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters**
- Newberry Creek (game land portion)

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

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- Catawba F alls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)

**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)

**POLK COUNTY**

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

**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**

**SUIRY COUNTY**

**Delayed Harvest Trout Waters**
- Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Mitchell River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
- Big Elkin Creek (Dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
- Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to Interstate 77 bridge)
- Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)

**SWAIN COUNTY**

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
- Alarka Creek (gam e 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 Smokey Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Reservoir water level)

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**

**Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters**
Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

**Delayed Harvest Trout Waters**
East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)
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)
Middle Fork French Broad River
West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French Broad)

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

**Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters**
North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

**WATAUGA COUNTY**

**Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters**
Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club including tributaries)
Laurel Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club and Powder Horn Mountain Development, including tributaries)
Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Road bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)

**Delayed Harvest Trout Waters**
Coffee Lake
Watauga River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)
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. 1233 bridge at Amantha)
Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Tripllett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
Laurel Creek
Meat Camp Creek
Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola dam 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 (headwaters to Wilkes Co. line)

**Wild Trout Waters**
Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
Howard Creek
Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)

**WILKES COUNTY**

**Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters**
Dugger Creek (portion on Blue Ridge Mountain Club including tributaries)
Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**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)

**Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters**
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
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 Brewer's Mill on S.R. 1943)
Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing)
Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)
Pike Creek
Pike Creek Pond
South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to S.R. 1155 bridge)

**Wild Trout Waters**
Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**YANCEY COUNTY**

**Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters**
South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek, including tributaries)
Upper Creek (headwaters to South Toe River, including tributaries)

**Hatchery Supported Trout Waters**
Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
Cane River (Beek Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlsens 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 $5 for both residents and nonresidents and can be purchased online at ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage Trout City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

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

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

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

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

**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]

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

**TROUT ANGLERS**

Did you know Eastern Hellbenders (a.k.a. “water dogs”) are harmless, nonvenomous, giant, crayfish-eating, aquatic salamanders that are indicators of good water quality and healthy streams? Did you know that thriving, diverse fish populations and healthy hellbender populations go hand-in-hand?

The Wildlife Resources Commission wants to conserve this amazing mountain creature and needs your help. If you accidentally catch a hellbender on hook and line, please immediately release the animal at the spot of capture by carefully removing the hook if possible or cutting the line as close as possible. Let us know where you found a hellbender by calling 911-707-0050 so we can map their distribution. Thanks!

**TROUT FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

- Fishing hours in any trout waters located on game lands are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the sections of the Nantahala River in Swain County located on Nantahala Game Land and the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Land from the mouth of Cove Creek downstream to the natural gas pipeline crossing, where night fishing is allowed.
- All waters on the game lands listed below are Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:
  - Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe 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 and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, and Spring Creek below USFS Road 223.
  - 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.
  - Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
  - Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
  - South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
  - Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co.
  - Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing.

**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 aids with management by stocking catchable-size trout into the following waters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alleghany</td>
<td>Brush Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleghany</td>
<td>Big Pine Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleghany</td>
<td>Meadow Fork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>Linville River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buncombe</td>
<td>Swannanoa River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>Middle Fork of the New River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga</td>
<td>Price Lake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. In addition, 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:

**Trout Fishing on North Carolina State Parks** Fishing in waters within a state park is limited to park operating hours. Additional park information may be obtained at ncparks.gov or by contacting the following park offices:
- 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**

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

**Sale of Nongame Fish**

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line, grabbling and by special fishing devices may be sold, subject to the following restrictions:
  1. Bowfin may not be sold.
  2. Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).
  3. Eels less than nine inches in length taken from inland fishing waters may not be possessed or sold.
  4. In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily possession limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
  5. Blue crabs taken from inland fishing waters with a line containing multiple baits may not be sold.
  6. Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see portal.ncdenr.org/web/ml/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

- Those listed under “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” on page 34.
- 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 page 30, “Seasons and Waters” on pages 30–34, and “Fishing on Game Lands” on page 21.

