



Public Hearings

Applying to 2009–2010
Fishing, Hunting & Trapping Seasons



January 2009

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
www.ncwildlife.org

State of North Carolina

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor-Elect

**Department of
Environment and Natural Resources**

William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1701, (919) 707-0010
Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Thank you for attending this public hearing. By investing your time, you show your concern for fish and wildlife programs in North Carolina. The Wildlife Resources Commission welcomes your opinions and suggestions about these programs.

All state regulatory agencies must follow certain procedures that govern how rules are adopted. A lengthy process of public notice is required, after which the agency must publish the proposed regulations in the *North Carolina Register*. These procedures are designed to give the proposed regulations wide public exposure and to offer the public opportunities to respond with support, opposition or suggestions.

For fish and wildlife regulations, this process begins at the previous year's hearings and continues throughout the year. We consider all suggestions presented to us during the past year as starting points for these proposed regulations. As a result, the proposals presented in this document are a reflection of public, staff, and committee input. The commissioners approved these proposals for publication in the *North Carolina Register* and for presentation at these public hearings.

In March 2009, after considering comments from the public and consulting with staff, the Wildlife Resources Commission will make final decisions on the proposed regulations. The rules that are adopted will then be available in the *N.C. Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest* for 2009-2010. You can obtain a copy from your license agent in July.

We appreciate your presence and look forward to hearing your comments. With your help, we will provide the best possible fish and wildlife programs for your enjoyment today and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Seegars". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wes Seegars, Chairman
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

To Sportsmen Attending Regulations Public Hearings

This booklet is designed to assist those in attendance at the public hearings in the nine wildlife districts. It contains a brief description of the major changes that the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is proposing.

Hearing Procedures

For a schedule of hearings visit our Web site, www.ncwildlife.org or call the Wildlife Resources Commission. Check ahead—a hearing may be rescheduled if inclement weather makes road conditions hazardous.

Please review the proposals in this booklet when you arrive. During the hearing, a Commission official will ask for your comments, opinions or suggestions. Your comments are welcome, and each will be considered. In the interest of time and fairness to others who wish to speak, please be concise. We ask that your comments on each proposed change be confined to the period allotted for discussions of that proposal. Adequate time to discuss each proposal will be allowed before moving to the next item.

After the proposed changes contained in this booklet are discussed, time will be allotted to discuss other matters of interest that you may want to present to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration. We earnestly solicit your input toward better ideas for wildlife regulations. We also ask you to remember that changing regulations in the N.C. Administrative Code can be a lengthy process. It often takes more than one year to change the regulations to include your proposal. These public hearings are, however, the proper starting point for your suggestions.

What Happens Next?

A written record of all public comments will be compiled and reviewed by Commission staff and by the appointed commissioners. Your recommendations, biological information from field surveys, harvest records, changes in habitat, fish and game populations, breeding stocks, game lands use and other conditions that affect wildlife will be considered.

You are encouraged to speak at the public hearings or to write to the Commission, if you have recommendations. We will accept public input about changes in the 2009-2010 fishing, hunting and trapping regulations until the close of the public comment period on Feb. 1, 2009.

The Part that Hearings Play

The Commission has been charged with managing North Carolina's wildlife resources since 1947. Setting forth rules is one means by which we manage those resources to serve the recreational and economic interests of the state's citizens. We rely on the public's cooperation and assistance in this endeavor. Thus, we urge you to participate in these public hearings and to submit your opinions, either verbally or in writing, to the staff of the Commission.

Proposed Schedule for the 2009 Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Public Hearings

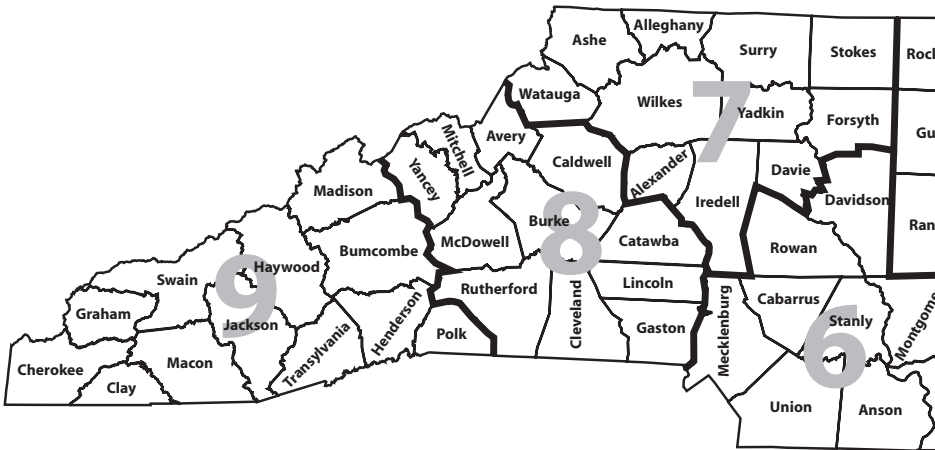
Before you make final plans to attend, check the Wildlife Resources Commission Web site for current updates, including weather-related rescheduling, at www.ncwildlife.org.

