

Fishing on Game Lands

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
 - Re-stocked ponds when posted against fishing.
 - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
 - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
 - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.
- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.
- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow (except crossbows) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

Trout Fishing on Game Lands

- Fishing hours in any trout waters located on game lands are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Land from the mouth of Cove Creek downstream to the natural gas pipeline crossing, where night fishing is allowed.
- All waters on the game lands listed below are Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:
- Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
 - Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.
 - Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, and Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line.
 - Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
 - Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
 - Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
 - South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
 - Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co., except West Fork Pigeon River below Lake Logan.
 - Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural pipeline crossing and Spring Creek below U.S. Forest Service Road 223.

Blue Ridge Parkway Angling opportunities on the Blue Ridge Parkway are managed by the National Park Service which establishes fishing regulations for parkway waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission aids with management by stocking catchable-size trout into the following waters:

County	Water
Alleghany	Brush Creek
Alleghany	Big Pine Creek
Alleghany	Meadow Fork
Avery	Linville River
Buncombe	Swannanoa River
Watauga	Middle Fork of the New River
Watauga	Price Lake

Specific fishing regulations are displayed on signs located near fishing access points, and all persons age 16 or older must possess a valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license to fish parkway waters. In addition, the parkway provides wild and catch-and-release trout fishing, as well as, angling for bass and sunfish.

For more information on fishing in parkway waters, contact: Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Telephone: 828-271-4779, or at their website: <http://www.nps.gov/blri/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

DuPont State Forest Night fishing is prohibited from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise in all waters on the DuPont State Forest Game Land.

North Carolina State Parks South Mountains State Park in Burke County, Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes and Alleghany counties and Gorges State Park in Transylvania County offer many miles of trout fishing waters. As established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for other trout streams, a valid trout license and a valid North Carolina inland fishing license are requirements in state park inland streams. A game lands license is not required. A special catch-and-release stream is located in Stone Mountain State Park with additional regulations. The possession of any type of firearms, explosives, bows and arrows, or alcoholic beverages within state parks is unlawful. Park entrance gates are opened and closed daily according to the following schedule:

November – February..... 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 March, April, September, October 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 May – August 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Closed Christmas Day

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the following park offices:

- South Mountains State Park** 828-433-4772
- Stone Mountain State Park** 336-957-8185
- Gorges State Park** 828-966-9099

NONGAME FISH

Any fish not classified as a game fish is considered a nongame fish when found in inland fishing waters and includes shellfish and crustaceans.

Sale of Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line, grabbing and by special fishing devices may be sold, subject to the following restrictions:
 1. Bowfin may not be sold.
 2. Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).
 3. Eels less than six inches in length may not be possessed or sold.
 4. In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily possession limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.

- 5. Blue crabs taken from inland fishing waters with a line containing multiple baits may not be sold.
- 6. Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see www.ncfisheries.net/recreational/recguide.htm or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
- 7. Those listed under “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” on page 34.
- 8. A special fishing device license is required when taking nongame fish with special fishing devices and also subject to restrictions listed under “Special Fishing Devices,” on page 29, “Seasons and Waters” on pages 30–34, and “Fishing on Game Lands” on page 27.

Lake Michael	Park Road Pond
Harris Lake County Park Pond	Etheridge Pond*
Newbold Pond*	Anderson Community Park Pond
Hornet’s Nest Pond	Hagan Stone Park Ponds
Hamlet City Lake	Bond Park Lake
Reedy Creek Park Pond	Salisbury Community Lake
Bass Lake Park Pond	Lake Julian
Squirrel Lake Park Pond	Rabbit Shuffle Pond
Indian Camp Pond	Albemarle City Lake
High Rock Pond	Lake Devin
Laughter Pond	Hinson Lake
Tumbling Rock Reservoir	Country Park Pond
Ellendale Community Center Pond	Charles Owen Park Pond
All game lands ponds	

- The sale of commercially raised nongame fish is regulated by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Manner of Taking Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line or by grabbing; no fish may be taken by snagging. Special devices may be used to take nongame fish with proper licenses (see “Special Fishing Devices,” page 29) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see “Seasons and Waters” pages 30–34).
- Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with bow and arrow under any license that authorizes basic hunting or inland fishing privileges subject to “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” (see page 34).
- It is unlawful to fish with a crossbow, except for disabled persons possessing a valid crossbow permit. For more information or to obtain an application, call 888-248-6834.
- For special rules governing trotlines, see “Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks” (pages 18 – 19).
- Crab pots may not be used in inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands, except that persons owning property adjacent to the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries may set two crab pots attached to their property and a special device license is not required.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally with a single line with multiple baits without hooks (see restrictions under “Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption” below).