- The sale of commercially raised nongame fish is regulated by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Manner of Taking Nongame Fish**

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line or by grabbling; no fish may be taken by snagging. Special devices may be used to take nongame fish with proper licenses (see “Special Fishing Devices,” page 30) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see “Seasons and Waters” pages 30–34).

- Nongame fishes may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 41) under any license that authorizes basic hunting or inland fishing privileges 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 29.

- For special rules governing trotlines, see “Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks” (page 18).
- 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.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with multiple baits without hooks (see restrictions under “Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption” below).

**Hook-and-Line Regulations for Nongame Fish**

- Season: Year-round
- Minimum size limit: None
- Daily creel limit: None

**The following exceptions apply:**

- The daily creel limit on channel, white and blue catfish (forked-tail catfish) is six fish in all game lands ponds and in the following waters:
  - Alamance
  - Alexander
  - Buncombe
  - Cabarrus
  - Cumberland
  - Edgecombe
  - Forsyth
  - Gaston
  - Granville
  - Guilford
  - Forsyth
  - Gaston
  - Granville
  - Guilford
  - Lee
  - Lenoir
  - Mecklenburg
  - Moore
  - Orange
  - Pitt
  - Polk
  - Richmond
  - Rowan
  - Stanly
  - Surry

- Albee Lake
- Bur-Mill Park Pond
- Country Park Pond
- Hagan Stone Park Ponds
- Keel Ponds
- Lake Tomahawk
- Frank Liske Park Pond
- TN Spencer Park Pond
- Lake Rim*
- Etheridge Pond*
- Indian Lake
- Newbold Pond*
- CG Hill Memorial Park Pond
- Kernersville Lake
- Village Point Lake
- Winston Park Pond*
- George Poston Park Pond
- Lake Devin
- Bur-Mill Park Ponds
- Country Park Pond
- Hagan Stone Park Ponds
- Keel Ponds
- Oka T Hester Pond
- San-Lee Park Ponds
- Neuseway Nature Center Pond
- Freedom Park Pond*
- Hornet’s Nest Park Pond
- McAlpine Lake
- Squirrel Lake
- Lake Luke Marion
- Anderson Community Park Pond
- Lake Michael
- River Park North Ponds
- Laughter Pond
- Ellerbe Community Lake
- Hamlet City Lake
- Hinson Lake
- Dan Nicholas Park Pond
- Salisbury Community Park Lake
- Albemarle City Lake
- Big Elkin Creek
Union
Wake
Yadkin
Yadkin County Park Pond

*Use of gasoline engines to power boats is prohibited.

- In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- The minimum size limit for American eel is nine inches, and the possession limit is 25 fish.
- Blue crabs taken by hook and line from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands must have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point). The daily limit is 50 crabs per person or 100 per vessel per day.
- No herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course on the river (listed below), the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
- In Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Wylie, and John H. Kerr Reservoir, except that one fish per day may be taken and possessed with archery equipment (see page 41).
- Grass carp may not be possessed taken with archery equipment (see page 41) on Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission (S.L. 2009-261).
- Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see portal.ncdenr.org/web/ml/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
- 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 21.

Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption

- Nongame fishes, crustaceans (crayfish and blue crabs), and mollusks taken for bait or personal consumption may not be sold.
- Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks may be taken for bait or personal consumption only with the equipment listed below, and an appropriate inland fishing license is required. (See regulations for taking and sale of nongame fish on pages 28–29 and other nongame regulations on page 40 for more information).
  1. A dip net not greater than six feet across.
  2. A seine not greater than 12 feet in length with a bar mesh measure of not more than ¼ inch, except in Lake Waccamaw any length seine may be used to collect bait fishes.
  3. A cast net.
  4. Minnow traps under immediate control and attendance of the operator and not exceeding 12 inches in diameter, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter.
  5. A gig except in Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  6. Traps (no more than three) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see “Seasons and Waters” page 30-34).
  7. Eel pots (no more than two).
  8. A spear gun in those counties and waters with open seasons (see “Seasons and Waters” page 30-34).
  9. Hand-held lines with single baits attached to each.
  10. 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.
  11. 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.

