

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 and G.S. 150B-21.3A(c)(2)g. that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to adopt the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0801, .0802; 10D .0294; 10H .1701, .1702, amend the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10B .0202, .0203, .0211, .0223; 10C .0205, .0208, .0305-.0307, .0313, .0314, .0316; 10D .0103, .0215, .0216, .0225, .0233, .0245, .0251, .0256, .0283, .0293; 10H .0102, .0105, .0109, .0901, .0904-.0906, .1505, .1510, repeal the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10B .0114, readopt with substantive changes the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10A .1302, .1303, and repeal through readoption the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10A .1301.

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.17, the Codifier has determined it impractical to publish the text of rules proposed for repeal unless the agency requests otherwise. The text of the rule(s) are available on the OAH website at <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp>.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Proposed-Regulations>

Proposed Effective Date: August 1, 2024

Public Hearing:

Date: January 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Southwest Randolph High School (Auditorium), 1641 Hopewell Friends Rd, Asheboro, NC 27205

Date: January 11, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Haywood Community College (Auditorium), 185 Freedlander Drive, Clyde, NC 28721

Date: January 17, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Craven County Courthouse, 302 Broad Street, New Bern, NC 28560

Date: January 18, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom meeting, registration required:

https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_JQp6XDn8QSCXBrvDJJf3Bg,

or join by phone: 877-853-5247

Webinar ID: 161 386 3150

Reason for Proposed Action: Each year, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reviews and adjusts seasons, bag limits, and the land management regulations, as needed, to achieve conservation management goals, comply with statutory changes, and respond to constituent requests.

Comments may be submitted to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.org

Comment period ends: January 30, 2024

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit a written objection to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive letters via U.S. Mail, private courier service, or hand delivery to 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, or via email to oah.rules@oah.nc.gov. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please review 26 NCAC 05 .0110 or call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact (\geq \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10A - WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SECTION .1300 – WILDLIFE POACHER REWARD FUND

15A NCAC 10A .1301 FUNDING SOURCES

History Note: Authority G.S. 15A-1343; 113-134; 113-294;
Eff. May 1, 2014.

15A NCAC 10A .1302 OFFENSES AND REWARD AMOUNTS

(a) Rewards shall be paid ~~only for information resulting in the arrest and conviction~~ and conviction of persons who have committed Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanors specified in G.S. ~~113-262, 113-294 and G.S. 113-337, and Class 1 misdemeanors involving wildlife resources specified in G.S. 113-264(b); 113-264(b), and Class 3 misdemeanors involving fisheries resources specified in Rule 10C .0302(a), .0304, .0401, .0402, and .0409 of this Chapter.~~

(b) The reward amount shall be equivalent to the amount of the fine, replacement costs, or restitution assessed by the court, whichever is greatest, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). If no fine, replacement cost, or restitution is assessed, including in cases that result in a prayer for judgment, the reward shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-294; 113-294.1; 113-337;
Eff. May 1, 2014.

15A NCAC 10A .1303 ELIGIBILITY

(a) Rewards shall be paid ~~only~~ to individuals who provide information resulting in the arrest and conviction of persons who ~~have committed~~ commit the offenses specified in Rule .1302(a) of this Section. If more than one individual provides information resulting in the arrest of a person for the same offense, the Commission shall pay ~~reward money in the individuals~~ equal amounts ~~to each individual~~ not to exceed the amount specified in Rule .1302(b) of this Section.

(b) Rewards shall be paid after the final disposition of a case resulting in a ~~conviction~~ conviction, as defined in G.S. 113-171(a), or a prayer for judgment. ~~For purposes of this Rule, a conviction shall be as defined in G.S. 113-171(a).~~

(c) The following individuals are not eligible to receive reward money:

- (1) ~~any~~ a current Wildlife Resources Commission employee ~~employee~~ or members of ~~his or her~~ their immediate family;
- (2) ~~any~~ current Wildlife Resources ~~Commissioner~~; Commissioners;
- (3) ~~any~~ a sworn law enforcement officer;
- (4) the perpetrator of the crime for which the information has been given and ~~any~~ an accomplice or accessory to that crime; and
- (5) ~~any~~ an individual who refuses to provide the Commission with his or her name and contact information.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-171; 113-294.1;
Eff. May 1, 2014.

SUBCHAPTER 10B - HUNTING AND TRAPPING

SECTION .0100 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10B .0114 DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276; 113-291.1; 113-291.5; 50 CFR 21.45;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; May 1, 2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1991;
May 1, 1990;
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2020;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023.

SECTION .0200 - HUNTING

15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR

(a) Open Seasons for hunting bear shall be from the:

- (1) ~~Monday Saturday~~ on or ~~nearest~~ immediately prior to October 15 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third ~~Monday Saturday~~ Saturday after Thanksgiving through January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland counties;
- (2) second Monday in November through January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, and Sampson counties;
- (3) second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington counties;
- (4) second Saturday in November through the third Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell counties;
- (5) second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans counties;

- (6) second Sunday in November through the following Sunday, when November 1 falls on a Sunday the season shall be from the third Sunday in November through the following Sunday, and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank counties;
- (7) third Saturday in November through the fifth Sunday thereafter in Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties; and
- (8) concurrent with the open season for ~~all lawful weapons~~ All Lawful Weapons for hunting deer as specified in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.
- (b) Restrictions
- (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means ~~any~~ a natural, unprocessed food product that is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw components.
- (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:
- (A) ~~any~~ processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), ~~any an~~ animal, animal part or product, salt, lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;
- (B) ~~any~~ extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;
- (C) ~~any~~ substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph, including ~~any~~ extracts of those substances; or
- (D) ~~any~~ bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.
- ~~(3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.~~
- ~~(4)(3)~~ Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the ~~entire~~ open season in the counties identified in ~~Subparagraphs Paragraph (a)(2) through (a)(8)(a)~~ of this Rule.
- ~~(5)(4)~~ Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait as specified in G.S. 113-291.1(b)(2).
- ~~(6)(5)~~ Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85, Anson west of N.C. ~~Hwy~~ Highway 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, ~~Franklin~~, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. ~~Hwy~~ Highway 98. In ~~all~~ other counties and parts of counties, hunters may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.
- (c) No Open Season. It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted designated bear sanctuaries management areas except when authorized by permit issued by the Commission. See 15A NCAC 10D .0106 for posted designated bear sanctuaries management areas.
- (d) The daily bag limit for bear is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; April 14, 1992; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999; Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; Amendment Eff. August 1, 2002; Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2003; Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. December 27, 2003; Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; Temporary Amendment Eff. May 31, 2016; Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018; Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2020; Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

- (a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:
- (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken during the following seasons, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

- (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.
- (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.
- (D) ~~Monday of Saturday after Thanksgiving week Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day~~ January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.
- (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.
- (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through (H) of this Subparagraph. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the fourth Saturday in September in all counties by persons under the age of 18.