Hook-and-Line Regulations for Nongame Fish

- * Season: Year-round
- * Minimum size limit: None
- * Daily creel limit: None

The following exceptions apply:

- The daily creel limit on channel, white and blue catfish (forked-tail catfish) is six fish in the following waters:

Oka T. Hester Pond	CG Hill Memorial Park Pond
Lake Luke Marion	Winston Lake*
Shelley Lake	San-Lee Park Ponds
Freedom Park Pond*	Lake Toisnot
Lake Rim*	Bur-Mill Park Ponds
Cedarock Pond	Kernersville Lake
Indian Lake	Pine Lake in Apex Community Park
Frank Liske Park Pond	McAlpine Lake
Kinston Neuseway Park Pond	Big Elkin Creek
River Park North Pond	Lake Tomahawk
Simpkins Pond in Lake Wheeler Park	Ellerbe Community Lake

**Use of gasoline engines to power boats is prohibited.*

- In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- The minimum size limit for American eel is six inches, and the possession limit is 50 fish.
- Blue crabs taken by hook and line from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands must have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point). The daily limit is 50 crabs per person or 100 per vessel per day.
- No person may take or possess herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length from inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course on the river (listed below), the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
 - Roanoke River – Roanoke Rapids Dam
 - Tar River – Rocky Mount Mill Dam
 - Neuse River – Milburnie Dam
 - Cape Fear River – Buckhorn Dam
 - Waccamaw River – Lake Waccamaw Dam
 - Pee-Dee River – Blewett Falls Dam
- Grass carp may not be possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.
- Grass carp may not be possessed or taken by bow and arrow on Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission (S.L. 2009-261).
- Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see www.ncfisheries.net/recreational/recguide.htm or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
- In Public Mountain Trout Waters, the season shall be the same as the trout-fishing season.
- Information and regulations about fishing on game lands are listed on page 27.

Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption

- Nongame fishes, crustaceans (crayfish and blue crabs), and mollusks taken for bait or personal consumption may not be sold.
- Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks may be taken for bait or personal consumption only with the equipment listed below, and an appropriate inland fishing license is required. (See regulations for taking and sale of nongame fish on pages 28 –29 and other nongame regulations on page 40 for more information).

1. A dip net not greater than six feet across.
2. A seine not greater than 12 feet in length with a bar mesh measure of not more than 1/4 inch.

Exception: In Lake Waccamaw any length seine may be used to collect bait fishes.

3. A cast net.
 4. Minnow traps under immediate control and attendance of the operator and not exceeding 12 inches in diameter, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter.
 5. Hand-held lines with single baits attached to each.
 6. A single, multiple bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length that is under the immediate control and attendance of the user and is limited to one line per person and no more than one line per vessel. The line is required to be marked on each end with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter and bearing legible and indelible identification of the user's name and address.
 7. A collapsible crab trap with the largest opening not greater than 18 inches and which, by design, collapses at all times when in the water, except when being retrieved or lowered to the bottom.
- The daily creel limit is 200 nongame fish, crayfish, and mollusks, in combination, subject to the following restrictions:
 1. No more than 50 eels, none of which may be less than six inches in length
 2. No herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment dam on the main course of the rivers (listed above), the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and all other public waters east of Interstate 95.
 3. No more than 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel, per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands.
 4. In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
 5. Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see www.ncfisheries.net/recreational/recguide.htm or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
 - Any fish taken for bait purposes are included in the daily possession limit for that species (where such a limit is specified).
 - Nongame fish may not be taken for bait from Bear Creek and Rocky River, Chatham County; Fork Creek, Randolph County; Deep River below Coleridge Dam, Randolph County; and those portions of Deep River in Moore, Chatham and Lee counties.
 - Game fish incidentally taken with nets or traps, while capturing bait, must not be harmed and must be released immediately.

