

MOUNTAIN TROUT FISHING: Economic Impacts & Contributions to North Carolina's Economy



A study of the economic effects of trout fishing opportunities provided and managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.



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Trout fishing opportunities provided by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission have a substantial economic effect on North Carolina's economy. The economic impact and contributions of trout fishing opportunities within the Commission's Public Mountain Trout Waters program totaled an estimated **\$383 million** in 2014!

According to a recent study, "Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy," nearly 149,000 trout anglers fished approximately 1.6 million days in North Carolina. The effects these trout anglers had on North Carolina's economy in 2014 totaled an estimated **\$383 million**. This figure represents anglers' direct spending, such as purchases of fishing equipment, food and accommodations, as well as secondary spending by businesses associated with trout angling and their employees.

Money spent on mountain trout fishing in 2014 supported approximately **3,593 jobs**. Other study findings included:

- For Wild Trout Waters, the estimated economic impacts were \$60,765,562 and anglers spent approximately 276,804 days fishing these waters.
- For Hatchery Supported Trout Waters and Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, the combined economic effects of stocked trout to North Carolina's economy was \$249,628,686, while the total cost of producing and stocking trout was approximately \$1 million, providing a return on investment of \$250 for every \$1 spent on trout production.
 - Hatchery Supported: 710,665 angler fishing days= \$141,273,525
 - Delayed Harvest: 390,085 angler fishing days= \$108,355,161

The combined economic effects of stocked trout to North Carolina's economy was \$249,628,686, while the total cost of producing and stocking trout was \$1 million. That reflects a return of \$250 to the state's economy for every \$1 spent to produce and stock trout!



ECONOMIC SUMMARY FOR ALL MOUNTAIN TROUT FISHING (STATEWIDE)

	Resident Anglers	Non-Resident Anglers	All Anglers
Trout Anglers	117,461	31,530	148,991
Days Fished for Mountain Trout	1,383,967	254,390	1,638,357
Angler Purchases			
Licenses and Fees	\$3,198,304	\$644,941	\$3,843,245
Trip Expenditures	\$130,816,172	\$58,320,654	\$189,136,825
Equipment Expenditures	\$46,800,561	*	\$46,800,561
Total Dollars Spent	\$180,815,037	\$58,965,594	\$239,780,631
Effects from Trip Spending			
Total Economic Output	\$205,251,927	\$88,800,892	\$294,052,819
Income Provided	\$69,510,537	\$30,191,055	\$99,701,592
Jobs Supported	1,953	925	2,878
Effects from Equipment Spending			
Total Economic Output	\$89,223,773	*	\$89,223,773
Income Provided	\$29,813,625	*	\$29,813,625
Jobs Supported	715	*	715
Effects from All Spending			
Total Economic Output	\$294,475,700	\$88,800,892	\$383,276,592
Income Provided	\$99,324,162	\$30,191,055	\$129,515,217
Jobs Supported	2,668	925	3,593
Tax Revenues from All Spending			
State and Local	\$20,232,056	\$5,943,059	\$26,175,114
Federal	\$22,501,217	\$6,958,830	\$29,460,047

* Most equipment spending takes place where people live; nonresidents generally spend little on equipment in N.C.



“Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina’s Economy” study was conducted on behalf of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission by Responsive Management and Southwick Associates.

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All photos by Thomas Harvey