Hearing Time: 7 p.m.

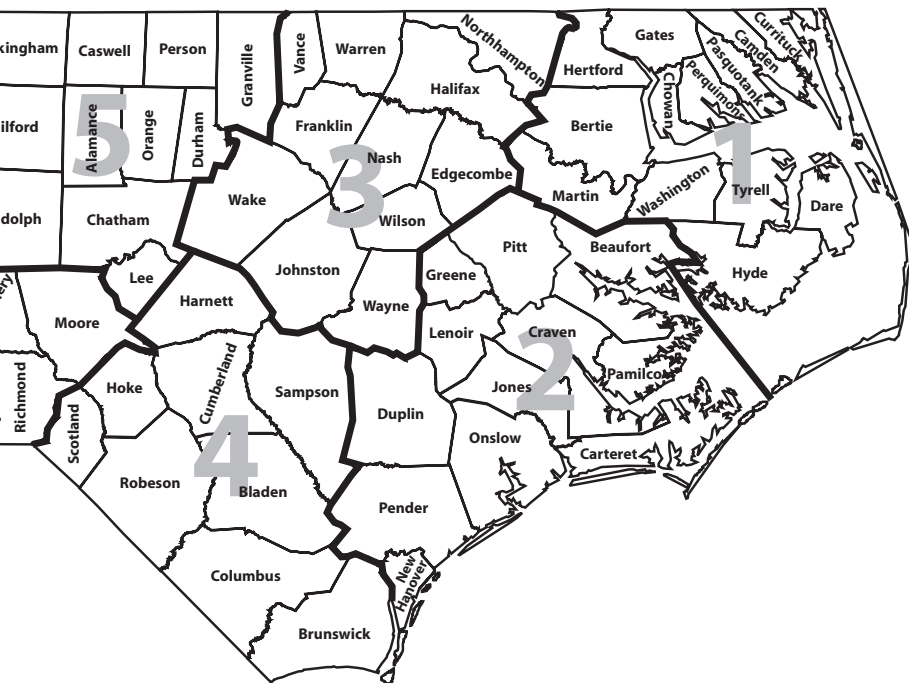
Date	District	City	Location
Mon., Jan. 5	4	Dublin	Bladen Community College
Wed., Jan. 7	5	Graham	Graham High School Auditorium
Thu., Jan. 8	6	Norwood	South Stanly High School Norwood
Tue., Jan. 13	8	Morganton	Municipal Auditorium
Wed., Jan. 14	9	Sylva	Southwestern Community College
Thu., Jan. 15	7	Boonville	Starmount High School
Tue., Jan. 20	1	Edenton	Swain Auditorium
Wed., Jan. 21	2	New Bern	Courthouse
Thu., Jan. 22	3	Rocky Mount	Nash Community College
Wed., Jan. 28* (see note below)	3	Raleigh	NCWRC Headquarters Centennial Campus Center

* There will be a public hearing on Jan. 28, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh, N.C., to receive public comment on proposed regulation changes to depredation permits, nongame permits and controlled shooting preserves. Proposed changes in regulations contained in this booklet will not be presented or discussed at the public hearing on Jan. 28.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Districts



Report Wildlife Violations
Toll-Free Number
1-800-662-7137
(In the Raleigh area, call: (919) 707-0040)



Proposed Changes in Fishing Regulations for 2009–2010

The following changes in the statewide fishing regulations are proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions and suggestions.

Game Fish

Trout

F1. Wilson Creek (Caldwell County) – Classify 3.5 miles of this stream as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.

F2. Mill Creek (McDowell County) – Classify 0.7 miles of this stream, in the Town of Old Fort, as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposals F1 and F2 provide additional public mountain trout fishing opportunities under the delayed-harvest program.

