



ACTIONS

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

November 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

Call to Order –*Commission Chairman* David Hoyle, Jr. called the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Conference Room, 5th floor. Commissioner Dell Murphy participated by telephone until 10:05 a.m. Commissioners Doc Thurston and John Litton Clark were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - *Commissioner* Steve Windham led the Pledge of Allegiance. *Commissioner* Mitch St. Clair gave the invocation.

Mandatory Ethics Inquiry – Chairman Hoyle read the ethics inquiry mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e).

Minutes - the Commission approved the October 13, 2011 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**.

Financial Status Report - the Commission received a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as September 30, 2011, from Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, presented in **Exhibit B**. The Operating Fund balance is \$23,694,419.61. The Endowment Fund balance is \$85,385,229.77.

Conservation Education Spotlight – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Conservation Education Division. Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, reported on activities of the Communications Section, explaining that responsibilities for the magazine, special publications and marketing are being temporarily managed by Christofferson. Bureaucratic processes and mid-level management have been reduced. The work assignment process for internal customers is managed now by Jim Wilson, magazine *Editor*. Contracted publications work is being brought back in-house. Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, reported on activities of the Information and Education Outreach Section, explaining that responsibilities for management of the public information officers and for the agency's four education centers – including exhibits, programming and federal aid allocations – are being temporarily managed by Curry. Curry mentioned the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, opened in 1998, followed in 2006 by the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, and the Centennial Campus Center for Wildlife Education and the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in 2007, noting that each center was set up to operate seven days a week. There is one field educator in each of three regions. The center schedules are being revisited due to budgetary constraints. Curry mentioned outdoor skills activities including youth hunts and Becoming an Outdoors Woman programs. Three Public Information Officers report to Curry. Work continues on social media, website management and maintenance, and opportunities for expansion of the constituent base through education outreach. Curry mentioned the Continuation Review Program through the fiscal research division of the General Assembly. The NCWRC was one agency identified for review of the \$778,000 that currently is earmarked for the Conservation Education Program. The final report to the General Assembly is due in March 2012. The General Assembly will decide whether to continue to fund the agency's Conservation Education Program (not inclusive of the *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine.)

Inland Fisheries Update – the Commission received an update on the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division from Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*. Curry announced that a survey of catfish anglers and a survey to assess fishing trends will be conducted in 2012. Curry announced a Division of Marine Fisheries proclamation to change the minimum size and creel limit for spotted sea trout. Effective November 14 for recreational fishing in joint and inland waters the WRC rules mirror those of DMF. Minimum size for spotted sea trout is 14 inches with none over 24 inches allowed. Daily creel limit goes from six to four fish. Curry reported an estimate of 34,000 visitors to the WRC exhibit at this year's State Fair. Curry closed by presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Hal Atkinson on behalf of the Wake County Wildlife Club. Curry thanked the Club for the donation of two lifetime licenses during National Hunting and Fishing Day activities. Monies to fund the licenses and to send kids to camp come from proceeds from the Dixie Deer Classic.

Adoption of 2012-2013 Fishing Regulation Proposals – the Commission adopted staff recommendations for 2012-2013 fishing rule proposals, presented by Bob Curry in **Exhibit C**. The complete text of the rules is incorporated by reference into the minutes of this meeting.

