

Washington: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Wayne: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Little River, Mill Creek and Neuse River.

Wilkes: July 1 – June 30 with traps in Yadkin River below W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; and with gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Wilson: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in Contentnea Creek (except Buckhorn Reservoir), including unnamed tributaries between Flowers Mill and S.R. 1163 (Deans) bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Contentnea Creek below U.S. 301 bridge and in Toisnot Swamp downstream from the Lake Toisnot Dam.

Yadkin: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.

MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITIONS

Possession of Certain Fishes

- It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha, “walking catfish” (*Clarias batrachus*), snake-

- head fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*), white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*), red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus 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*), or rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*), or **zebra mussel** (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina, except that 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 eels less than six inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River and the Catawba River, upstream of Lake Rhodhiss, and their tributaries and impoundments.

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, see www.epi.state.nc.us and click on “Fish Consumption Advisories.”

The following table lists the current fish consumption advisories for North Carolina inland fishing waters:

Body of Water	Advisory	Pollutant
STATEWIDE	Women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under age 15: no more than 2 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury and no consumption of fish HIGH in mercury. All other people: no more than 4 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury and only 1 meal per week of fish HIGH in mercury. (The names of fishes containing high and low levels of mercury are available from N.C. Dept. Health and Human Services at (919) 707-5912 or www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/fish/safefish.html)	<u>Mercury</u>
Albemarle Sound from Bull Bay to Harvey Point west to the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers (Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Roanoke River from U.S. Hwy. 17 bridge near Williamston to the mouth of Albemarle Sound (Martin, Bertie and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Welch Creek (Martin, Beaufort and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Brier Creek Reservoir (Wake County), Brier Creek –downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir, and Little Brier Creek and tributaries downstream of Brier Creek Parkway	All fish. No consumption.	<u>PCBs</u>
Lake Crabtree (Wake County)	Carp and catfish. No consumption. No more than one meal per month for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Crabtree Creek (Wake County) above and below Lake Crabtree to Neuse River	Carp, catfish and largemouth bass. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Neuse River (Wake County) downstream of Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Walnut Creek (Wake County) and Rocky Branch tributary just upstream of confluence with Neuse River	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month and no more than one meal per week for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Santeetlah Lake and Fontana Lake (Graham and Swain counties)	Walleye. No consumption by women of child bearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>Mercury</u>
Badin Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties)	Catfish and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of child bearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>PCBs</u>

- It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Grass carp may not be possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, **Lake Wylie**, Gaston and Roanoke Rapids reservoirs, except that **one** fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.

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, possessing loaded firearms, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.
- Use gasoline motors on Lake Rim in Cumberland County, and on Newbold and Etheridge ponds in Edgecombe County.

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 loaded firearms on the 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 Services 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

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION

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

- Blue Ridge Parkway
199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803
Telephone: (828) 298-0398
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee Fish and Game Management
P.O. Box 302, Cherokee, NC 28719
Telephone: (800) 438-1601
- Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
38 Mattamuskeet Rd., Swanquarter, NC 27885
Telephone: (252) 926-4021
- 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
- MacKay Island National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 39 Knotts Island, NC 27950
Telephone: (252) 429-3100

APPLYING FOR A FRESHWATER FISHING RECORD

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 www.ncwildlife.org and follow the link for *Fishing Programs* under the *Fishing* topic, or call the Division of Inland Fisheries at (919) 707-0220.