F3. Hiwassee River (Clay County) – Classify 13 miles of this river as Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

F4. Winkler Creek (Watauga County) – Classify 1.6 miles of this stream, in the Town of Boone, as Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposals F3 and F4 provide additional public mountain trout fishing opportunities in waters that contain reproducing trout populations.

F5. Clear Creek (Henderson County) – Classify 4.6 miles of this stream as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

F6. Buck Creek (Clay County) – Reclassify 2.5 miles of this stream from Wild Trout/Natural Bait to Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

Justification: Proposals F5 and F6 provide additional public fishing opportunities for stocked trout.

F7. Hemphill Creek (Haywood County) – Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters.

Justification: This proposal eliminates stocking of a stream that contains a reproducing wild trout population.

F8. South Toe River (Yancey County) – Reclassify 2.5 miles from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification: This proposal will increase the opportunity to harvest trout near a campground and simplify rules.

F9. Little River (Transylvania County) – Identify the lower boundary of Delayed-Hatchery Trout Waters as “100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls.”

Justification: This proposal will extend the boundary by 100 yards to allow public fishing in a large pool below Hooker Falls.

F10. Jonathan Creek (Haywood County) – Identify the upper boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as “upstream SR 1302 bridge” and correct the spelling of the stream’s name.

F11. Richland Creek (Haywood County) – Identify the lower boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as “US 23-74 bridge.”

Justification: Proposals F10 and F11 clarify boundaries and/or names.

F12. Watauga River (Watauga County) – Identify the upper boundary of Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters as “adjacent to the intersection of SR 1557 and SR 1558.”

Justification: This proposal eliminates stocking of 0.2 miles of this river that is posted against trespass.

F13. Green River (Polk County) – Change the lower boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters from Brights Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing.

Justification: This proposal removes the Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters designation from 1.6 miles of this river immediately upstream of Lake Adger and will allow spring fishing for white bass.

F14. Lake Lure (Rutherford County) – Establish the statewide creel and length regulations for trout in undesignated waters.

Justification: This proposal removes special trout regulations on the lake and makes them consistent with other public fishing waters.

F15. North Shoal Creek (Cherokee County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land and reclassify the portion on game lands to Wild Trout/Natural Bait.

Justification: This proposal eliminates stocking of a stream that contains reproducing trout populations.

F16. Webb Creek (Cherokee County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F17. Big Tuni Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F18. Vineyard Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F19. Little Cove Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F20. Cove Creek (Polk County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

Justification: Proposals F16 – F20 eliminate the stocking of streams that contain reproducing trout populations. Portions on game lands will automatically convert to Wild Trout Waters.

F21. Hoskins Fork (Ashe County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

F22. Hothouse Branch (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

F23. Tessentee Creek (Macon County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation.

Justification: Proposals F21-F23 remove streams from the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation that are poor trout habitat and provide limited angling opportunities.

F24. Shooting Creek (Clay County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F25. Camp Creek (Polk and Henderson counties) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

F26. Ramey Creek (Alleghany County) – Remove the Public Mountain Trout Waters designation on private land.

Justification: Proposals F24-F26 eliminate the stocking of streams that are posted against trespass.

Black Bass

F27. Lake Lure (Rutherford County) – Establish the general statewide creel and length regulations for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Justification: This proposal removes special bass regulations on the lake and makes them consistent with other public fishing waters.

Crappie

F28. Roanoke River – Increase the minimum size limit for crappie from eight to 10 inches on Roanoke River below Roanoke Rapids Dam to Albemarle Sound, including Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers.

Justification: This proposal will protect younger crappie and improve the quality of the fishery.

Nongame Fish

F29. Reduce the number of grass carp that can be taken by bow and arrow from Lake James, Lookout Shoals, Lake Norman, Mountain Island, Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids Lake from two to one fish per day.

Justification: This proposal further restricts harvest of grass carp stocked for vegetation control while providing limited bowfishing opportunities.

F30. Add Lake Wylie to the list of reservoirs where possession of grass carp is prohibited, except those taken by bow and arrow.

Justification: Grass carp are being stocked into this lake to control hydrilla. Limited bowfishing for grass carp will not affect the overall control of aquatic vegetation in the lake.

Other

F31. Prohibit the possession of zebra mussels.

Justification: The zebra mussel is an exotic nuisance species that has the potential to have significant adverse effects on state waters and facilities, including power and wastewater treatment plants.

F32. Eliminate the special size restriction on bow, dip and landing nets in the Roanoke and Dan rivers.