- 1) Cedar Cliff Lake (Jackson County) - Classify this 146-acre lake as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 2) Catawba River (McDowell County) - Classify 0.6 miles of this stream as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 3) Elk Creek (Wilkes County) - Classify 1.5 miles of this stream as Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 4) Shawneehaw Creek (Avery County) - Classify 0.5 miles of this stream as Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 5) Laurel Creek (Watauga County) - Classify 0.3 miles of this stream as Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 6) Little River (Alleghany County) - Reclassify the upper 2.5 miles of this stream from Hatchery-Supported to Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 7) Big Horse Creek (Ashe County) - Reclassify the lower 2.5 miles of this stream from Hatchery-Supported to Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 8) Elk Creek (Watauga) - Clarify the boundaries of the Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters section of this stream adding approximately 2.0 miles.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 9) North Toe River (Avery County) - Divide the Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters on this stream into an upper and lower section and remove 10.1 miles of this stream from the Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 10) Long Creek (Graham County) - Remove 4.2 miles of this stream from Public Mountain trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- 11) Little Hungry River (Henderson County) - Remove 5.9 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 12) Little Creek (Madison County) - Remove 2.0 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 13) Mill Creek (Madison County) - Remove 2.4 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters, and reclassify the section on Game Lands as Wild Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 14) Cane Creek (Mitchell County) - Remove 2.4 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 15) French Broad River (Transylvania County) - Remove 10.3 miles of this stream from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
- 16) Establish a 4-fish creel limit and a 20-inch size limit on striped bass in lakes Rhodhiss, Hickory, and Lookout Shoals.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits
- 17) ~~Increase the minimum size limit for striped bass and hybrid striped bass in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir from 20 to 24 inches.~~ This will revert to the original text.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits
- 18) Establish a statewide 14-inch, 5-fish limit for black bass in aggregate, allowing 2 undersized fish to be harvested.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits
- 19) Remove the exception to the statewide black bass length limit for District 9 waters and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits
- 20) Establish a 10-fish daily creel limit of which no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed in Lake Cammack (Alamance County) and Lake Holt (Granville County).
Amend the following rule:
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits

- 21) Establish a maximum size limit for largemouth bass in Randleman Reservoir where only one fish greater than 20 inches can be retained in the 5-fish daily creel and establish a 2-fish exception to the minimum size limit such that 2 fish within the 5-fish daily creel can be less than 14 inches.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits

- 22) Reduce the possession limit of American shad to 1 fish per day within the aggregate daily creel of 10 fish for American and hickory shad in inland fishing waters and tributaries of the Neuse River.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits

- 23) Clarify that channel, white, or blue catfish may only be taken legally by hook and line and the daily creel limit is six fish in aggregate in waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on other Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program. The affected water bodies will be identified by posting instead of being listed in the NCAC.

Amend the following rules:

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Open Seasons: Size and Creel Limits;

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale;

15A NCAC 10E .0104 Use of Areas Regulated

- 24) ~~Add Lake Tillery to the list of reservoirs where possession of grass carp is prohibited except those legally taken with bow and arrow.~~ **The original list will be retained.**

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale

- 25) Allow the take of nongame fishes with crossbow and arrow from all inland fishing waters other than impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land and designated public mountain trout waters.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10C .0404 Special Device Fishing

- 27) Allow individuals who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun concealed on public fishing and boating access areas.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10E .0104 Use of Areas Regulated

The Commission voted to refer proposal 26 to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion to ensure that the Wildlife Resources Commission has reviewed all pertinent information relative to Inland Primary Nursery Area classification criteria.

- 26) Classify **eleven tributaries to the Neuse River,** one tributary to the Pamlico River, and one tributary to the Cape Fear River as inland primary nursery areas.

Amend the following rule:

15A NCAC 10C .0503 Descriptive Boundaries

Wildlife Management Update – the Commission received an update about the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management from Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*. Dr. Cobb directed Commissioners to the poster showing areas where wind energy farms are proposed in eastern North Carolina. Dr. Cobb noted that three wind farms are proposed in an area where there is high density of tundra swans. Cobb said there is concern about mortality and displacement of birds in these areas. Dr. Cobb mentioned that CDs have been provided to each Commissioner and contain information about birding trails, Partners in Flight, and black bear bait reports. Cobb announced the recent press release about pockets of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) found in deer in the Coastal Plain and Roanoke River basin.

Easement Request – Juniper Creek Game Land, Brunswick County – the Commission adopted a request from N.C. Department of Transportation, presented in **Exhibit D**, for an easement to improve Egypt Road (SR 1341), a dirt road and major point of access to Juniper Creek Game Land.