- (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort ~~Bragg~~ Liberty Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.
- ~~(C)~~ Youth deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth antlered or antlerless deer hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth antlered or antlerless deer hunting by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday in November for youth antlered or antlerless deer hunting by permit only on a portion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person under 18 years of age.
- ~~(D)~~ (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood ~~Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties; and in Buncombe and Henderson counties, except for the areas described in Subparts (a)(2)(H)(i) and (ii) of this Rule. counties.~~
- ~~(E)~~ (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison ~~Madison, and McDowell counties. counties, except in the areas described in Subparts (a)(2)(G)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.~~
- ~~(F)~~ (E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.
- ~~(G)~~ (F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.
- ~~(H)~~ (G) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties:
 - (i) The part of Buncombe County east of ~~NC~~ N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of ~~US~~ U.S. 25, and north of ~~NC~~ N.C. 280; and
 - (ii) The part of Henderson County east of ~~NC~~ N.C. 191 and north and west of ~~NC~~ N.C. 280.

(b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment during the following seasons:

- (A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this ~~Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek,~~

~~Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands. Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D 0200.~~

~~(B) Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.~~

(2) Restrictions

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the Archery Season.

(C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part (b)(1)(A) of this Rule.

~~(D) Only deer with visible antlers shall be taken during the Archery Season specified by Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.~~

(c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment ~~during the following seasons: from~~

~~(A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.~~

~~(B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1) (D) of this Rule.~~

(2) Restrictions

(A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in ~~any~~ a county or county part set forth in Part ~~(a)(2)(E), (a)(2)(D), (E), (F), (G), or (H)(G)~~ of this Rule that has one or more open days within the ~~all lawful weapons season~~ All Lawfull Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.

(B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the ~~first second~~ open day Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first ~~Saturday~~ Friday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in Part ~~(a)(2)(D)(a)(2)(C)~~ of this ~~Rule~~ Rule.

(C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the ~~first second~~ open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.

(D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

(d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.

(2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

(3) Restrictions:

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.

(e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

(f) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph (e) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number

of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;
August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;
June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10B .0211 RING-NECKED PHEASANT

(a) On the barrier islands of Carteret, Dare, and Hyde counties east of Core Sound and Pamlico Sound, the ~~The~~ open season for taking ring-necked pheasant ~~is shall be~~ the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the last day of February to February 1 on male pheasant only.

(b) In areas of the state not specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the open season for taking male and female ring-necked pheasant is the earlier of the first Saturday in September or Labor Day, through the last day of February.

~~(b)(c) The~~ In the areas of the state specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the daily bag limit for ring-necked pheasants is three, the possession limit is six, and the season limit is 30.

(d) In areas of the state not specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, there is no daily bag limit, no season limit, and no possession limit.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;
Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE

(a) There is no closed season for taking feral swine on private lands anytime during the day or night.

(b) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset during ~~the~~ an open season for ~~any game animal animals~~ or game ~~bird birds~~ using ~~any the legal manner manners~~ of take allowed during those ~~seasons~~ season, except that dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine on game lands that do not allow the use of dogs for hunting white-tailed deer or black bear. Where lawful, the hunting of feral swine with dogs is allowed during the applicable deer or bear season unless otherwise specified in the Rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(c) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available feral swine permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits shall be non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding the taking of feral swine shall apply.

(d) There are no bag limits on feral swine.

(e) Hunters may use artificial lights and electronic calls.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2011;
Eff. February 1, 2012;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2012;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; March 21, 2013;
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.

SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

SECTION .0200 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

(a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Natural bait" means a living or dead plant or animal, or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
 - (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
 - (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by a substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
 - (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or a similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, ~~spoon~~ spoon, or similar device is added.
 - (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.
- (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:
- (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are the waters included in this Rule and those designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
 - (2) "Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters with this designation include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
 - (3) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday in June until October 1, anglers ~~of all ages~~ may fish ~~and~~ these waters ~~have~~ with no bait or lure restrictions. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
 - (4) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
 - (5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
 - (6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters identified in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
 - ~~(7)~~ ~~"Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook. Waters with this designation include tributaries unless otherwise noted.~~
 - ~~(8)~~(7) "Undesignated Waters" are the other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
- (c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.
- (d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. The other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

(1) Alleghany

~~(A)~~ ~~Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:~~

~~Little River from the S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129, marked by a sign on both banks~~

~~(B)~~(A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Pine Creek

Bledsoe Creek

Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where posted against trespassing

Cranberry Creek

Glade Creek

Little River from ~~275~~ 400 yards ~~downstream~~ upstream of the ~~intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129, bridge,~~ marked by a sign on ~~both banks, each bank,~~ to McCann Dam

Meadow Fork

Pine Swamp Creek

Piney Fork

Prathers Creek

~~(C)~~(B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

(2) Ashe County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Horse Creek from the Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River

Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks to ~~the North Fork New River~~ a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536

South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge

Trout Lake

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek

Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge

Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New River
Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge
Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River
Nathans Creek
North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam
Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River
Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research Station to Trout Lake
Roan Creek
Three Top Creek

(3) Avery County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond
Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek
Wilson Creek, the game land portion

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Boyde Coffey Lake
Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line
Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing
Milltimber Creek
North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing
North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing

Squirrel Creek

Wildcat Lake

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

Birchfield Creek
Cow Camp Creek
Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge
Gragg Prong
Horse Creek
Kentucky Creek
North Harper Creek
Plumtree Creek
Roaring Creek
Rockhouse Creek
Shawneehaw Creek, the portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway
South Harper Creek
Webb Prong

(4) Buncombe County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

Carter Creek, the game land portion

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Bent Creek from the headwaters to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line
Cane Creek from the headwaters to the S.R. 3138 bridge
Corner Rock Creek from Little Andy Creek to the confluence with Walker Branch
Dillingham Creek from Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek
Ivy Creek from Dillingham Creek to the U.S. 19-23 bridge
Lake Powhatan
Reems Creek from Sugar Camp Fork to the U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing
Rich Branch from downstream of the confluence with Rocky Branch
Stony Creek
Swannanoa from the S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville, except where posted against trespassing

