A trotline is a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common
metal cans and glass containers cannot be used as markers.
A jug-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no
rotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks without bait or not properly
set-hooks is a fishing device consisting of a single line having
rotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks must be fished daily, and
Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with
It is unlawful to use live bait with trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks.
No trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks may be used in Public
Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks may be fished under any
Bass hybrid (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)
- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam
- Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, and Albemarle Sounds and all their
- Chowan River and its tributaries (including the Meherrin River)
- Yeopim River
- Pasquotank River
- Perquimans River
- North River
- Northwest River
- Scuppernong River
- Alligator River (including the Alligat or/Pungo Canal east of the
- Pungo Lake (Washington and Hyde counties)
- New Lake (Hyde Co.)
- Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.)
- Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)
- Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)
- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)
- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)
- Shearon Harris Reservoir
- Lake Hampton (Yadkin County)
- Roanoke River
- Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, and Albemarle Sounds and all their
- Chowan River and its tributaries (including the Meherrin River)
- Yeopim River
- Pasquotank River
- Perquimans River
- North River
- Northwest River
- Scuppernong River
- Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the
- Pungo Lake (Washington and Hyde counties)
- New Lake (Hyde Co.)
- Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.)
- Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)
- Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)
- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)
- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)
- Shearon Harris Reservoir
- Lake Hampton (Yadkin County)

4. In the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area where it
is unlawful to possess striped bass or Bodie bass (striped
bass hybrid) from May 1 – Sept. 30.
5. In Cape Fear River and tributaries below Buckhorn Dam
where possession of striped bass and Bodie bass (striped
bass hybrid) is prohibited.
6. In Sutton Lake, where possession of largemouth bass is
prohibited from Dec. 1 – March 31.
7. 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.
8. Seasons and size and creel limits for spotted sea trout,
flounder, and red drum are the same as those recreational
limits established by the Division of Marine Fisheries in
adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see
portal.ncdnet.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits
or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

TROTLINES, SET-HOOKS AND JUG-HOOKS

- A trotline is a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common
line having multiple hooks attached.
- A set-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having
no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a
stationary object.
- A jug-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no
more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a float.
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks may be fished under any
license that authorizes basic fishing privileges.
- It is unlawful to use live bait with trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks.
- Trotlines must be set parallel to the nearest shore in all public
waters, where their use is authorized.
- Each trotline, set-hook and jug-hook shall have attached the
user’s name and address or the user’s 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, set-hooks and jug-hooks must be fished daily, and
all fish must be removed daily.
- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks without bait or not properly
labeled may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement
officers.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with
multiple baits without hooks (see restrictions under “Taking
Non-game Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal
Consumption” on page 29).

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

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

Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)

- All public waters except those listed below
  14-inch minimum, except 2 may be less than 14 inches
  5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches

- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam
  14-inch minimum
- Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, and Albemarle Sounds and all their
  tributaries
- Chowan River and its tributaries (including the Meherrin River)
- Yeopim River
- Pasquotank River
- Perquimans River
- North River
- Northwest River
- Scuppernong River
- Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the
  NC Hwy 264/45 bridge)
- Pungo Lake (Washington and Hyde counties)
- New Lake (Hyde Co.)
- Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.)
  No bass may be possessed.
  5 in combination
  No bass may be possessed.

- Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)
  14-inch minimum
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)
  16-inch minimum
- Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)
  16-inch minimum
- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)
  16-inch minimum
- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)
  18-inch minimum
- Shearon Harris Reservoir
- Lake Hampton (Yadkin County)
  14-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 14 inches and no bass between
  16–20 inches may be possessed
  5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches

Please note: “In combination” means the total number for all species combined.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEEL LIMIT*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)</strong></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 14–22 inches may be possessed</td>
<td>5 in combination, including only 1 bass greater than 22 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 (Granville 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>12-inch minimum size limit only for Largemouth Bass. No minimum size limit for Smallmouth and Spotted Bass</td>
<td>10 in combination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) (Inland impoundments and tributaries) | | |
| - Impounded inland waters and their tributaries except those listed below | 20-inch minimum | 4 in combination |
| - Dan River in Caswell Co., N.C., downstream of Danville, Va. | June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit | June 1–Sept. 30: 4 in combination |
| - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir | June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit | June 1–Sept. 30: 4 in combination |
| - Lake Norman, Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake | 16-inch minimum | 4 in combination |
| - Lake Chatuge (Clay County) | No minimum size limit, and only 2 fish may be greater than 22 inches | 15 in combination, including only 2 greater than 22 inches |

