

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.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.

- 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 Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption” on page 29).

TROT LINES, 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.

Exceptions

- No trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks may be used in the impounded waters of Sandhills Game Land.
- No trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks may be used in Public Mountain Trout Waters, 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

SIZE LIMIT

DAILY CREEL LIMIT*

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
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 - 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.)	14-inch minimum	5 in combination
- Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)	14-inch minimum <u>Dec. 1–March 31:</u> No bass may be possessed.	5 in combination <u>Dec. 1–March 31:</u> No bass may be possessed.
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties) - Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)	16-inch minimum	5 in combination
- Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)	16-inch minimum	5 in combination, including only 1 bass greater than 20 inches
- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.)	18-inch minimum	5 in combination
- 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.

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)		
- Lake Phelps	14-inch minimum and no bass between 16–20 inches may be possessed	5 in combination
- New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)	No minimum size and no bass between 14–22 inches may be possessed	5 in combination, including only 1 bass greater than 22 inches
-Randleman Reservoir (Randolph and Guilford counties)	14-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 14 inches and only one may be greater than 20 inches	5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches and only 1 greater than 20 inches
- Lake Cammack (Alamance Co.) - Lake Holt (Granville Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 2 bass may be greater than 14 inches	10 in combination, including only 2 greater than 14 inches
- Lake Santeetlah (Graham Co.)	No minimum size limit, and only 5 bass may be greater than 14 inches	No daily creel limit for bass less than 14 inches, and only 5 bass may be greater than 14 inches
- Lake Chatuge (Clay County)	12-inch minimum size limit only for Largemouth Bass. No minimum size limit for Smallmouth and Spotted Bass.	10 in combination
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
- John H. Kerr Reservoir - Dan River in Caswell Co., N.C., downstream of Danville, Va.	Oct. 1–May 31: 24-inch minimum June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit	Oct. 1–May 31: 2 in combination June 1–Sept. 30: 4 in combination
- Lake Gaston - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir	Oct. 1–May 31: 20-inch minimum June 1–Sept. 30: No minimum size limit	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
Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) (Coastal rivers and impoundments)		
Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke, Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries) - Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound	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
Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound and Chowan, Yeopim, Perquimans, Little, Pasquotank, North, Alligator and Scuppernon rivers and their tributaries)	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland and joint waters including: -Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N&S Railroad Bridge at Washington -Neuse River and tributaries from Milburnie 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	Season - Oct. 1–April 30 18-inch minimum and no fish between 22-27 inches	Season- Oct. 1–April 30 2 in combination
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, coastal waters including: - Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N & 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

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Striped bass and Bodie bass (striped bass hybrid) <i>(Coastal rivers and impoundments)</i>		
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area, inland, joint and coastal waters of: - Cape Fear River and tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam	No striped bass may be possessed	No striped bass may be possessed
- Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam - Lake Mattamuskeet	18-inch minimum	3 in combination
Sunfish (except species listed below)		
- 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.)	None	30 in combination, including no more than 12 redbreast sunfish
Crappie (black and white)		
- 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)	8-inch minimum	20 in combination
- B. Everett Jordan Reservoir - Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries <i>-Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals (Hyde Co.)</i>	10-inch minimum	20 in combination
- Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties)	None	20 in combination
- Lake Chatuge (Clay County)	None	30 in combination
Rock bass and Roanoke bass		
- 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		
<i>-All inland fishing waters</i>	<i>14-inch minimum</i>	<i>10</i>
American and hickory shad		
- All inland fishing waters except those listed below	None	10 in combination
- Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam to the U.S. 258 bridge near Scotland Neck - Neuse River and its tributaries	None	10 in combination, including no more than 1 American shad
- Cape Fear River and its tributaries	None	10 in combination, including no more than 5 American shad
- Lake Gaston - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir - John H. Kerr Reservoir	No American shad may be possessed	No American shad may be possessed
Spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum - 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.	

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Walleye		
- 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	18-inch minimum	5
- Roanoke Rapids Reservoir		
- John H. Kerr Reservoir		
Muskellunge		
- All public fishing waters	42-inch minimum	1
Sauger		
- All public fishing waters	15-inch minimum	8
Kokanee salmon		
- All public fishing waters	None	7
All other warmwater game fishes		
- All public fishing waters	None	None

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS			
Aug. 1, 2017 – Feb. 28, 2018 7 a.m. April 7, 2018 – July 31, 2018 -All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2018 – April 6, 2018 **No fishing allowed -All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	**	**	**
No closed season -Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area -Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs	None	7	None
WILD TROUT WATERS			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook.
WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT 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, 2017 – June 1, 2018 **No trout may be possessed **No fishing allowed from ½ hour after sunset on June 1, 2018, to 6 a.m. on June 2, 2018	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. **
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)	None	7	None
CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS			
No closed season -Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	Only one fish may be greater than 14 inches long	7	None
UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS			
No closed season	None	7	None

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