(5) Burke County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

Henry Fork, the portion on South Mountains State Park

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Jacob Fork from Shinny Creek to the lower South Mountains State Park boundary

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Carroll Creek, the game land portion above S.R. 1405
Henry Fork from the lower South Mountain State Park line to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek
Linville River, the portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and the portion below Lake James powerhouse from the upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek

(D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

- Catawba River from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam
- (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
The waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts A and B of this Subparagraph
- (6) Caldwell County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Wilson Creek, the game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Boone Fork Pond
Buffalo Creek from the mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch
Joes Creek from the first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to the confluence with Buffalo Creek
Wilson Creek from Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing
Yadkin River from the Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Buffalo Creek from the Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries
Joes Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574
Rockhouse Creek
- (7) Cherokee County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Davis Creek from the confluence of Bald Creek and Dockery Creek to Hanging Dog Creek
Hyatt Creek from Big Dam Branch to the Valley River
Junaluska Creek from Ashturn Creek to the Valley River
Shuler Creek from the Joe Brown Hwy, S.R. 1325 bridge, to the Tennessee state line
Valley River from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy
- (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
Apalachia Reservoir
- ~~(C) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:
Bald Creek, the game land portion
Dockery Creek, the game land portion~~
- (8) Clay County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Fires Creek from Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Buck Creek, the game land portion downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge
Fires Creek from the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300
Tusquitee Creek from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge
- (9) Graham County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Snowbird Creek from the USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
Cheoah Reservoir
Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana
Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah
Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge
Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana
Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275
West Buffalo Creek
Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Little Buffalo Creek
South Fork Squally Creek
Squally Creek
- ~~(D) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:
Long Creek, the game land portion~~
- (10) Haywood County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River
Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where posted against trespassing
Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge
Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge

West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including the game land portion, except Middle Prong Creek

- (11) Henderson County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line
Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge
Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582
Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary
Hungry River from S.R. 1885 to the Green River
- (12) Jackson County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Flat Creek
Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the Duke Energy powerline corridor
Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Balsam Lake
Bear Creek Lake
Cedar Cliff Lake
Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River
Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek
Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek
Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch
Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against trespassing
Tanasee Creek Lake
Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge
Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont
Wolf Creek Lake
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Gage Creek
North Fork Scott Creek
Tanasee Creek
Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- ~~(E) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:
Chattooga River from the S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line~~
- (13) Macon County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River
Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River
Cliffside Lake
Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672
Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek
Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line
Queens Creek Lake
- ~~(C) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:
Chattooga River from the S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line
Kimsey Creek
Park Creek~~
- (14) Madison County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge
Shelton Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek
Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at end of Andrews Ave.
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch
Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River
Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy
Max Patch Pond
Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek
Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek
Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork
Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva
Shut-in Creek
Spillcorn Creek
Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow Fork
West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek

- (15) McDowell County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Newberry Creek, the game land portion
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway
Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch
Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line
Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park
Little Buck Creek, the game land portion
North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569 bridge
- (16) Mitchell County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge
North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection
Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge
East Fork Grassy Creek
Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth
Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing
North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing
Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries, except where posted against trespassing
Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- (17) Polk County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing
North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge
- (18) Rutherford County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing
- (19) Stokes County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421
- (20) Surry County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway
Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Ararat River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to the N.C. 103 bridge
Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks
Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge
Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge
Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River

- Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
- (21) Swain County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir
Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
Cheoah Reservoir
Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River
Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the Tuckasegee River
Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
- (22) Transylvania County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107 bridge
Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary
French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West Fork French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area
Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad River
West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad River
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
The waters located on Gorges State Park
Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- ~~(E) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:
North Fork French Broad River, the game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326
Thompson River from S.R. 1152 to the South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing~~
- (23) Watauga County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries
Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Lake Coffey
Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary
Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203
Beech Creek
Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek
Buckeye Creek Reservoir
Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood
Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth
Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing
Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River
Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194
Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the South Fork New River
Norris Fork Creek
South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the lower boundary of Brookshire Park
Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge
Howard Creek
Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River
North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the Ashe Co. line
~~Watauga River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1580 bridge~~
Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork New River
- (24) Wilkes County

- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary
 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain Club
 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development
 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence with the Yadkin River
 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek
 Bell Branch Pond
 Boundary Line Pond
 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge
 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North Fork Reddies River
 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the ~~S.R. 4002~~ Low Meadows Lane bridge
 Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing
 Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580
 Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736
 North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559
 Pike Creek
 Pike Creek Pond
 South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle Fork Reddies River
 South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155 intersection
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- (25) Yancey County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek
 Upper Creek
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County Park
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing
 Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek
 Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek
 South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park, except where posted against trespassing
 - (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge
 Lickskillet Creek
 Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;
 Eff. February 1, 1976;
 Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;
 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
 Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;
 Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);
 Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
 Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013;
 August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
 Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
 Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

(a) No person shall fish ~~by any method~~ from March 1 to May 31 in the following restored floodplain sloughs connected to the French Broad River and Mud Creek in Henderson County:

- (1) Slough 1 at 35.403687 N, 82.531970 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd ~~(SR 1345)~~. Rd. (S.R. 1345).
- (2) Slough 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W connected to the French Broad River, located 1.0 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd.
- (3) Slough 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W connected to Mud Creek, located 0.1 miles upstream from confluence with the French Broad River.
- (4) Pleasant Grove slough at 35.298384 N, 82.584716 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream from S.R. 1205, Etowah School Road.

(b) Each slough shall be marked with signs on both banks.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.

SECTION .0300 – GAME FISH IN INLAND FISHING WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (l), (m), and (n) of this Rule.

(b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (n) of this Rule.

(c) There is no closed season, except ~~for~~ in waters identified in Paragraph ~~(d)~~ (n) of this Rule.

(d) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

(e) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish ~~in the~~ aggregate.