Adoption of 2012-2013 Hunting and Trapping Regulation Proposals – the Commission adopted the following hunting and trapping rule proposals, presented by Dr. Cobb in **Exhibit E**:

- H1) Increase the either-sex deer season from conservative to moderate in Polk County.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
- H2) Lengthen the bear hunting season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) in Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, and Pitt counties. Currently, Greene, Lenoir and Pitt counties are open for one week in November. This proposal adds two weeks in December to their season. Currently, Halifax, Martin and Northampton counties are open for one week in November and three days in December. This proposal would extend the December segment of the season from three days to two weeks. The proposed season for all six of these counties is from the second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear
- H3) Open a bear hunting season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) in Edgecombe, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Stokes, Vance, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties. In addition, change the bear season in Yadkin, Iredell, Alexander, and Catawba counties. The proposed season for all of these counties is from the second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear
- H4) Open the portions of Cleveland, Burke and Surry counties that are currently closed to bear hunting. The proposed season (hunting with dogs and still hunting, unless prohibited by local law) for these counties would be from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to January 1.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

- H5) Allow electronic calls for take of crows and coyotes.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10B .0215 Crows
 15A NCAC 10B .0219 Coyote
- H6) Add feral swine to the Commission's hunting rules with no closed season and no bag limits.
Adopt the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10B .0223
- H7) Allow hunters to use dogs on Sundays on private lands in locations and during seasons where the use of dogs is currently allowed the other six days of the week in those counties or parts thereof which are west of the dog line. The practice is already allowed east of the dog line (except where prohibited by local law). Also, allow falconers to use dogs on private lands and on game lands on Sundays.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited taking and manner of take
- H8) Allow individuals who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun concealed on wildlife conservation areas and game lands, except for these game lands for which the landowner has asked to be exempted: Buckhorn, Harris, Sutton Lake, Mayo, Hyco, Lee, Chatham, Pee Dee River north of U.S. 74, Butner-Falls, Jordan, Vance, Kerr Scott, Dupont, Bladen Lakes and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell that is north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119. Also, allow hunters who possess a valid concealed handgun permit to carry that handgun concealed while dog training and during the deer archery and muzzleloader seasons on both public and private lands.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use
 15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
 15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas
 15A NCAC 10B .0114 Dog training and field trials
- H9) Allow individuals to use a .22 caliber rimfire pistol to dispatch a wounded deer during the deer archery and muzzleloader seasons on both public and private lands.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
 15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use
 15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas
- H11) Clarify what wildlife resources and other materials may be possessed on or removed from Commission lands without any type of written permission or license and for which ones removal would require written permission.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use
 15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands
 15A NCAC 10J .0102 General regulation regarding use of conservation areas
Adopt the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10D .0105 Possession and removal of animals, plants and materials
- H12) Require a permit to enter Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge (HCSWR) in Davie County.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use
 15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H13) Increase fees for the use of the field trial facilities located on the Sandhills Game Land from the current \$25.00 to \$75.00 for use of the club house only and from \$100 to \$200 for the use of the club house and field trial grounds. Current cost estimates for operating the facility (not including staff time) in FY 2009-10 were \$14,025. Revenues generated by user fees during the same time period were \$9,000.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0102 Hunting on game lands