Justification: Allowing the use of larger landing nets will facilitate the landing of large striped bass and catfish and is expected to increase the survival of released fish.

F33. Include family members of the U.S. Armed Forces on appreciation days, as well as those with physical or mental limitations, among those qualified to receive fishing license exemptions during special fishing events.

Justification: Allowing fishing license exemptions for these groups will provide educational and therapeutic benefits.

F34. Include Community Fishing Program waters among those waters where fish size and creel limits that differ from statewide regulations are posted.

Justification: This will facilitate the implementation and public notification of fishing rules on intensively managed waters.

Proposed Changes in Hunting and Trapping Regulations for 2009–2010

The following changes in the statewide hunting and trapping regulations are proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions or suggestions.

Species

Deer

H1. Require persons harvesting deer through the Deer Management Assistance Program to use tags provided by the Commission and report their harvests, whether those deer are antlerless or antlered. Allow harvest of deer on DMAP areas under the Big Game Harvest Report Card and the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card (where applicable).

Justification: These regulation changes will ease administration of DMAP. They also allow hunters to take deer on DMAP areas under their hunting license and report card.

H2. Change the description of where Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards may be used from “private lands” to “lands other than those enrolled in the Commission’s Game Land Program” in order to permit the use of these cards on military installations, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands that are NOT game lands.

Justification: Resource managers on military installations, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands have expressed an interest in allowing use of the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards on public properties they manage. As currently written, the regulation prohibits use of the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards on these types of properties and on public properties that fall within the boundary of a municipality participating in the Urban Archery Season. This regulation change would expand the potential use of the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards.

H3. Remove the daily bag limit for deer.

Justification: There is little biological justification for a daily bag limit of two deer. Eliminating the daily bag limit will increase opportunities for hunters to take more than two deer in a day without negatively impacting the state’s deer herd.

H4. Allow hunters to use archery equipment to harvest deer during the Muzzle-loading Firearms Season on game lands.

Justification: Currently hunters are allowed to harvest deer during the Muzzle-loading Firearms Season using archery equipment on private lands. This regulation change would allow the same on game lands.

H5. Shorten the Bow Season by one week and begin the Muzzleloading Firearms Season one week earlier to create a two-week Muzzleloading Firearms Season.

Justification: This regulation change would increase opportunities for hunters using muzzleloading rifles or muzzleloading shotguns to harvest deer, while not reducing the total time available to hunt using archery equipment.

H6. Establish a single uniform Deer Season on private lands with a structure matching the current Eastern Deer Season in the counties of Yancey, McDowell and Rutherford and ALL counties east of them (WRC Districts 1-8). The segments of this season would be:

- Bow and Arrow Season only opening on the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 and ending the fourth Friday thereafter (or the third Friday thereafter if proposal H5 is adopted);
- Muzzleloading Firearms Season opening the Saturday on or nearest to Oct. 8 (or Oct. 1 if proposal H5 is adopted) and ending the following Friday (or two Fridays thereafter if proposal H5 is adopted);
- All Lawful Weapons (“gun”) Season opening the Saturday on or nearest to Oct. 15 and ending Jan. 1.

Justification: A single deer season could reduce complexity for new hunters. This season also offers more gun hunting opportunities for hunters in the current Central, Northwestern and Western Deer seasons.

H7. Apply the season structure described in H6 to game lands.

Justification: This would allow game land users the same opportunities as hunters on private lands.

H8. Open all counties in and east of Yancey, McDowell and Rutherford counties to the Maximum Either-Sex Deer Season.

Justification: This would increase opportunities for doe harvest.

H9. Assign all of Moore County to the Eastern Deer Season. (This regulation change will be unnecessary if H6 is adopted.)

Justification: This regulation change has been requested by some local hunters.

Bear

H10. Allow bear hunting on the Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary by permit only.

Justification: The bear population in and around the Daniel Boone Sanctuary is healthy and continues to increase. Based on the current density of bears in the area, the increasing conflicts between people and bears, and the increase in de facto sanctuary land around Daniel Boone Sanctuary, there is a need to increase the harvest of bears in the sanctuary area. Permit hunting will allow hunters the opportunity to hunt the area under a closely monitored and regulated permit hunt.

H11. Add the western portions of Northampton and Halifax counties to the Bear Season currently open in the eastern part of those counties.

Justification: There is no biological reason to split the Bear Hunting Season in these counties.

H12. Change the Bear Season in Pamlico County to open on the second Monday in November and close on Jan. 1.

Justification: This regulation change is at the request of local bear hunters.