(f) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish ~~in the~~ aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

(g) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the ~~following:~~ following waters:

- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and ~~all~~ their tributaries, including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the ~~NC~~ N.C. Hwy 264/45 bridge, and ~~all the~~ other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

(h) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

(i) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches, and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(j) ~~In Shearon Harris Reservoir in Chatham and Wake counties and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only~~ Bass. No more than two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(k) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

(l) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and ~~only~~ one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

(m) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches and ~~only~~ one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

(n) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;

Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012;
August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

- (a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except ~~for~~ in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (h) of this Rule.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit except in waters identified in Paragraphs (f) through (h) of this Rule.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.
- (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 30 fish.
- (f) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:
 - (1) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;
 - (2) Cashie River and its tributaries;
 - (3) Middle River and its tributaries;
 - (4) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and
 - (5) Lake Mattamuskeet in Hyde County.
- (g) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:
 - (1) Lake Norman;
 - (2) Lake Hyco;
 - ~~(3) Lake Ramseur;~~
 - ~~(4)~~(3) Cane Creek Lake in Union County;
 - ~~(5)~~(4) Lake Hampton in Yadkin County;
 - ~~(6)~~(5) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam including tributaries;
 - ~~(7)~~(6) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam including tributaries;
 - ~~(8)~~(7) Haw River downstream of B. Everett Jordan Reservoir Dam including tributaries;
 - ~~(9)~~(8) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam including tributaries;
 - ~~(10)~~(9) Cape Fear River including tributaries;
 - ~~(11)~~(10) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam including tributaries;
 - ~~(12)~~(11) Lumber River including Drowning Creek including tributaries;
 - ~~(13)~~(12) public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (f) of this Rule;
 - ~~(14)~~(13) public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge; and
 - ~~(15)~~(14) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir.
- (h) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0307 FLOUNDER

- (a) The daily creel limit for flounder is ~~four~~ one fish.
- (b) The minimum size limit is 15 inches.
- (c) The season for taking and possessing flounder is September 1 through September 14.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2021;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.

15A NCAC 10C .0313 AMERICAN SHAD AND HICKORY SHAD

- (a) The daily creel limit for American and ~~hickory shad~~ Hickory Shad in the aggregate is 10 fish, only one of which may be an American shad, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.
- (d) In the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, Pee Dee River, and their tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and ~~hickory shad~~ Hickory Shad is 10 in the aggregate.
- (e) In the inland waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and ~~hickory shad~~ Hickory Shad is 10 in the aggregate, only five of which may be American shad.
- (f) In ~~all public waters of the Roanoke River upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, including~~ Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, Lake ~~Gaston Gaston, and~~ John H. Kerr Reservoir, ~~and their tributaries, and in public waters of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River upstream of Blewett Falls Dam, including~~ Blewett Falls Reservoir, and its tributaries, no American shad may be possessed.
- (g) The season for taking American and ~~hickory shad~~ Hickory Shad with dip nets and bow nets is March 1 through April 30.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

- (a) The daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) and (g) through ~~(m)~~(l) of this Rule.
- (b) The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through ~~(m)~~(l) of this Rule.
- (c) There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (i) through ~~(m)~~(l) of this Rule.
- (d) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on striped bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches. No fish greater than 26 inches may be possessed from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit ~~on~~ for striped bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.
- (e) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September 30.
- (f) In Farmer Lake, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom A Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.
- (g) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but only and two may be greater than 22 inches.
- (h) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches.
- ~~(i) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in the other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (h) and (j) through (l) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing striped bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.~~
- ~~(j)~~(i) In the inland fishing waters of the Tar, Pungo, Neuse, and Cape Fear River rivers and its their tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing striped bass is closed year-round.
- ~~(k)~~(j) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110 which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing striped bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake Dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is one fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish over 22 inches in length shall be ~~possessed in the daily creel limit.~~ possessed.
- ~~(k)~~(k) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries, excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries, the striped bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.
- ~~(m)~~(l) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend or extend the hook-and-line season for striped bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of a proclamation issued pursuant to this authority.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 30, 2021;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022;

15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT

- (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.
- (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters ~~and Wild Trout Natural Bait Trout Waters~~ is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.
- (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters. Trout ~~may~~ shall not be possessed while fishing these waters.
- (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season ~~only~~ individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for ~~all~~ anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout ~~may~~ shall not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to ~~all~~ fishing from one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.
- (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.
 - (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.
- (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.
- (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.
- (1) Bear Creek Lake;
 - (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;
 - (3) Calderwood Reservoir;
 - (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;
 - (5) Cheoah Reservoir;
 - (6) Cliffside Lake;
 - (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;
 - (8) Queens Creek Lake; and
 - (9) Wolf Lake.
- (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.
- (i) ~~All trout~~ Trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

SECTION .0800 – JOINT FISHING WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0801 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN JOINT FISHING WATERS

- (a) For the purposes of this Rule, the following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes in joint fishing waters:
- (1) Alabama bass, largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass;
 - (2) black crappie and white crappie;
 - (3) chain pickerel (jack), muskellunge, and redbfin pickerel;
 - (4) kokanee salmon;
 - (5) mountain trout, including but not limited to brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout;
 - (6) Roanoke bass and rock bass (redeye);
 - (7) sauger and walleye; and
 - (8) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), flier, pumpkinseed, redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), warmouth, and the other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule.
- (b) Inland game fishes shall not be taken by methods other than with hook and line, except that landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.
- (c) Size, creel limits, and seasons for inland game fishes in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those designated in Section .0300 for inland fishing waters.
- (d) Inland game fishes taken incidental to commercial fishing operations shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- (e) Inland game fishes taken from joint fishing waters shall not be sold.
- (f) Individuals may take up to the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel limit.
- (g) On the waters being fished, individuals may possess:
- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;

- (2) fish conforming to the size limit for the species; and
 - (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.
- (h) Individuals may possess up to three days creel limit at any place.
- (i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:
- (1) unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters;
 - (2) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of a game fish having a size limit to render it impracticable to measure its total original length; or
 - (3) change the appearance of a game fish having a daily creel limit to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292;

15A NCAC 10C .0802 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF OTHER FISHES BY HOOK AND LINE IN JOINT FISHING WATERS

- (a) This Rule applies to fish taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, excluding the species listed in 15A NCAC 10C .0801.
- (b) Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.
- (c) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206 to take fishes in joint fishing waters.
- (d) Size, creel limits, and seasons for fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those designated in Sections .0300 and .0400 for inland fishing waters with the following exceptions:
- (1) In the joint fishing waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, and their tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in aggregate.
 - (2) In the joint fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in aggregate, five of which may be American Shad.
 - (3) In the joint fishing waters of the Central Southern Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 03R .0201, size, creel limits, and seasons for striped bass and its hybrids are listed in 15A NCAC 10C .0107.
 - (4) In the joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(2), which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. One fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.
 - (5) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(1), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.
- (e) Fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters may be sold except those fishes for which the sale is prohibited in Sections .0300 and .0400 for inland fishing waters.
- (f) For fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, individuals may take up to the daily creel limit of fish having a specified creel limit.
- (g) On the waters being fished, individuals may possess:
- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
 - (2) fish conforming to the size limit of the species; and
 - (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.
- (h) Individuals may possess up to three days creel limit at any place.
- (i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:
- (1) remove the head or tail or change the appearance of a fish taken by hook and line specified in Sections .0300 or .0400 as having a size limit, to render it impractical to measure its total original length, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.
 - (2) change the appearance of a fish taken by hook and line that has a species-specific daily creel limit in Sections .0300 or .0400, to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292;