- The daily creel limit is 200 nongame fish, crayfish, and mollusks, in combination, subject to the following restrictions:
  1. No more than 25 eels, none of which may be less than nine inches in length.
  2. No herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment dam on the main course of the river, the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
  3. No more than 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel, per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands.
  4. In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
  5. Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see portal.ncdenr.org/web/ml/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
  6. 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; and those portions of Deep River in Moore, Chatham and Lee counties.
- Game fish incidentally taken with nets or traps, while capturing bait, must not be harmed and must be released immediately.

Taking Freshwater Mussels

- Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea), may only be taken from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw and in University Lake (Orange County).
- The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea).
Special Fishing Devices
- Special fishing devices, which may be licensed for the taking of nongame fishes, include the following: archery equipment (see page 41), 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 waters having designated seasons. See list (by county) under “Seasons and Waters” on pages 30–34.
- 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.

Term and Use of Special Device Licenses
- The license is valid during a license year (12 months from date of purchase).
- Each user of a special device must have his own license in possession, except that a bow net or dip net may be used by another person who has the owner’s license in his possession.
- Only the principal owner or operator must be licensed when drag seines are used at inland beaches to take mullet.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with archery equipment (see page 41) under any license that authorizes basic hunting or fishing privileges.

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

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

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

Seasons and Waters
- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- No river herring greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries, up to the first impoundment of the main course of the river (listed on page 29), the Lumber River, including Drowning Creek, and all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
- Nongame fish may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 41) 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 29.
- No special fishing devices, including crab pots, may be used in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 41) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land.
- Seasons and waters, in which use of special devices other than archery equipment (see page 41) is authorized, are indicated by the following counties:
  - **Alamance:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below N.C. 49 bridge and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
  - **Alexander:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir.
  - **Alleghany:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - **Anson:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastaline Railroad trestle.
  - **Ashe:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - **Beaufort:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Pungo River and in the Tar-Pamlico River above Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters.
  - **Bertie:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke River). March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
  - **Bladen:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black River; July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Cape Fear River between Locks and Dams 1 and 3 and Black River (local law), except that hand-crank electrofishing is prohibited within 800 feet downstream and 400 yards upstream of Lock and Dam 1; 400 yards downstream and upstream of Lock and Dam 2; and 400 yards downstream of Lock and Dam 3.
  - **Brunswick:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek, Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek.
  - **Buncombe:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
  - **Burke:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
  - **Cabarrus:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters.
July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

**Caldwell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Camden:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

**Carteret:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except South River and the tributaries of the White Oak River.

**Caswell:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Hycro Reservoir.

**Catawba:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below Lookout Dam. July 1 – June 30 with traps, spear guns and gigs in all public waters.

**Chatham:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and Gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Haw River, Deep River and Rocky River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.

**Cherokee:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Chowan:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

**Clay:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Cleveland:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.

**Columbus:** Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and its tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Waccamaw and Lumber rivers (local law).

**Craven:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse rivers. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle, Slocum (downstream from the U.S. 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock creeks and their tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River.

**Curtis:** 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).


**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, Conococonnara Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey Creek and White's Mill Pond Run. April 1 – June 15 in Fishing Creek on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, shad and herring (not to exceed 6 inches in length) may be taken with skim or Gill nets having a bar mesh of not less than 1.5 inch (local law).

**Harnett:** Jan. 1 – May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River.

**Haywood:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Henderson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Hertford:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

**Hyde:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

**Iredell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman.

**Jackson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Johnston:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek, Neuse River and Swift Creek.

**Jones:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Trent River below U.S. 17 bridge and White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to White Oak River.

**Lee:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and Gill nets in Cape Fear River and Deep River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Cape Fear River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.