Turkey

H13. Eliminate the Winter Either-Sex Turkey Season.

Justification: Spring gobbler harvest is relatively low in some of the Winter Turkey Season counties and some have experienced sharp declines in spring gobbler harvest over the past seven seasons.

H14. Replace Youth Only Wild Turkey Day with a Friends and Family Afield Wild Turkey Day. Make this day the first Saturday in April and every person hunting on that day must be accompanied by at least one other person. The shooting hours during this season will end at 1 p.m. The bag limit is one bird (male or bearded).

Justification: This will promote the social aspects of hunting and could encourage a non-hunter to try hunting.

H15. Open Spring Wild Turkey Season the day after Friends and Family Afield Wild Turkey Day (Sunday if proposal H26/27 is adopted) and end the season the Saturday of the fourth week thereafter. During the first six days of this season (Sunday through Friday), shooting hours end at 1 p.m. The bag limit will be one bird for the first six days of the season. If a hunter takes a bird on Friends and Family Afield Wild Turkey Day, the hunter may NOT take another bird during the first six days of the season. After the first six days of the season have passed, the shooting hours end at one-half hour after sunset and the season bag limit is two birds (male or bearded).

Justification: This regulation change will address agency goals for turkey hunter satisfaction and has been requested by some turkey hunters.

H16. Remove permit requirements for youth hunting on Youth Turkey Day on these game lands: Croatan, Holly Shelter, North River and Van Swamp. (This regulation change will be unnecessary if H14 is adopted.)

Justification: Some larger game lands that currently require special permits for youth turkey hunting are not receiving adequate interest. Removing the permit restrictions on these larger areas should generate increased opportunity and interest while not impacting the quality of the youth turkey hunt.

Wild Boar

H17. Open Wild Boar Season on the Monday on or nearest Sept. 10 and end it on the last day of February. Allow hunting with dogs only during Open Bear Season and never on bear sanctuaries. Allow wild boar to be taken in the Deer Bow-and-Arrow Season, Deer Muzzleloading Season, Deer Gun Season and Any Small Game Season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.

Justification: This regulation change was requested by U.S. Forest Service personnel in order to control increasing populations of feral hogs on Forest Service property as well as private lands in the western six counties.

H18. Open bear sanctuaries to wild boar hunting during the entire Wild Boar Season.

Justification: This regulation change was requested by U.S. Forest Service personnel in order to control increasing populations of feral hogs on bear sanctuaries.

Hard Tags

H19. Require hunters to attach a physical tag to big game at the site of harvest. Hunters would still be required to check their harvests in and obtain an authorization number for their Big Game Harvest Report Cards.

Justification: A return to hard tags has been requested by many hunters in North Carolina and will improve the Commission's ability to monitor harvest. (Due to the technical challenges of making this change, hard tags, if adopted, would not be required until fall 2010.)

Squirrels

H20. Set the season on red and grey squirrels to open Oct. 1 and end on the second Saturday in February.

Justification: This regulation change will give more opportunities to small game hunters without negatively affecting the squirrel population.

Waterfowl

H21. Allow the Commission to authorize the use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls, when also allowed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for hunting migratory game birds.

Justification: The use of unplugged guns and electronic calls can be allowed in specific situations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but N.C. regulations never allow their use. This regulation change would give the Commission the authority to decide, on an annual basis, to allow these practices.

Crows

H22. Change the season for crows to include the state-observed holidays of Independence Day, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and change the opening day of the season from June 1 to the first Wednesday in June.

Justification: This regulation change will give crow hunters more opportunities to hunt when they are likely to have a day off from work.

Trapping

T23. Remove the bag limits on otters in the western region of North Carolina.

Justification: When otter restoration efforts were taking place, otter populations were low and vulnerable to harvest pressure. Bag limits were implemented in order to allow otter populations to establish in western North Carolina. Restoration efforts have been successful and the bag limit on otters in western North Carolina is no longer needed.

T24. Allow raccoons to be trapped in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties (District 9).

Justification: There is no biological or management justification to restrict the trapping of raccoons in western North Carolina. Raccoon populations are abundant throughout North Carolina and will not be negatively impacted by lifting the restriction on trapping raccoons in District 9.

Hunting on Sundays

H25. Allow falconry on Sundays, except for migratory game birds.*

Justification: There is no biological, legal or management reason to prohibit falconry on Sundays.