SUBCHAPTER 10D - GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

SECTION .0100 - GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

- (a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:
- (1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of ~~alcohol or a narcotic drug;~~ an impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b);
 - (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;

- (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from using a roadway; and
 - (4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.
- (b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game birds.
- (c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Subchapter.
- (d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.
- (e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:
- (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
 - (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
 - (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
 - (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and
 - (5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.
- (f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:
- (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;
 - (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
 - (3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and
 - (4) hunting migratory game birds.
- (g) On designated Youth Waterfowl ~~Days~~ Days, the following shall apply:
- (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;
 - (2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and
 - (3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.
- (i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."
- (j) Definitions:
- (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
 - (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.
 - (3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.
 - (4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
 - (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.
 - (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter, or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity shall apply.
 - (7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.
- (k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.
- (l) On permit hunts, ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits

shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperater agent or by phone.

(m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

- (1) Bertie, ~~Halifax~~ Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- (4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- (5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
- (6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

(n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

~~(o) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for a game animal or game bird using a legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the open deer or bear season.~~

~~(p)~~(o) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.

~~(q)~~(p) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.

~~(r)~~(q) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September 1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006;
May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023.

SECTION .0200 - USE OF GAME LANDS

15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY

(a) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken from the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- ~~(3) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit only for quail and woodcock hunting and bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.~~
- ~~(4)~~(3) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.
- ~~(5)~~(4) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- ~~(6)~~(5) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

(b) Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

- (1) quail and woodcock; and
- (2) rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY

Chatham game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15.
- (3) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- ~~(3)~~(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY

(a) Dover Bay game land is a Six Days per Week Area.

(b) On this game land ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season.~~ Season.

(c) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES

Harris game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken on the following days:
 - (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- (3) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- (4) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- ~~(5)~~ Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (6) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (7) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY

Lee game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- ~~(2)~~(3) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, SWAIN, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

(a) Nantahala game land is a Seven Days per Week Area.

(b) In this game land Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.

(c) Dogs may be used to hunt feral swine during the open bear season established in 15A NCAC 10B .0202 and from January 1 through January 31.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES

North River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- (3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit.
- (4) During the period November 1 through March 15, all activities, except waterfowl hunting and trapping during the trapping season on North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone.
- ~~(4)~~(5) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES

Thurmond Chatham game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- (3) ~~The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land. Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February; and March 31 through May 14.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES

Yadkin River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken ~~the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all on~~ the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season ~~in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties. Season.~~
- (2) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

North Bend game land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- (1) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (2) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February; and March 31 through May 14.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305.

SUBCHAPTER 10H – REGULATED ACTIVITIES

SECTION .0100 - CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES FOR DOMESTICALLY RAISED GAME BIRDS

15A NCAC 10H .0102 ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION

- (a) Controlled hunting preserves shall be at least ~~400~~ 50 acres and shall be one contiguous block of land.
- (b) The boundary of each controlled hunting preserve shall be posted with printed signs that face both outward and inward from the preserve boundary. boundary and meet the following requirements:

- (1) ~~Signs shall be at least 12 inches wide and at least nine inches tall with white background and black lettering of uniform font.~~
- (2) ~~Signs shall be placed along the boundaries of the controlled hunting preserve, not more than 150 feet apart.~~
- (3) ~~Text of signs facing outward from the boundary shall contain the following information in font no less than ¼ of an inch in height:~~
 - (A) ~~the words "Controlled Hunting Preserve";~~
 - (B) ~~the words, "The owner or lessee of this property is operating by authority of a license issued by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Hunting on this preserve shall be in accordance with regulations of the Commission.";~~
 - (C) ~~the words, "State hunting license is required"; and~~
 - (D) ~~the name of the licensed operator of the controlled hunting preserve.~~
- (4) ~~Text of signs facing inward from the boundary shall bear the words "Controlled Hunting Preserve" in font no less than ¾ of an inch in height.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;
 Eff. February 1, 1976;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2009; January 1, 1992; November 1, 1990;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10H .0105 RECORDS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) The controlled hunting preserve operator shall maintain a written record of each hunter using the controlled hunting preserve. This record shall contain the following information:

- (1) name, address, and license number of the preserve;
- (2) the name, address, and state hunting license number of each hunter using the preserve;
- (3) the date(s) of the hunt;
- (4) the number and species of each bird harvested by the hunter on the preserve; and
- (5) the signature of the operator.

This record shall be executed in duplicate. The original record shall be given to the hunter to serve as a receipt for birds harvested on the preserve as required in Rule .0103 of this Section. The duplicate record shall be retained by the operator for 12 months after the date(s) of the hunt. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess game birds harvested on controlled hunting preserves without a receipt as described in this Rule.

(b) The operator shall maintain a written record of each bird species released on the preserve. This record shall include the number and species of each bird released and the date of the release.

(c) The records required by this Rule shall be available for inspection at the request of the Commission.

(d) Licensed operators that release birds shall report the number released, the species of the birds released, and the county where the release occurred to renew their operator's license. This reporting requirement shall be limited to those birds released during the time period of the operator's current valid license or last valid license and shall be reported on the Controlled ~~Shooting~~ Hunting Preserve Game Birds Report Form found online at www.ncwildlife.org or at the Commission headquarters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274;
 Eff. February 1, 1976;
 Amended Eff. November 1, 1990; April 15, 1979;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10H .0109 QUAIL CALL-PEN TRAPS

Licensed controlled hunting preserve operators that release pen-raised quail for hunting or dog training shall be authorized to use quail call-pen traps, between September 1 and April 30, to recover released domestically raised quail, subject to the following requirements:

- (1) ~~all~~ traps shall have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached with the operator's name and address written legibly;
and
- (2) ~~no trap~~ traps shall not be located within 100 yards of any boundary of the hunting ~~preserve; and~~ preserve.
- (3) ~~no trapped, unbanded quail shall be retained.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1;
 Eff. September 1, 1980;
 Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; December 1, 1993; November 1, 1990; July 1, 1987;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 2020.