- H14) Allow additional archery and muzzleloader deer hunting on Sandhills Game Land by opening an archery season on the third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1, except on the field trial grounds.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H15) Increase the either-sex deer season on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land from the conservative to moderate.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H16) Increase the either-sex deer season on Neuse River Game Land from moderate to maximum.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H17) Open the bear season at Chowan Swamp Game Land on the first three hunting days during the November bear season and the first three days of the second week of the December bear season in order to be consistent with other game lands in District One.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H18) Open the raccoon, opossum and bobcat hunting season in the Sherwood and Harmon Den Bear Sanctuaries in Haywood County.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H19) Make waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment at the Croatan Game Land by permit only.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H20) Remove text from the Commission's rule which references the disabled sportsman hunts on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Dupont State Forest, Sandhills, Thurmond Chatham, and Toxaway game lands. Disabled sportsman hunts will continue to be offered through the Permit Hunting Opportunities Program and in the *Permit Hunting Opportunities in North Carolina* guide.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- H21) Prohibit hunting and taking fox squirrels on Rockfish Creek Game Land.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10D .0103 *Hunting on game lands*
- H25) Require people who possess permit to hold endangered or threatened species to maintain cages or facilities at the same standards as other captivity licensees.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10I .0102 *Protection of endangered/threatened/special concern*
- H26) Require landowners who receive a depredation permit for Canada Geese that are causing damage to agricultural operations to report the number of geese taken.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10B .0106 *Wildlife taken for depredations or accidentally*
- H27) Remove the extended season for take of squirrels by falconry.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10B .0216 *Falconry*
- H28) Allow the practice of falconry on Sundays on Three Day Per Week game lands.
Adopt amendments to the following rule:
 15A NCAC 10D.0103 *Hunting on Game Lands*
- H29) Amend 12 current rules pertaining to falconry, repeal one and adopt two additional rules in order for the Commission to fully regulate falconry in North Carolina in accordance with a directive from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Deadline for these changes is January 1, 2014.
Adopt amendments to the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10H .0801 *Definitions*
 15A NCAC 10H .0802 *Permit and license requirements*
 15A NCAC 10H .0803 *Application for ~~permit~~ license*
 15A NCAC 10H .0804 *Examination*
 15A NCAC 10H .0805 *Duration of ~~permit~~ license*
 15A NCAC 10H .0806 *~~Conditions of permit~~ Acquisition, sale and status change*
 15A NCAC 10H .0807 *~~classes~~ Levels of ~~permits~~ licenses*
 15A NCAC 10H .0808 *Facilities and equipment*
 15A NCAC 10H .0809 *Marking*
 15A NCAC 10H .0810 *Taking raptors*
 15A NCAC 10H .0811 *Other restrictions and conditions*
 15A NCAC 10H .0812 *Interstate transportation*
Repeal to following rule:
 15A NCAC 10H .0813 *Raptor propagation permit*
Adopt the following rules:
 15A NCAC 10H .0814 *Release of raptors or moved to other permit*
 15A NCAC 10H .0815 *Other uses and allowed activities*

Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. recognized Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, who referred to proposals H10, H22, H23, and H24:

H10) Allow the Executive Director or his designee to waive the rule banning the importation of a cervid carcass or carcass part from any state where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) occurs for a deer or elk harvested within 20 miles of the North Carolina state line.

*Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10A .1101 Waiver*

H22) Establish captive cervid importation criteria for captive cervid licensees with Certified herds. All importation cervids would be prohibited from state/provinces/other countries with active Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Importation of white-tailed deer, white-tailed deer hybrids, Sika deer, red deer, elk, elk hybrids, moose or any other species of cervid in which the scientific community has documented naturally-occurring CWD will be allowed only from states/provinces/countries which have a license type, certification program or monitoring program that requires captive cervid facility owners to, at a minimum:

- submit for CWD testing all deceased animals over the age of 12 months;
- tag, tattoo or otherwise permanently mark all animals over the age of 12 months; and
- keep records of all acquisitions and all dispositions in the facility.

These requirements apply only to white-tailed deer, white-tailed deer hybrids, Sika deer, red deer, elk, elk hybrids, moose or any other species of cervid in which the scientific community has documented naturally-occurring CWD. The herd of origin for the requested cervid must be successfully participating in the state program. Fallow deer, muntjac deer and other cervid species with no documented naturally-occurring CWD will be eligible for importation if they came from a fenced facility and have been isolated for the past 5 years from species of cervids in which the scientific community has documented naturally-occurring CWD. Animals from mixed herds of the two categories of cervids are subject to the same importation criteria as the species of cervid in which the scientific community has documented naturally-occurring CWD.

*Adopt amendments to the following rules:
15A NCAC 10B .0101 Importation of wild animals and birds
15A NCAC 10H .0304 Captive cervid herd certification program*

H23) Amend the waiver rule to allow Certified herd owners the ability to apply for an importation waiver for cervids that do not meet the proposed importation criteria, except from states with CWD in wild cervids.