Taking Freshwater Mussels

- Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may only be taken from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw and in University Lake (Orange County).
- The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), is 200.

Special Fishing Devices

- Special fishing devices, which may be licensed for the taking of nongame fishes, include the following: bow and arrow (except crossbows), seines, cast nets, gill nets, dip nets, bow nets, reels, gigs, spear guns, baskets, fish pots, eel pots, traps (excluding

crab traps and automobile tires), and hand-crank electrofishers where authorized by local law.

- **Special fishing devices may only be used in waters having designated seasons.** See list (by county) under "Seasons and Waters" on pages 30–34.
- A noncommercial special device license is valid when no more than three special devices, regardless of type, are used.
- A commercial special device license is required when four or more special devices, regardless of type, are used.
- Hand-crank electrofishers are any manually operated device capable of generating a low-voltage electrical current, not to exceed 300 volts, for the taking of catfish.

Term and Use of Special Device Licenses

- The license is valid during a license year (12 months from date of purchase).
- Each user of a special device must have his own license in possession, except that a bow net or dip net may be used by another person who has the owner's license in his possession.
- Only the principal owner or operator must be licensed when drag seines are used at inland beaches to take mullet.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with bow and arrow under any license that authorizes basic hunting or fishing privileges.

Netting Restrictions

- Stationary nets must not exceed 100 yards in length and must be spaced at least 50 yards apart.
- "Attendance" requires that a fisherman be within 100 yards of his net at all times.
- Stationary nets must run parallel to the nearest shoreline.
- Anchored, fixed or drift gill nets must be marked at each end with two separate yellow buoys, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material no less than five inches in their smallest dimension. Buoys on each of the nets shall be marked (by engraving buoys or attaching engraved metal or plastic tags) with one of the following: owner's N.C. vessel registration number, owner's U.S. vessel documentation name or owner's last name and initials.
- No wires or ropes associated with a special fishing device may extend across any navigable watercourse.

Fish-Trap Restrictions

- A fish trap may be no more than 60 inches in length and no more than 30 inches in depth or width.
- No lead nets, wing nets or other devices may be attached to the trap nor used within 25 feet of the trap.
- Such devices, when set and left unattended, shall be affixed with a card or tag furnished by the license-holder and upon which his name and address shall be legibly inscribed.
- It is unlawful to use eel pots with mesh sizes smaller than one inch by one-half inch unless such pots contain an escape panel that is at least four inches square with a mesh size of one inch by one-half inch located in the outside panel of the upper chamber of rectangular pots and in the rear portion of cylindrical pots.
- Each eel pot must be marked by attaching a floating buoy, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material and no less than five inches in diameter and no less than five inches in length. Buoys may be of any color except yellow. The owner shall always be identified on the attached buoy by using engraved buoys or by engraved metal or plastic tags attached to the buoy. Such identification shall include one of the following: owner's N.C. vessel registration number, owner's U.S. vessel documentation name, or owner's last name and initials.

Exception: An angler with a valid inland fishing license may use up to two eel pots to take eels for bait without a special fishing device license.

Seasons and Waters

- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- No river herring greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries, up to the first impoundment of the main course of the river (listed on page 28), the Lumber River, including Drowning Creek, and all other public waters east of Interstate 95.
- No special fishing devices, including crab pots, may be used in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands.

Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land, Public Mountain Trout Waters, or waters subject to “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” (see page 34).

- Seasons and waters, in which use of special devices other than bow and arrow is authorized, are indicated by the following counties:

Alamance: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below N.C. 49 bridge and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.

Alexander: July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir.

Alleghany: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Anson: July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle.

Ash: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Beaufort: July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Pungo River and in the Tar-Pamlico River above Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters.