SECTION .0900 – GAME BIRD PROPAGATORS

15A NCAC 10H .0901 GAME BIRD PROPAGATION LICENSE

(a) The game bird propagation license ~~shall authorize~~ is required for the ~~purchase, possession, propagation, propagation and sale, transportation, transfer, and release of propagated upland game birds, except wild turkey, and migratory domestically raised waterfowl and game birds and their eggs, subject to the following limitations and conditions:~~

- (1) ~~The~~ the sale of dead pen-raised quail for food is governed by the regulations of the North Carolina Department of ~~Agriculture; Agriculture and Consumer Services; and~~
- (2) ~~The~~ the purchase, possession, sale, transportation, and transfer of migratory game birds and their eggs is subject to additional requirements in 50 CFR 21, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. 50 CFR 21 may be found free of charge at: www.ecfr.gov.
- (3) ~~Except on controlled hunting preserves each license holder may release no more than six domestically raised game birds for the purpose of dog training each day.~~

(b) ~~Application for~~ Individuals may obtain a game bird propagation license ~~shall be made on a form available from the Commission at www.newwildlife.org www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Information required from the applicant shall include the applicant's:~~

- (1) ~~name;~~
- (2) ~~mailing address;~~
- (3) ~~residence address;~~
- (4) ~~telephone number; and~~
- (5) ~~date of birth.~~

(c) The game bird propagation license shall be posted and displayed at the propagation facility so that it is visible to visitors ~~or patrons at all times.~~ and patrons.

History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.94; 113-134; 113-273; 50 C.F.R., Part 21; Eff. January 1, 1981; Amended Eff. July 1, 1988; July 1, 1987; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001; Amended Eff. June 1, 2005; July 18, 2002; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019.

15A NCAC 10H .0904 DISPOSITION OF GAME BIRDS OR GAME BIRD EGGS

(a) ~~Diseased Birds.~~ It shall be unlawful for a game bird propagation license holder to knowingly sell or ~~otherwise~~ transfer possession of ~~any~~ a live game bird that shows evidence of a communicable disease, except for transfers to a veterinarian or pathologist for examination and diagnostic purposes. Disposition of any game bird with a communicable disease not likely to infect wild game bird populations shall be the responsibility of the license holder.

(b) ~~Sale of Live Birds or Eggs.~~ Subject to the limitations set forth in Rule .0901 of this Section, ~~any~~ game birds that are authorized to be propagated under this Section, or ~~the their eggs, eggs thereof,~~ may be sold or transferred alive by a licensed game bird propagator to another licensed game bird propagator or licensed controlled ~~shooting~~ hunting preserve operator or to ~~any~~ a person that holds a valid license or permit that authorizes possession.

(c) ~~Receipt Required.~~ Upon sale or transfer, a written receipt of the transaction shall be prepared in duplicate showing the date, the names and license or permit numbers of both parties, and the species and quantity of the game birds or game bird eggs transferred. A copy of the receipt shall be retained by ~~each of~~ the parties as provided by Rule .0906 of this Section.

(d) ~~Bird Marking.~~ Any live Live migratory waterfowl sold or transferred to ~~any~~ a person for use in training retrievers or conducting retriever trials shall be marked by one of the methods provided by 50 CFR ~~21.45~~ 21.45, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be ~~accessed~~ found free of charge at ~~www.ecfr.gov~~ www.ecfr.gov at no cost. ~~All other domestically raised game birds sold or transferred for the same purposes shall be individually marked on one leg with a band imprinted with the propagator's license number.~~

(e) ~~Sale of Dead Game Birds as Food.~~ Subject to Rule .0901 of this Section and to ~~any~~ applicable laws and regulations relating to pure foods, public health, and advertising, domestically raised waterfowl and game birds produced by licensed game bird propagators ~~may~~ shall not be killed ~~at any time in any manner, except~~ by shooting during the closed season. Dead game birds, except for dead pen-raised quail, and game bird eggs may be sold for food purposes as follows:

- (1) Sale Direct to Consumer. Unprocessed dead domestically raised waterfowl and game birds may be sold directly to a consumer when accompanied by a receipt showing the name of the consumer, the name and license number of the propagator, and the quantity and species of the ~~game~~ birds sold. A copy of the receipt shall be retained by the propagator for one year after the transaction. It shall be unlawful for the consumer to resell unprocessed dead domestically raised waterfowl and game birds.
- (2) Sale to or Through a Processor.
 - (A) Unprocessed dead domestically raised waterfowl and game birds may be sold to a commercial food processor that holds a permit to possess them or transferred to a commercial food processor for processing and packaging prior to sale. Sale or transfer shall be evidenced by written receipt retained by each party for a year after the sale or transfer, that includes the following information:
 - (i) the processor's name and permit number;
 - (ii) the propagator's name and license number; and
 - (iii) the number and species of ~~game~~ birds sold or transferred.
 - (B) Domestically raised waterfowl and game ~~Game~~ bird carcasses processed by a commercial food processor for wholesale or retail sale shall be enclosed in a wrapper or container marked with the following:
 - (i) the number and species of ~~game~~ birds contained;

- (ii) the license number of the propagator; and
 - (iii) the words "domestically raised."
- (3) Domestically raised waterfowl and Propagated game bird eggs shall not be sold for food.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 50 CFR 21.45;
Eff. January 1, 1981;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10H .0905 TRANSPORTATION

- (a) Live Domestically Raised Waterfowl and Game Birds or Game Bird Eggs
- (1) Private Carriers. Live ~~propagated~~ domestically raised waterfowl and game birds or ~~game-bird~~ eggs may be transported by private carrier when accompanied by a copy of the receipt specified in Rules .0903 or .0904 of this Section.
 - (2) Common Carriers. When live ~~propagated~~ domestically raised waterfowl and game birds or ~~game-bird~~ eggs are transported by common carrier, each separate container shall be tagged or labeled with the following information:
 - (A) the name, address, and license number of the shipping propagator;
 - (B) the name, address, and license or permit number of the consignee; and
 - (C) the number and species of domestically raised waterfowl or game birds or ~~game-bird~~ eggs contained therein.
- (b) Dead Domestically Raised Waterfowl and Game Birds
- (1) Private Consumers. Unprocessed dead domestically raised waterfowl and game birds may be transported by consumers or hunters when accompanied by a receipt from a licensed game bird propagator required by Rule .0904(e)(1) of this Section or by a copy of the receipt from a controlled ~~shooting~~ hunting preserve operator as required by 15A NCAC 10H .0105.
 - (2) Processed Domestically Raised Waterfowl and Game Birds. The carcasses of processed ~~propagated~~ domestically raised game birds other than quail may be transported in any manner when packaged in a wrapper or container marked as required by Rule .0904(e)(2) of this Section.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;
Eff. January 1, 1981;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.