**Lenoir:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River below U.S. 70 bridge at Kinston. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River.
INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

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 Oconeechee 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 Contention Creek between N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River. March 1 – April 30 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.

(continued on page 34)

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
CLEAN AND DRY ANYTHING THAT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH WATER

Invasive aquatic plants, such as hydrilla and giant salvinia; exotic mussels, such as zebra and quagga mussels; and even algae, like didymo or rock snot, can hitch a ride on fishing and boating gear. Once established, they cause extensive damage to aquatic systems.

We need your help to prevent the spread of nuisance species.

When you leave a body of water:
• Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
• Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
• Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
• Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

For more information, including recommendations for cleaning anything that comes into contact with water, visit: www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.
**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. Dept. of Health and Human Services at 919-707-5900 or see epi.publichealth.nc.gov and click on “Fish Consumption Advisories.” The following table lists the current fish consumption advisories for North Carolina inland fishing waters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body of Water</th>
<th>Advisory</th>
<th>Pollutant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Bluegill sunfish and trout. No more than two meals per week for women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than four meals per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and east of Interstate 85</td>
<td>Blackfish (bowfin), Catfish (caught wild), Jack fish (chain pickerled), Warmouth, and Yellow perch. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and east of Interstate 95</td>
<td>Black crappie. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle Sound from Bull Bay to Harvey Point west to the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers (Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell counties)</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Dioxins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke River from U.S. Hwy. 17 bridge near Williamston to the mouth of Albemarle Sound (Martin, Bertie and Washington counties)</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welch Creek (Martin, Beaufort and Washington counties)</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brier Creek Reservoir (Wake County), Brier Creek downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir, and Little Brier Creek and tributaries downstream of Brier Creek Parkway</td>
<td>All fish. No consumption.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Crabtree (Wake County)</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No consumption. All other fish. No more than one meal per month.</td>
<td>PCBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crabtree Creek (Wake County) above and below Lake Crabtree to Neuse River</td>
<td>Carp, catfish and largemouth bass. No more than one meal per month.</td>
<td>PCBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuse River (Wake County) downstream of Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Creek (Wake County) and Rocky Branch tributary just upstream of confluence with Neuse River</td>
<td>Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month. All other fish. No more than one meal per week.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santeetlah Lake (Graham County) and Fontana Lake (Graham and Swain counties)</td>
<td>Walleye. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badin Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties)</td>
<td>Catfish and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Gaston (Warren, Halifax, and Northampton counties)</td>
<td>Walleye and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women or children under 15. No more than one to two meals per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Channel catfish. No consumption.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Blue catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wylie (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Chatuge (Clay County)</td>
<td>White bass and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Nantahala (Macon County)</td>
<td>Smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Norman (Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Striped bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Norman (Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties)</td>
<td>Largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls Reservoir (Montgomery and Stanly counties), High Rock Lake (Davidson and Rowan counties), and Lake Tillery (Montgomery and Stanly counties)</td>
<td>Catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing women or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan River in North Carolina downstream of the Duke Power-Eden Spill Site (Caswell and Rockingham counties)</td>
<td>All fish and shellfish. No consumption.</td>
<td>Coal Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha, “walking catfish” (*Clarias batrachus*), snakehead fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*), white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (see exception below), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*), red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), tubenose goby (*Protorhinus marmoratus*), ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), Japanese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*), Chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*), red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*), virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*), rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*), Australian red claw crayfish or “red claw” (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) or other species of “giant” crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*, or zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*, or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

Certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

It is unlawful to take or possess any state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.

It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River including its tributaries and impoundments.

It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

It is unlawful to:

- Use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing, except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted. All other uses—including swimming, sunbathing on piers or decks, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.

- Possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun possessed pursuant to a valid concealed handgun permit on those public fishing areas where concealed carry is allowed by the landowner. Carrying any loaded firearm, including concealed handguns, is not allowed on public fishing areas at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land, Buckhorn Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land, Chatham Game Land, Dupont State Forest Game Land, Harris Game Land, Hyco Game Land, Jordan Game Land, Kerr Scott Game Land, Lee Game Land, Mayo Game Land, Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S 74, Sutton Lake Game Land, Vance Game Land, the portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell

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**Possession of Certain Fishes**

- It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha, “walking catfish” (*Clarias batrachus*), snakehead fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*), white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (see exception below), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*), red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), tubenose goby (*Protorhinus marmoratus*), ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), Japanese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*), Chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*), red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*), virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*), rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*), Australian red claw crayfish or “red claw” (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) or other species of “giant” crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*, or zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*, or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

- Certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

- It is unlawful to take or possess any state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.

- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River including its tributaries and impoundments.

- It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

**Fishing Access Area Regulations**

It is unlawful to:

- Use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing, except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted. All other uses—including swimming, sunbathing on piers or decks, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.

- Possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun possessed pursuant to a valid concealed handgun permit on those public fishing areas where concealed carry is allowed by the landowner. Carrying any loaded firearm, including concealed handguns, is not allowed on public fishing areas at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land, Buckhorn Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land, Chatham Game Land, Dupont State Forest Game Land, Harris Game Land, Hyco Game Land, Jordan Game Land, Kerr Scott Game Land, Lee Game Land, Mayo Game Land, Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S 74, Sutton Lake Game Land, Vance Game Land, the portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell.
Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, and any other posted public fishing area.

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

### PUBLIC ACCESS FOR FISHING ONLY

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

### BOATING ACCESS AREA REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

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

### HYDROELECTRIC STATION SAFETY ZONES

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

- All boaters within the safety zone are required to wear approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation devices.
- Any anglers within the safety zone that enter the water are required to wear an approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device.
- No vessel may anchor within this zone or tie off to any part of the hydroelectric station structure.
- Catawba River:
  - Bridgewater Hydroelectric Station (Paddy Creek, Linville and Catawba dams)
  - Cowans Ford Hydroelectric Station
  - Lookout Hydroelectric Station
  - Mountain Island Hydroelectric Station
  - Oxford Hydroelectric Station
  - Rhodhiss Hydroelectric Station
- Green River:
  - Tuxedo Hydroelectric Station
- Yadkin River:
  - Narrows Hydroelectric Station
  - High Rock Hydroelectric Station

### OTHER FISHING INFORMATION

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

- Blue Ridge Parkway (see pages 27–28)
  199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803
  Telephone: 828-271-4779
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
  Cherokee Fish and Game Management
  P.O. Box 302, Cherokee, NC 28719
  Telephone: 800-438-1601
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
  107 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738
  Telephone: 865-436-1200
- U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Areas
  National Forests in North Carolina
  160 Zillicoa St., Asheville, NC 28801
  Telephone: 828-257-4200
- Division of Marine Fisheries
  P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557
  Telephone: 800-682-2632
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges
  (See pages 43–45 for contact information)

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**Protect Your Waters—Don’t Move That Fish!**

Illegal fish introductions can have long-lasting, negative impacts, such as altering the existing aquatic community through predation or competition; introducing diseases, parasites and unwanted fish species; and degrading water quality and habitat. Once established, stocked fishes are nearly impossible to eradicate.

Do your part to protect North Carolina’s waters from the damages of illegal fish introductions:

- Don’t release live fish or aquarium fish.
- Don’t move live fish or aquatic wildlife from one body of water to another.
Any angler who catches a fish in North Carolina meeting specific size requirements can apply to have the catch recognized as a “trophy” fish through the North Carolina Angler Recognition Program, or NCARP. This program provides recognition to all anglers who catch trophy-size fish that are not large enough to qualify as state record fish.

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

North Carolina Angler Recognition Program minimum trophy fish weight or length requirements

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

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

Fish should be measured to the nearest ¼ 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.