Bertie: July 1 – June 30 with traps in Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke River). March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Bladen: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black River; July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Cape Fear River between Locks and Dams 1 and 3 and Black River (local law), except that hand-crank electrofishing is prohibited within 800 feet downstream and 400 yards upstream of Lock and Dam 1; 400 yards downstream and upstream of Lock and Dam 2; and 400 yards downstream of Lock and Dam 3.

Brunswick: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek, Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek.

Buncombe: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Burke: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).

Cabarrus: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

Caldwell: July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Camden: July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Carteret: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except South River and the tributaries of the White Oak River.

Caswell: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Hyco Reservoir.

Catawba: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below Lookout Dam. July 1 – June 30 with traps, spear guns and gigs in all public waters.

Chatham: Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Haw River, Deep River and Rocky River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.

Cherokee: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Chowan: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Clay: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Cleveland: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.

Columbus: Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and its tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Waccamaw and Lumber rivers (local law).

Craven: July 1 – June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse rivers. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle, Slocum (downstream from the U.S. 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock creeks and their tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River.

Currituck: July 1 – June 30 with traps in Tulls Creek and Northwest River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Dare: July 1 – June 30 with traps in Mashoes Creek, Milltail Creek, East Lake and South Lake. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Davidson: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters; and with traps in all public waters except Leonard’s Creek, Abbott’s Creek below Lake Thom-A-Lex Dam and the Abbott’s Creek arm of High Rock Lake upstream from the N.C. 8 bridge.

Davie: July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 for taking only carp and suckers with seines in Dutchman’s Creek from U.S. 601 to Yadkin River and in Hunting Creek from S.R. 1338 to South Yadkin River.

Duplin: Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge. March 1-April 30 with bow nets in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge.

Durham: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Neuse River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.

Edgecombe: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all public waters.

Forsyth: July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters,

- except traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.
- Franklin:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Parrish, Laurel Mill, Jackson, Clifton, Moore's and Perry's ponds, and in the Franklinton city ponds.
- Gaston:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.
- Gates:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Graham:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).
- Granville:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Neuse River and the Tar River below U.S. 158 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
- Greene:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets and reels in Contentnea Creek.
- Guilford:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River, Deep River below Jamestown Dam and Reedy Fork Creek below U.S. 29 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Halifax:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Beech Swamp, Clarks Canal, Conoconnara Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey Creek and White's Mill Pond Run. April 1 – June 15 in Fishing Creek on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, shad and herring (not to exceed 6 inches in length) may be taken with skim or gill nets having a bar mesh of not less than 1.5 inch (local law).
- Harnett:** Jan. 1 – May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River.
- Haywood:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Henderson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Hertford:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Hyde:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Iredell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman.
- Jackson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Johnston:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek, Neuse River and Swift Creek.
- Jones:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Trent River below U.S. 17 bridge and White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to White Oak River.
- Lee:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in Cape Fear River and Deep River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Cape Fear River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.
- Lenoir:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River below U.S. 70 bridge at Kinston. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River.
- Lincoln:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters.
- McDowell:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
- Macon:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Madison:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Martin:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Mecklenburg:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Freedom Park Pond and Hornet's Nest pond.
- Montgomery:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except in Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- Moore:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Deep River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land; and with traps in Deep River and its tributaries.
- Nash:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Tar River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Tar River below Harris' Landing and Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam.
- New Hanover:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Sutton (Catfish) Lake.
- Northampton:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Gaston and Roanoke Rapids reservoirs and the Roanoke River above the U.S. 301 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Occoneechee Creek, Old River Landing Gut and Vaughns Creek below Watsons Mill.
- Onslow:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. Aug. 1 – March 31 with eel pots in the main run of New River between U.S. 17 bridge and the mouth of Hawkins Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the main run of New River and White Oak River, and in Grant's Creek.
- Orange:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Pamlico:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Dawson Creek.
- Pasquotank:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters, except Dawson Creek. March 1–April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Pender:** Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Northeast Cape Fear River, Long Creek, Moore's Creek approximately one mile upstream to New Moon Fishing Camp and Black River. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River (local law).
- Perquimans:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Person:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Hyco Creek and Mayo Creek. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Pitt:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River and in Tar River below the mouth of Hardee Creek east of Greenville. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Grindle Creek, and Contentnea Creek between N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River. March 1 – April 30 with seines in Tar River.
- Polk:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Randolph:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Deep River above the

Coleridge Dam and in Uwharrie River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.