*Adopt amendments to the following rule:
15A NCAC 10A .1101 Waiver*

H24) Allow for the issuance of new captive cervid licenses with controls in place to prohibit using a secondary license to expand a facility. Require newly licensed facilities to have double-fencing. Allow transportation of cervids from N.C. Certified herds (5-year status) into these new facilities for the first six months after their construction.

*Adopt amendments to the following rules:
15A NCAC 10H .0301 General requirements
15A NCAC 10H .0302 Minimum standards*

Myers stated that the Regulatory Reform Act passed by the General Assembly became effective October 1, 2011. The series of rules proposals under consideration at this meeting were filed on July 11, 2011 in advance of the effective date of the Regulatory Reform Act changes. However, a memorandum received from the Office of the Attorney General states that the provisions of the Regulatory Reform Act are being applied retroactively, including the threshold for a fiscal note requirement of five hundred thousand dollars in a twelve-month period, and the requirement that alternatives be examined for any rule that incurs costs of \$500,000.00 during a twelve-month period. Requirements for possession and transportation of cervids, cervid licensing, and proposed captive cervid facility double fencing requirements to prevent the transmission of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), referenced in proposals H10, H22, H23, and H24 may result in costs in excess of the \$500,000.00 threshold. Consequently those proposals were referred to the Committee of the Whole for further fiscal analysis and discussion of possible alternatives to the rules pursuant to the requirements of the Regulatory Reform Act. Staff was directed to identify and enlist the input of stakeholders who are affected directly by these regulations.

No Wake Zone Request – Fishing Creek, Carteret County – Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, presented **Exhibit F**, a proposal from the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina for a no wake zone in the waters of Fishing Creek on the property of Fort Macon State Park. The proposal was tabled at the October 13, 2011 WRC meeting and referred to the Boating Safety Committee for further discussion. Upon a motion from the Boating Safety Committee the Commission voted to take no action on the Fishing Creek no wake zone request.

Adoption of 2012 Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Schedule – the Commission adopted the 2012 WRC meeting schedule, with all Commission meetings scheduled in Raleigh:

- Thursday, January 12, 2012
- *No meeting in March; Committee meetings and dates to be announced*
- Thursday, May 3, 2012
- Thursday, July 12, 2012
- Thursday, August 30, 2012
- *No meeting in October; Committee meetings and dates to be announced*
- Thursday, November 8, 2012 (*WRC meeting begins at 1 pm; Committee of the Whole meets in morning*)

Big Game Committee Meeting Report – the Commission received a report of the meeting of the Big Game Committee held on November 9, 2011 from Dr. David Cobb. The Big Game Committee reviewed hunting and trapping rule proposals prior to action at the WRC meeting, with the recommendation that proposals H10, H22, H23, and H24 be referred to the Committee of the Whole for discussion relative to changes in the Administrative Procedure Act. The Committee directed staff to present draft text in January for a rule for hunting feral swine and coyotes at night with the use of a light. Such a rule proposal would be considered outside the regulatory cycle, preventing a year delay. Discussion was held about short-term and long-term goals for elk management. The Big Game Committee and the Habitat, Non-Game and Endangered Species Committee will meet in January to address goals and objectives for elk management.

Fisheries Committee Meeting Report – the Commission received a report of the Fisheries Committee meeting held on November 9, 2011 from Bob Curry. The Fisheries Committee received a report on the Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) projects and 2012 funding cycle from Chad Thomas. The Joint Marine Resources Committee (WRC and DMF) will meet in Washington on November 29, 2011 regarding 26 project proposals using CRFL revenues. Brian McRae presented an overview of reservoir fisheries management. Doug Besler presented an update on the trout management plan and fisheries habitat update for Upper South Hominy Creek. The Commission adopted a motion to approve the joint Division of Marine Fisheries/Wildlife Resources Commission North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan.

Boating Safety Committee Meeting Report – the Commission received a report of the Boating Safety Committee Meeting from Chairman Joe Barker. Barker reported that the committee received comments from interested parties from North Carolina State Parks and the U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina regarding the proposed no wake zone at Fishing Creek in Carteret County. The Committee recommended that the Commission take no action on the proposal in the absence of sufficient documented safety hazards, accidents, and congestion.

Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.