NCARP Application Form

Form must be filled out completely. Please print. Hook & line only (rod & reel or cane pole)

Angler Information

Full Name ________________________________ ________________________________ ________________________________
First                     Middle                       Last
E-mail (optional) ________________

Date of Birth ________________ ________________ ________________
Month Day Year
Phone number ( ) ________________________________ WRC # (if available) ________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________ State ______ Zip Code ________________

Fish Information

Kind of Fish ________________________________ Date Caught ________________

Weight ______ lbs. ______ oz. OR Length ______ in.

Body of water where caught ________________________________ County ________________________________

Type of Water [ ] Pond [ ] Reservoir/Lake [ ] River/Stream [ ] Sound/Bay

Bait [ ] Natural [ ] Artificial Did you release the fish? [ ] Yes [ ] No Check if angler is 15 years or younger [ ]

Enclose a check or money order for $5 payable to NCWRC-NCARP and mail to: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries Mail Service Center 1721 Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1721

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

**NORTH CAROLINA FRESHWATER FISHING RECORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight Lbs/Oz</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Angler’s Name</th>
<th>Lure or Bait</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodie (striped bass hybrid)</td>
<td>17/7</td>
<td>Lake Chatuge</td>
<td>3/15/96</td>
<td>Michael R. Hogsed</td>
<td>Rebel jointed plug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Fishing Creek, Nash Co.</td>
<td>4/27/94</td>
<td>Richard Elijah Evans</td>
<td>Spinner bait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largemouth</td>
<td>15/14</td>
<td>Pond, Union Co.</td>
<td>3/29/91</td>
<td>William H. Wofford</td>
<td>Crankbait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock (Redeye)</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Deep River</td>
<td>4/29/98</td>
<td>Robert W. Lytton</td>
<td>Crappie jig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smallmouth</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Hiwassee Reservoir</td>
<td>6/1/51</td>
<td>Archie Lamkin</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted</td>
<td>6/5</td>
<td>Lake Norman</td>
<td>12/26/03</td>
<td>Eric M. Weir</td>
<td>Zoom Finesse Worm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Striped</td>
<td>66/0</td>
<td>Hiwassee Reservoir</td>
<td>3/31/12</td>
<td>Tyler Shields</td>
<td>Zoom Trick Worm</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>Kerr Reservoir</td>
<td>3/15/86</td>
<td>Jim King</td>
<td>Bucktail</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CATFISH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>89/0</td>
<td>Badin Lake</td>
<td>11/25/06</td>
<td>Eric Fincher</td>
<td>Shiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flathead</td>
<td>78/0</td>
<td>Cape Fear River</td>
<td>9/17/05</td>
<td>Brian Newberger</td>
<td>Eel</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>13/0</td>
<td>Lake James</td>
<td>5/21/90</td>
<td>Jerry Wayne Bentley</td>
<td>Nightcrawler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel</td>
<td>23/4</td>
<td>City Lake, Rocky Mount</td>
<td>9/1/70</td>
<td>E. J. Bowden</td>
<td>Shrimp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown bullhead</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Buck Hall Creek</td>
<td>4/26/97</td>
<td>Gregory Dale Hughes</td>
<td>Nightcrawler</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PERCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>Falls of the Neuse Reservoir</td>
<td>12/16/01</td>
<td>Bob G. Williams Jr.</td>
<td>Strata Spoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Indiantown Creek</td>
<td>2/8/90</td>
<td>Evelyn G. Ethridge</td>
<td>Minnow</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PICKEREL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chain</td>
<td>8/0</td>
<td>Gaston Reservoir</td>
<td>2/13/68</td>
<td>John H. Leonard</td>
<td>Minnow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redfin</td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Gallberry Swamp</td>
<td>6/23/97</td>
<td>Edward C. Davis</td>
<td>Minnow</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHAD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>Tar River</td>
<td>4/10/74</td>