Richmond: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls

Robeson: Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters.

Rockingham: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Dan River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Dan River; and with gigs in all public waters.

Rowan: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

Rutherford: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Sampson: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Big Coharrie Creek, Black River and Six Runs Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River downstream of N.C. 1105 bridge (local law).

Stanly: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

Stokes: July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters; and traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.

Surry: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters; and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.

Swain: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).

(continued on page 34)

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Elevated levels of some pollutants may be found in certain fish caught by the public or sold commercially in the United States.

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

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

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Pollutant</i>
STATEWIDE	Women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under age 15: no more than 2 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury <u>and</u> no consumption of fish HIGH in mercury. All other people: no more than 4 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury <u>and</u> only 1 meal per week of fish HIGH in mercury. (The names of fishes containing high and low levels of mercury are available from N.C. Dept. Health and Human Services at 919-707-5900 or www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/fish/safefish.html)	<u>Mercury</u>
Albemarle Sound from Bull Bay to Harvey Point west to the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers (Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Roanoke River from U.S. Hwy. 17 bridge near Williamston to the mouth of Albemarle Sound (Martin, Bertie and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Welch Creek (Martin, Beaufort and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for all other people.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Brier Creek Reservoir (Wake County), Brier Creek –downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir, and Little Brier Creek and tributaries downstream of Brier Creek Parkway	All fish. No consumption.	<u>PCBs</u>
Lake Crabtree (Wake County)	Carp and catfish. No consumption. No more than one meal per month for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Crabtree Creek (Wake County) above and below Lake Crabtree to Neuse River	Carp, catfish and largemouth bass. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Neuse River (Wake County) downstream of Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Walnut Creek (Wake County) and Rocky Branch tributary just upstream of confluence with Neuse River	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month and no more than one meal per week for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Santeetlah Lake and Fontana Lake (Graham and Swain counties)	Walleye. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>Mercury</u>
Badin Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties)	Catfish and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>PCBs</u>
Lake Gaston (Warren, Halifax, and Northampton counties)	Walleye and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than one to two meals per month for all other people.	<u>Mercury</u>
Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)	Channel catfish. No consumption.	<u>PCBs</u>
Mountain Island Reservoir (Gaston and Mecklenburg counties)	Largemouth bass. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children under 15. No more than two meals per month for all other people.	<u>PCBs</u> <u>Mercury</u>

Recreational Boating In North Carolina

Boating Safety Education Requirements

As of May 1, 2010 anyone younger than 26 years old operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or greater motor on public waterways must have successfully completed an approved boating safety education course or otherwise be in compliance. All vessel operators must be able to prove compliance upon request of a law enforcement officer.



Vessel Registration and Titling Requirements

- All motorized vessels, including sailboats longer than 14' and personal watercraft, must be registered.
- Vessels registered in another state and brought into North Carolina for more than 90 consecutive days, must be registered in North Carolina.
- A vessel title is required for all new or transfer registrations for vessels or sailboats longer than 14' and personal watercraft.

Blue Light = No Wake

All watercraft must slow to a no-wake speed when passing within 100 feet of a law enforcement vessel displaying a flashing blue light, or within 50 feet in narrow channels. Violators are subject to fines up to \$250.

Personal Watercraft (Jet Skis)

- Boating Safety Education Law requirements apply to personal watercraft.
- No one under 16 years old can operate a personal watercraft on public waters. Two exceptions:
 - At least 14 years old but younger than 16 if successfully completed an approved boating safety education course (proof of age and course completion must be carried by the youth at time of operation);
 - At least 14 and riding with someone at least 18 who is in compliance with Boating Safety Education Law.
- No one younger than 14 may operate a personal watercraft under any circumstance.