H26. Allow bow hunting on Sundays on private lands only, except for migratory game birds.*

Justification: Bow hunting on Sundays would increase opportunities, particularly for hunters who can only hunt on the weekends because of work obligations. State law prohibits hunting on Sundays with firearms, not archery equipment.

H27. Allow bow hunting on Sundays on game lands, except for migratory game birds.*

Justification: This regulation change would offer the same opportunities to game land users that H26 proposes for hunters on private lands.

**The length of the Migratory Game Bird seasons in North Carolina is based upon federal frameworks that assume migratory game birds may not be hunted on Sundays.*

Crossbows

H28. Allow the use of crossbows, without permit, anytime bow and arrows are legal weapons.

Justification: This would provide more opportunities to hunters that use archery equipment and open up archery hunting to hunters with limited arm strength.

Game Lands—Regulations Applying to All Game Lands

H29. Remove restrictions on the types of firearms allowed on game lands during open hunting seasons, but while big game seasons are closed.

Justification: Currently, it is illegal to possess on game lands a shotgun shell containing larger than No. 4 shot or any rifle or pistol larger than a .22 caliber rimfire during the closed big game firearms seasons. This regulation would eliminate those restrictions and open up opportunities to hunters.

H30. Prohibit the training and running of dogs from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Commission.

Justification: This timeframe covers the Spring Turkey Hunting Season and the nesting and rearing period for many wildlife species. Prohibiting dog training during this time would reduce conflicts on game lands between dog trainers and turkey hunters and would minimize impacts to wildlife during the critical reproductive season.

H31. Specify the use of permit hunts as the means by which the Commission will create additional hunting opportunities for Disabled Sportsman Program participants. Allow the Commission to schedule these disabled sportsman permit hunts during the closed season and limit the weapon type if necessary.

Justification: This is the current policy of the Commission. This regulation change is to clarify in the N.C. Administrative Code that this is the method by which the Commission will offer special hunting opportunities to disabled sportsmen.

H32. Clarify that the use of disabled sportsman blinds on game lands is for individuals enrolled in the Disabled Sportsman Program and their able-bodied companions exclusively and their use of these blinds shall be on a first-come basis during non-permit, open hunting days. On permit hunts the Commission will designate use of the blinds.

Justification: As the Commission builds more of these blinds on game lands, it has become necessary to regulate their use.

Game Lands—Regulations Applying to Specific Game Lands

H33. Remove the disabled hunting dates required by the N.C. Administrative Code on Bladen Lakes and Holly Shelter game lands. Disabled hunts on these game lands will be available through the permit system.

Justification: The Disabled Sportsman Tier II program is replacing these hunts, and the program is being expanded to include additional opportunities for disabled hunters.

H34. Change the shooting hours for hunting waterfowl on Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land from a 1 p.m. ending to all day shooting.

Justification: Hunters have requested that waterfowl hunting hours on Butner-Falls of Neuse be the same as Jordan Game Land.

H35. Add Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the list of applicable hunt days for waterfowl on Butner–Falls of Neuse Game Land.

Justification: This would give additional opportunities to waterfowl hunters on this game land.

H36. On the Parker Farm Tract of Goose Creek Game Land and the Pender 4 Tract of Holly Shelter Game Land, implement permit-only hunting and restrict vehicular access from Sept. 1 to the end of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.

Justification: The permit system enables the Division of Wildlife Management to manage different user groups, reduce conflict and offer as much opportunity as possible.

H37. Implement permit-only hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments located on Goose Creek and White Oak game lands during October and through the end of the Waterfowl Season.

Justification: Hunting on non-permit hunting days has become overcrowded and hunters have expressed concern over safety and quality issues. Implementing a permit-only system will limit the number of hunting parties, reduce safety concerns and reduce disturbance to waterfowl. This should improve hunt quality and success.

H38. Allow hunters who possess disabled access permits to operate all terrain vehicles on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access on Holly Shelter Game Land.

Justification: This proposed regulation change improves access for disabled sportsmen.

H39. Allow youth to hunt the Camden County portion of the North River Game Land during the Youth Only Wild Turkey Season without a permit. (This regulation change will be unnecessary if H14 is adopted.)

Justification: Permit applications for hunting on the Youth Only Wild Turkey Season at North River Game Land have been low. By dropping the permit requirement, participation can be open to all youth.

H40. Extend dove hunting on the field trial grounds of the Sandhills Game Land from the second Sunday to the third Saturday of September.

Justification: This regulation change will increase opportunities for dove hunters.