15A NCAC 10H .0906 RECORDS

- (a) Licensed game bird propagators that sell domestically raised waterfowl and game birds shall maintain a file of receipts by calendar year with the following information:
- (1) ~~The the~~ the dates and sources of acquisition of domestically raised waterfowl and game birds and ~~game-bird~~ eggs;
 - (2) ~~The the~~ the species and quantities of the domestically raised waterfowl and game birds and ~~game-bird~~ eggs, as required by Rule .0903 of this Section; and
 - (3) ~~Receipts receipts~~ receipts showing all transfers of ~~propagated~~ domestically raised waterfowl and game birds, except dead quail sold for food purposes, and ~~game-bird~~ eggs as required by Rule .0904 of this Section.
- (b) Records shall be made available for inspection at the request of the Commission.
- (c) Records shall be retained for at least one year following the license year to which they pertain.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;
Eff. January 1, 1981;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.

SECTION .1500 – WILDLIFE AND ALLIGATOR CONTROL AGENTS

15A NCAC 10H .1505 WILDLIFE CONTROL AGENT LICENSE RENEWAL AND REVOCATION

- (a) A WCA may renew his or her WCA license by completing at least one Commission-approved continuing education course within the previous year. A list of Commission-approved continuing education courses may be found at www.ncwildlife.org/wca.
- (b) WCAs that do not renew their license for two consecutive calendar years shall be ineligible for renewal and shall be required to repeat the requirements specified in 15A NCAC 10H .1501, prior to obtaining a new WCA license.
- (c) The Executive Director or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a WCA's license, if the WCA violates any provision of G.S. 14, Article 47; G.S. 113, Subchapter IV; any rules promulgated by the Commission; conditions of the WCA license; or standards taught in a Commission-approved WCA training course. The determination whether to warn, cite, or revoke a WCA's wildlife control agent license shall be based upon the seriousness of the violation.
- (d) An individual whose WCA license is suspended or revoked shall not be eligible for the Wildlife Control Technician certification.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274;
Eff. May 1, 2021.

15A NCAC 10H .1510 WILDLIFE CONTROL TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

(a) The following definitions shall apply in this Section:

- (1) ~~"Wildlife control technician"~~ "Wildlife Control Technician" or "WCT" means an individual that holds a current and valid ~~wildlife control technician~~ Wildlife Control Technician certification issued by the Commission.
- (2) ~~"Wildlife control technician certification"~~ "Wildlife Control Technician" or "WCT certification" means a certification issued by the Commission that authorizes an individual to engage in wildlife control or wildlife removal activities, for compensation, including reimbursement for the cost of materials, under the supervision of a licensed wildlife control agent.
- (3) "Direct supervision" means to physically be within one's presence while maintaining visual and verbal contact.
- (4) "Wildlife damage control" and "wildlife removal activities" means and includes:
 - (A) bat eviction and alligator damage control or removal activities;
 - (B) setting and moving traps;
 - (C) euthanasia; and
 - (D) issuing depredation permits in accordance with the applicable provision and requirements of 15A NCAC 10H .1502.

(b) It shall be unlawful to engage in wildlife damage control or wildlife removal activities for compensation, without first obtaining a WCT certification from the Commission, except that licensed trappers taking wild animals during the applicable open trapping season for that species shall not be required to obtain a WCT certification.

(c) ~~Wildlife control technicians~~ Control Technicians may ~~only~~ perform the following wildlife control or removal activities under direct supervision of a licensed WCA, or certified Alligator Control Agent if applicable:

- (1) placement of traps;
- (2) euthanasia of wildlife;
- (3) bat evictions; and
- (4) alligator removal or relocation.

(d) ~~Wildlife control technicians~~ Control Technicians shall not issue depredation permits.

(e) Individuals shall complete a Commission-approved, WCT training course, that reviews wildlife laws and rules, including methods for trapping, capture, and safe and humane wildlife handling to qualify for a WCT certification.

(f) Individuals may register for a Commission-approved training course at www.ncwildlife.org/wca. Required information shall include the following:

- (1) the applicant's name, mailing address, email address, residence address, telephone number, driver's license number, and date of birth; and
- (2) organizational affiliation, if applicable.

(g) A WCT certification shall not be transferable between individuals.

(h) An individual whose WCA license is suspended or revoked shall not be eligible for a WCT certification.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274;
Eff. October 1, 2022.

SECTION .1700 – FIELD TRIALS AND DOG TRAINING

15A NCAC 10H .1701 FIELD TRIALS

(a) The following definitions shall apply to the rules in Subchapters 10H and 10D of this Chapter:

- (1) "Commission-sanctioned field trial" means a field trial that has been authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission and for which a Field Trial Permit has been issued.
- (2) "Active participant" means an individual participating in a field trial who handles dogs or uses a firearm.
- (3) "Field Trial Permit" means the permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission that authorizes an individual to hold a commission-sanctioned field trial for dogs.

(b) Individuals may apply for a Field Trial Permit from the Commission at www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 by submitting the following information:

- (1) field trial dates;
- (2) business affiliation;
- (3) species of animal or game bird;
- (4) fox preserve permit number, if applicable;
- (5) county, if species is an animal; and
- (6) address, if species is a gamebird.

(c) An individual serving as a judge of a commission-sanctioned field trial shall be exempt from license requirements. An individual who is serving as a judge of a non-sanctioned field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

(d) The following license requirements shall apply to active participants in field trials:

- (1) North Carolina residents participating in a field trial that uses wildlife shall have a North Carolina hunting license;
- (2) non-residents participating in a commission-sanctioned field trial that uses wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license or a hunting license from his or her state of residence; and
- (3) non-residents participating in other types of field trials that use wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license

(e) Notwithstanding Paragraph (d) of this Rule, an individual without a license may participate in commission-sanctioned field trials for beagles conducted without firearms on private field trial areas that meet the fencing requirements specified in G.S. 113-276(k).

(f) Individuals shall not carry axes, saws, or climbing irons while training or running dogs during closed seasons for game animals.