Kids MUST Wear Life Vests

State law requires children younger than 13 to wear an appropriate personal flotation device (life vest) whenever they are on a recreational vessel that is underway. When choosing a life vest for a child, always check for a U.S. Coast Guard-approved label. The life vest must be a proper fit, with youth sizes corresponding to weight ranges.

Boat Safe, Boat Sober

Operating a recreational vessel while under the influence of an impairing substance or with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher is illegal. Penalties can include fines up to \$1,000 and jail. Operators and passengers who drink should use caution. Wind and waves, combined with heat, glare, motor noise and vibrations can create a condition known as boater fatigue, in which the effects of alcohol can be magnified up to three times.

File a Float Plan

Document essential information or fill out a form about your excursion and leave it with a reliable person who can be depended upon to notify the U.S. Coast Guard or another rescue organization, should you not return as scheduled. (Do not file float plan with the USCG.)

Report Boating Accidents

Boating accidents that occur on public waters must be reported to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (24-hour toll free at 800-662-7137) when any one of the following occur:

- Loss of life, an injury requiring medical treatment or a person is unconscious or left disabled for 24 hours
- Actual physical damage to property (including vessels) is in excess of \$2,000
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury.

Visit www.ncwildlife.org or 919-707-0031 for more information.

Transylvania: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Public Mountain Trout Waters.

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

Union: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

Vance: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Rolands, Faulknors, Southerlands and Weldon ponds, City Lake, and Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.

Wake: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Sunset, Benson, Wheeler, Raleigh and Johnson lakes. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Neuse River below Milburnie Dam, and Swift Creek below Lake Benson Dam.

Warren: July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek and Walker Creek, excluding Duck and Hammes Mill ponds. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Duck and Hammes Mill ponds, Kerr Reservoir and Gaston Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.

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

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

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITIONS

Possession of Certain Fishes

- It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha, “walking catfish” (*Clarias batrachus*), snakehead fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*), white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (see exception below), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*), red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*), ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), Japanese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*), Chinese mystery snail (*Cipantopaludina chinensis malleata*), red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*), virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*), rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*), **Australian red claw crayfish or “red claw” (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) or other species of “giant” crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*, or zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*, or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina.**
- Certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- It is unlawful to take or possess any state or federally designated

endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.

- It is unlawful to possess eels less than six inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River and the Catawba River, upstream of Lake Rhodhiss dam, and their tributaries and impoundments.
- It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Grass carp may not be possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.
- Grass carp may not be possessed or taken by bow and arrow on Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission (S.L. 2009-261).

FISHING ACCESS AREA REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- Use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing, except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted. All other uses—including swimming, sunbathing on piers or decks, possessing loaded firearms, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.
- Use gasoline motors on Lake Rim in Cumberland County, and on Newbold and Etheridge ponds in Edgecombe County.

BOATING ACCESS AREA REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- Leave any vehicle, trailer, boat or other obstruction where it will impede the use of the ramp by others.
- Park any vehicles, trailer or boat anywhere on the area when the parking zone is fully occupied. This does not prohibit legal use of the ramp.
- Use the area for swimming, camping, operating concessions or for any use other than the launching and recovery of boats and parking of vehicles and boat trailers, except where facilities for a particular use are provided.
- Operate any vessel within 50 yards of the ramp at a speed greater than “No Wake” speed.
- Possess loaded firearms on the access area.
- Operate a vehicle on any boat access area in a manner so as to endanger life or property.
- Deposit any debris or refuse anywhere on the grounds of the area.
- Fail to obey any instruction or signs regulating use of the access area.
- Conduct a fishing tournament weigh-in without first obtaining a letter of authorization from the Division of Engineering Services by calling 919-707-0150. This permit must be available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers during the tournament.
- Park in a handicapped space without displaying a handicapped plate or sign.

HYDROELECTRIC STATION SAFETY ZONES

- A 100-foot safety zone extends both upstream and downstream of the following hydroelectric stations. Only fishing and boating are authorized within the safety zone, subject to the following restrictions:
- All boaters within the safety zone are required to wear approved