H41. Limit consecutive nights stay to 14 days in any 30-day period on designated campgrounds on Thurmond Chatham Game Land from May 1 to Aug. 31. Require the removal of personal property at the end of a 14-day period.

Justification: Some people have been “homesteading” at one of the designated campgrounds at Thurmond Chatham Game Land and the resulting trash accumulation, human waste disposal (or lack thereof), soil erosion and/or compaction and drug use are in conflict with the management goals for game lands. Under current rules, law enforcement officers cannot remove campers that stay for extended periods and cause problems.

H42. Identify the hunting opportunity permit as the type of permit needed to access Hargett Ave. on the White Oak River Game Land.

Justification: The current rule says that access on Hargett Ave. is by permit only, but clarification is needed to identify the type of permit.

H43. Create Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County as a six-day-per-week game land and Conservative Deer Either-Sex Season. (This game land will have a Maximum Deer Either-Sex Season if H8 is adopted.)

Justification: This is a new acquisition to the game land program.

H44. Limit dog training on Sandy Mush Game Land to Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Justification: Currently, dog training is occurring every day of the week from Aug. 16 through March 31 causing too much pressure on small game species.

H45. Prohibit swimming and vessels powered by internal combustion engines at Lake Upchurch on Nicholson Creek Game Land.

Justification: Lake Upchurch, a newly acquired lake, sits adjacent to Ft. Bragg and is a short distance from a major metropolitan area, Fayetteville. It is getting a lot of activity and currently, this activity is not specifically regulated. This regulation change will ensure safety and user satisfaction.

H46. Create Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County as a permit-only area.

Justification: This small game land will be located near the high population centers of Jacksonville and Camp Lejeune. To maintain a quality hunting experience, special permit hunts are recommended to control hunter numbers.

H47. Change the description of areas of Gull Rock Game Land in the N.C. Administrative Code so that new tracts are automatically open to bear hunting, unless the tracts are designated as part of the bear sanctuary.

Justification: This will simplify the N.C. Administrative Code and make it clear to hunters which areas are open to bear hunting.

Permits

H48. Prohibit the selling of live foxes and coyotes taken under a depredation permit to controlled hunting preserves.

Justification: Depredation permits are issued in order to eliminate wildlife causing damage to personal property or a threat to human safety. The Commission has been informed that some foxes NOT implicated in acts of depredation are being trapped for resale to fox-hunting preserves. This activity violates the spirit of the law that established the depredation permits. This regulation change would prohibit the selling of live foxes or coyotes taken under depredation permit and thus eliminate the economic incentive to take foxes or coyotes NOT implicated in acts of depredation or threats to human safety.

Controlled Hunting Preserves

H49. Remove the 1,000-acre upper limit on controlled hunting preserves.

Justification: This change has been requested by some landowners with large holdings who wish to establish controlled hunting preserves.

2009–2010 Season Dates

Use this table for planning purposes ONLY. Final season dates are published in the *2009-2010 Regulations Digest*, available July 1, 2009.

Species	Open Dates
Bear	<p>Western Bear Season: Oct. 12, 2009–Nov. 21, 2009 and Dec. 14, 2009–Jan. 1, 2010</p> <p>Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Jones, Pasquotank, Tyrrell, and Washington counties: Nov. 9–14, 2009 and Dec. 14–26, 2009</p> <p>Bertie, Currituck, Gates and Perquimans counties: Nov. 7–14, 2009 and Dec. 14–26, 2009</p> <p>Northampton, Halifax, Hertford and Martin counties: Nov. 9–14, 2009 and Dec. 14–16, 2009</p> <p>Southeastern Counties: (Including Pamlico County if H12 is adopted) Nov. 9, 2009–Jan. 1, 2010</p> <p>Brunswick and Columbus counties: Dec. 7–26, 2009</p> <p>Greene, Lenoir and Pitt counties: Nov. 9–14, 2009</p>
Boar in Cherokee, Clay Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties <i>(swine in other counties are feral hogs)</i>	Sept. 7, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010 (if H17 is adopted)
Wild Turkey Spring Season <i>(bearded or male turkeys only)</i>	<p>April 4, 2010–May 8, 2010 (if H15 and H26/27 are adopted) OR</p> <p>April 5, 2010–May 8, 2010 (if only H15 is adopted)</p>
Wild Turkey Family and Friends Afield Season <i>(bearded or male turkeys only)</i>	April 3, 2010
Wild Turkey Winter Season <i>(either sex)</i>	None (if H13 is adopted)
Raccoon and Opossum	Oct. 12, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010
Squirrel	<p>Gray and Red Squirrel: Oct. 1, 2009–Feb. 13, 2010 (if proposal H20 is adopted)</p> <p>Fox Squirrel: Oct. 12–Dec. 31, 2009 in selected counties</p>
Rabbit	Nov. 21, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010
Quail	Nov. 21, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010
Grouse	Oct. 12, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010
Bobcat	Oct. 12, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010
Fox	Jan. 2–23, 2010 (limited to certain counties)
Crow	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week between June 3, 2009 and Feb. 28, 2010, plus Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Independence Day, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day (if H22 is adopted)
Pheasant	Nov. 14, 2009–Feb. 1, 2010
Trapping	<p>Dec. 1, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010 in and east of Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Duplin, Pender and New Hanover counties.</p> <p>Nov. 1, 2009–Feb. 28, 2010 in all other counties</p>