<td>R.S. Proctor</td>
<td>Shad dart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Pitchkettle Creek</td>
<td>2/22/04</td>
<td>Trey Maroules</td>
<td>Spoon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUNFISH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Redear (Shellcracker)</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Pond, Edgecombe Co.</td>
<td>5/19/08</td>
<td>Travis Jackson</td>
<td>Worm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Henderson County</td>
<td>7/27/67</td>
<td>Danny Case</td>
<td>Catawba worm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flier</td>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Pond</td>
<td>3/17/90</td>
<td>Douglas N. McCall</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Pond, Caswell Co.</td>
<td>7/27/08</td>
<td>Sean Vanderburg</td>
<td>Culprit plastic worm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redbreast</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>Big Swamp, Bladen Co.</td>
<td>5/29/83</td>
<td>Ronald Stanley</td>
<td>Beetle Spin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warmouth</td>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>McLeods Pond, Richmond Co.</td>
<td>5/7/76</td>
<td>Emma Sears</td>
<td>Minnow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pumpkinseed</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>Trent River</td>
<td>5/21/03</td>
<td>John Koonce</td>
<td>Eel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TROUT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brook</td>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Raven Fork River</td>
<td>5/15/80</td>
<td>G.L. Marshall, Jr.</td>
<td>Rooster Tail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>24/10</td>
<td>Nantahala River</td>
<td>4/17/98</td>
<td>Robert Lee Dyer</td>
<td>Rapala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow</td>
<td>20/3</td>
<td>Horsepasture River</td>
<td>1/28/06</td>
<td>Leah Johnson</td>
<td>Rapala</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowfin</td>
<td>17/15</td>
<td>Black River</td>
<td>6/21/97</td>
<td>Gregory A. Demery Sr.</td>
<td>Cut bait, sunfish</td>
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<td>Carp</td>
<td>48/0</td>
<td>Pond, Mecklenburg Co.</td>
<td>3/11/86</td>
<td>William Houston Jr.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crappie, black</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Asheboro City Lake #4</td>
<td>4/27/80</td>
<td>Dean Dixon</td>
<td>Minnow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crappie, white</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>Private lake, Wake County</td>
<td>4/1/13</td>
<td>Joey Boretti</td>
<td>Storm WildEye® Swim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshwater drum</td>
<td>23/8</td>
<td>Kerr Reservoir</td>
<td>3/20/13</td>
<td>Jonathan Wilkerson</td>
<td>Plastic fluke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grass carp</td>
<td>68/12</td>
<td>Summerlins Pond, Leland</td>
<td>6/6/98</td>
<td>David W. Stowell</td>
<td>Rebel Pop R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longnose gar</td>
<td>25/0</td>
<td>Intracoastal Waterway near Coinjock</td>
<td>1/30/09</td>
<td>Kelly Williams</td>
<td>Tube minnow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kokanee salmon</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Nantahala Lake</td>
<td>6/20/09</td>
<td>Ashley Swann</td>
<td>Custom lure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>41/8</td>
<td>Lake Adger</td>
<td>1/23/01</td>
<td>Richard W. Dodd</td>
<td>Big Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellunge, tiger*</td>
<td>33/8</td>
<td>Lake James</td>
<td>4/3/88</td>
<td>Gary Dean Nanney</td>
<td>Buzzbait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pike, northermost*</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Lake James</td>
<td>8/26/78</td>
<td>Keith Gilliam</td>
<td>Storm Wiggle Wart</td>
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<td>Sauger</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Lake Norman</td>
<td>7/25/71</td>
<td>David Shook</td>
<td>Top water Rapala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smallmouth buffalo</td>
<td>88/0</td>
<td>Lake Wylie</td>
<td>11/14/93</td>
<td>Tony Crawford</td>
<td>Pack bait</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>13/8</td>
<td>Lake Chatuge (Shooting Cr.)</td>
<td>8/16/86</td>
<td>Lamar L. Cofer</td>
<td>Old Faithful spoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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