

From Proposal to Regulation



The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Rulemaking Process



The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission enacts rules to regulate hunting, boating, fishing and trapping; sets seasons and bag limits; issues various permits; sells licenses; and regulates activities on game lands. Here's how the rulemaking process works each year:



Step 1: The public, biologists, Commission committees or other stakeholders propose suggestions or recommendations for new hunting, fishing, trapping or other regulations.



Step 2: Biologists and wildlife officers consider the proposals from conservation and enforcement perspectives.



Step 3: Wildlife Resources Commission committees and staff determine which proposals to present to the full Commission.



Step 4: Commissioners approve or disapprove proposals to be presented at public hearings.

Hearing Time: 7 p.m.	
Date	District
Mon., Jan. 4	4
Wed., Jan. 6	5
Thu., Jan. 7	6

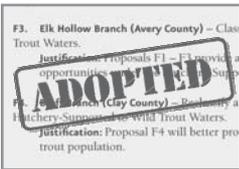
Step 5: Commission schedules statewide public hearings. Proposed regulations published in *North Carolina Register*.



Step 6: Commission staff presents proposals for comments at public hearings. Public can also comment online, as well as by mail or e-mail.



Step 7: Commission considers comments and adopts or rejects proposals, including any in amended form.



Step 8: Adopted regulations filed with N.C. Rules Review Commission for approval, disapproval or are returned to agency for revisions.



Step 9: Adopted regulations sent to Office of Administrative Hearings for inclusion in N.C. Administrative Code. Implementation may be delayed or prevented if Rules Review Commission receives at least 10 letters requesting legislative review.



Step 10: Adopted regulations published in *North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest*.

Limits to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Rulemaking Process

The General Assembly declares, through state statutes, which matters of fish, wildlife and land management the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission can regulate through its rules. Some aspects of wildlife and fish management, hunting, fishing and human/wildlife interaction are legislated directly. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission appreciates the interest of North Carolina's sportsmen in the state's wildlife resources and respectfully considers all suggestions within its authority to change regulations.

About N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Since 1947, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities. To learn more, visit www.ncwildlife.org.

Get **N.C. Wildlife Update**—news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more—delivered to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Go to www.ncwildlife.org/enews.