<p>| Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) (Coastal rivers and impoundments) | | |
| <strong>Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area</strong> (including Roanoke, Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries) | Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 18-inch minimum, no fish between 22-27 inches | Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed or extended by proclamation): 2 in combination including only 1 greater than 27 inches |
| - Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries |
| <strong>Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area</strong> (including Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound and Chowan, Yeopim, Perquimans, Little, Pasquotank, North, Alligator and Scuppernong rivers and their tributaries) | | |
| <strong>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area</strong>, inland and joint waters including: | Season - Oct. 1–April 30 | Season- Oct. 1–April 30 |
| - Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N&amp;S Railroad Bridge at Washington | 18-inch minimum and no fish between 22-27 inches | 2 in combination |
| - Neuse River and tributaries from Millburnie Dam downstream to Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern | | |
| - Pungo River | | |
| - All other unlisted inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and tributaries, except Cape Fear River and tributaries | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries |
| <strong>Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area</strong>, coastal waters including: | | |
| - Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N &amp; S Railroad Bridge at Washington, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters | | |
| - Neuse River downstream of Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters | | |
| - All other unlisted coastal waters | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries | Established by Division of Marine Fisheries |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid)</strong> <em>(Coastal rivers and impoundments)</em></td>
<td>No striped bass may be possessed</td>
<td>No striped bass may be possessed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland, joint and coastal waters of:  
- Cape Fear River and tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam  
- Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam  
- Lake Mattamuskeet | 18-inch minimum | 3 in combination |
| **Sunfish (except species listed below)** | None | None |
| - All public fishing waters except those listed below | None | None |
| In the following waters and their tributaries:  
- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam  
- Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam  
- Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam  
- Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam  
- Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam  
- Cape Fear River  
- Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam, Lumber River, including Drowning Creek  
- All public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.) | 8-inch minimum | 20 in combination |
| **Crappie (black and white)** | None | None |
| - All public fishing waters except those listed below | None | None |
| In the following waters and their tributaries:  
- Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam  
- Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam  
- Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam  
- Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam  
- Cape Fear River  
- Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam  
- Lumber River, including Drowning Creek  
- All other public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.), Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.) and Roanoke River (see below)  
- Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Lake  
- Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Lake Dam to the South Carolina state line  
- Lake Norman, Lake Hyco, Lake Ramseur, and Cane Creek Lake  
- All public waters west of Interstate 77  
- Lake Hampton (Yadkin County)  
- B. Everett Jordan Reservoir  
- Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and its tributaries  
- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)  
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)  
- Lake Chatuge (Clay County) | 10-inch minimum | 20 in combination |
| **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 | 8-inch minimum | 2 in combination |
| **White bass** | None | None |
| - All inland fishing waters | 14-inch minimum | 10 |
| **American and hickory shad** | None | None |
| - All inland fishing waters except those listed below | None | None |
| - Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam to the U.S. 258 bridge near Scotland Neck  
- Neuse River and its tributaries | None | None |
| - Cape Fear River and its tributaries | None | None |
| - Lake Gaston  
- Roanoke Rapids Reservoir  
- John H. Kerr Reservoir | No American shad may be possessed | No American shad may be possessed |
<p>| <strong>Spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum</strong> | None | None |
| - All inland fishing waters | Same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, visit portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION/SEASON</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
<th>DAILY CREEEL 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, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018 7 a.m. April 7, 2018 – July 31, 2018</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2018 – April 6, 2018</td>
<td><strong>No fishing allowed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No fishing allowed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No fishing allowed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>7 inches</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Artificial lures with a single hook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>7 inches</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1, 2017 – June 1, 2018</td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2017 June 2, 2018 – July 31, 2018 (Note: youth under 18 years old only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 2, 2018)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>No trout may be possessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>Only one fish may be greater than 14 inches long</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDESIgnATED TROUT WATERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No closed season</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lure and natural bait