(g) The following conditions shall apply to commission-sanctioned field trials for retrievers or bird dogs:

- (1) shotguns containing live ammunition or firearms using only blank ammunition shall be prohibited unless specifically authorized by a Field Trial Permit;
- (2) wild waterfowl, wild quail, or wild pheasant shall not be used in field trials when shotguns with live ammunition are permitted;
- (3) domestically raised waterfowl and game birds, lawfully obtained from a licensed game bird propagator may be used in field trials where shotguns with live ammunition are permitted;
- (4) waterfowl obtained from licensed game bird propagators for use in field trials when shotguns with live ammunition are authorized shall be marked by one of the methods specified in 50 CFR 21.45, including subsequent amendments and editions, found free of charge at www.ecfr.gov; and
- (5) when domestically raised game birds are obtained from licensed game bird propagators for use in field trials where shotguns with live ammunition are authorized, the purchaser of the birds shall obtain a copy of the receipt from the propagator showing the date, number of birds purchased, propagator license number, and species of birds purchased. A copy of the receipt shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission during the time and at the place where the trial is being held.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276; 113-291.1; 113-291.5; 50 CFR 21.45.

15A NCAC 10H .1702 DOG TRAINING

(a) Individuals using wildlife to train or run dogs shall possess a valid North Carolina hunting license.

(b) The following conditions shall apply during the closed season for waterfowl and game birds when training dogs with domestically raised waterfowl and game birds:

- (1) shotguns with number four size shot or smaller shall be used;
- (2) nontoxic shot shall be used when training dogs with domestically raised waterfowl;
- (3) domestically raised waterfowl shall be marked by one of the methods specified in 50 CFR 21.45, including subsequent amendments and editions, found free of charge at www.ecfr.gov;
- (4) when obtained from a licensed game bird propagator for use in dog training, the purchaser of the birds shall obtain a copy of the receipt from the propagator showing the date, number of birds purchased, propagator license number, and species of birds purchased. A copy of the receipt shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission; and
- (5) individuals may release no more than 6 domestically raised game birds daily.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276; 113-291.1; 113-291.5; 50 CFR 21.45.

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10H .0101.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): ncwildlife.org/Proposed-Regulations

Proposed Effective Date: *August 1, 2024*

Public Hearing:

Date: *January 9, 2024*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

Location: *Southwest Randolph High School (Auditorium), 1641 Hopewell Friends Rd, Asheboro, NC 27205*

Date: *January 11, 2024*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

Location: *Haywood Community College (Auditorium), 185 Freedlander Drive, Clyde, NC 28721*

Date: *January 17, 2024*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

Location: *Craven County Courthouse, 302 Broad Street, New Bern, NC 28560*

Date: *January 18, 2024*

Time: *7:00 p.m.*

Location: *Zoom meeting, registration required:*

https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_JQp6XDn8QSCXBrvDJJf3Bg, or join by phone: 877-853-5247 Webinar ID: 161 386 3150

Reason for Proposed Action: *Each year, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reviews and adjusts seasons, bag limits, and the land management regulations, as needed, to achieve conservation management goals, comply with statutory changes, and respond to constituent requests.*

Comments may be submitted to: *Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.org*

Comment period ends: *February 13, 2024*

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit a written objection to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive letters via U.S. Mail, private courier service, or hand delivery to 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, or via email to oah.rules@oah.nc.gov. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please review 26 NCAC 05 .0110 or call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact (\geq \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10H – REGULATED ACTIVITIES

SECTION .0100 - CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES FOR DOMESTICALLY RAISED WATERFOWL AND GAME BIRDS

15A NCAC 10H .0101 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) It shall be unlawful to operate a controlled hunting preserve without first obtaining a controlled hunting operator's license from the ~~North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission).~~ Commission.

(b) A licensed controlled hunting preserve operator may purchase, possess, propagate, sell, transport, and release domestically raised waterfowl and game birds, as defined in G.S. 113-139(5b), and their eggs, subject to limitations in Section .0900 of this Subchapter.

~~(b)~~ A controlled hunting preserve operator's license shall authorize an operator, guest, or customer to take the following:

- ~~(1)~~ Mallard Ducks (in accordance with 50 CFR 21.45);
- ~~(2)~~ Chukar Partridges;
- ~~(3)~~ Hungarian Partridges; and
- ~~(4)~~ Other domestically raised game birds, except Wild Turkey.

(c) The following conditions shall apply to the take of domestically raised waterfowl and game birds on a controlled hunting preserve:

- (1) take shall be by shooting, which may include the use of dogs;
- (2) there shall be no bag limits or sex restrictions; ~~and~~
- (3) take shall be authorized from October 1 ~~to~~ through March ~~31~~, 31, ~~except that no domestically raised mallard ducks shall be taken on Sundays; and~~
- (4) domestically raised migratory gamebirds mallard ducks shall be marked by one of the methods provided in 50 CFR 21.45. ~~21.45, all other domestically raised game birds, except Chukar Partridges and Hungarian Partridges, shall be individually marked on one leg with a band imprinted with the propagator's license number.~~

(d) Application for a controlled hunting preserve ~~operator's~~ operator license shall be made ~~on a form available from the Commission~~ online at ~~www.newwildlife.org~~ www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. The application shall include the following information:

- (1) ~~The applicant's name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;~~
- ~~(2)~~(1) ~~The~~ the preserve name and address;
- ~~(3)~~(2) GPS coordinates of preserve entrance;
- ~~(3)~~ a property map;
- ~~(4)~~ The ~~the~~ total preserve acres owned or leased;
- ~~(5)~~ The name, address, and telephone number of the landowner, if applicable;
- ~~(6)~~(5) The type of preserve; ~~and~~
- ~~(7)~~(6) The species of domestically raised waterfowl and game birds to be offered for ~~hunting~~; hunting; ~~and~~
- ~~(e)~~(7) ~~Applicants shall certify and demonstrate ownership or proof of ownership or lease of the land for the license period, period and for the operation of a controlled hunting preserve.~~

~~(f)~~ A licensed controlled hunting preserve operator shall be authorized to purchase, possess, propagate, sell, transport, and release waterfowl and propagated migratory game birds, their eggs, and propagated upland game birds, except for wild turkey, subject to limitations in Section .0900 of this Subchapter.

~~(g)~~(e) Representatives of the Commission shall be permitted to enter the premises upon request or during business hours for inspection, enforcement, or scientific purposes.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; July 1, 1994; November 1, 1990; July 1, 1988; July 1, 1987;
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2020;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023.*