Deer Seasons

Locations	Type of Season and Dates
Deer Season (if H6 is adopted)	Bow and Arrow: Sept. 12–Oct. 2, 2009 (if H5 is adopted) Muzzleloading: Oct. 3–16, 2009 (if H5 is adopted) Gun: Oct. 17, 2009–Jan. 1, 2010
Far Western Deer Season	Bow and Arrow: Sept. 7–26, 2009 and Oct. 12–Nov. 21, 2009 (if H5 is adopted) Muzzleloading: Sept. 28–Oct. 10, 2009 (if H5 is adopted) Gun: Nov. 23–Dec. 12, 2009
Gun: Either-Sex Seasons	Introductory Season: Last open day of the applicable gun season. Conservative Season: Last six open days of the applicable gun season. Moderate Season: First six open days and last six open days of the applicable gun season. Maximum Season: All open days of the applicable gun season.
Urban Deer Season <i>(open in participating cities only— see 2009-2010 Regulations Digest for list)</i>	Bow and Arrow: Jan. 9–Feb. 13, 2010
Dismal Swamp, Mackay Island, Pocosin Lakes and Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge	Gun Either-Sex: Oct. 17, 2009–Jan. 1, 2010 (if H8 is adopted)
Sunny Point, Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall Military Installations	Gun Either-Sex: Oct. 17, 2009–Jan. 1, 2010 (if H8 is adopted)
Belews Creek	Special Either-Sex Youth Hunt: Oct. 3, 2009 (<i>permit only</i>)
Mountain Island State Forest	Special Either-Sex Youth Hunt: Oct. 17, 2009 (<i>permit only</i>)

Helpful Phone Numbers

Big Game Harvests	1-800-I-GOT-ONE (1-800-446-8663)
Boat Registrations & Titles	1-800-NCVESSEL (1-800-628-3773)
Boating Access Areas	(919) 707-0150
Boating Regulations	(919) 707-0040
Boating Safety Classes	(919) 707-0031
Educational Programs	(919) 707-0170
Enforcement Operations	(919) 707-0030
Fishing Regulations	(919) 707-0040
Fisheries Programs and Research	(919) 707-0220
Hunter Safety Courses	(919) 707-0031
Hunting Regulations	(919) 707-0040
License Information/Purchases by Credit Card	1-888-2HUNTFISH (1-888-248-6834)
N.C. Wild Store Purchases	1-866-945-3746
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (Saltwater)	1-800-682-2632
No-Wake Zone Boating Regulations	(919) 707-0013
Raleigh Sales Office Location	(919) 707-0391
Violations of Boating, Hunting or Fishing Regulations	1-800-662-7137 1-800-662-7137VTTY*
Waterfowl Hunting Dates and Shooting Hours	1-800-675-0263
Wildlife Calendar Purchases	1-866-945-3746
<i>Wildlife in North Carolina</i> Magazine Subscriptions	1-866-945-3746
Wildlife Management	(919) 707-0050
Wildlife Service Agent Locations	1-888-248-6834

*TTY machine is available for callers with hearing impairments.

Additional Proposals From Sportsmen in Attendance

During this allotted time period, we welcome your comments toward needed changes in the fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.

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Purchasing Licenses or Magazine Subscriptions Using Master Card or Visa

By calling 1-888-248-6834, you can use your MasterCard or Visa to purchase most hunting and fishing licenses. You can also call 1-866-945-3746 for a subscription to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. Have your credit card, pen and paper handy before making the call.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576

www.ncwildlife.org

Division of Inland Fisheries (919) 707-0220

Division of Wildlife Management (919) 707-0050

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

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