



Thanks to bear hunters voluntarily participating in our bear cooperator program, NCWRC gets data from approximately 50% of bears harvested in North Carolina. Information from all bears helps the NCWRC monitor the status of our bear population, which is an important aspect of our bear management program.



Bear hunters participating in the cooperator program can have their bear weighed by NCWRC staff (based on staff availability) and find out the age of their harvested bear by submitting the upper premolar teeth.

To find out more about participating in the bear cooperator program, contact your district biologist or call 919-707-0050. Or visit our website at: ncwildlife.org/bearcooperator

Top ten bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2019.

Rank	Year	County	Region	Type of Hunt	Weight	Sex	Age
1	1998	CRAVEN	C	DG	880	M	10.75
2	2014	HYDE	C	DG	784	M	9.75
3	2014	HYDE	C	ST	782	M	9.75
4	2012	WASHINGTON	C	DG	780	M	6.75
4	2013	CRAVEN	C	DG	780	M	8.75
5	2009	HYDE	C	ST	760	M	6.75
5	2019	BEAUFORT	C	DG	760	M	Age pending
6	2016	HYDE	C	DG	757	M	8.75
7	2007	DARE	C	ST	752	M	7.75
8	2001	GATES	C	DG	742	M	9.75
9	2001	BEAUFORT	C	DG	740	M	13.75
10	2012	HYDE	C	DG	735	M	11.75
10	2014	TYRRELL	C	DG	735	M	7.75

Table 2. Number of harvested male bears weighing over 500 lbs. in North Carolina, 1969-2019.

Weight Category	Total bears	Mountains	Coast	Piedmont
> 500 lbs.	1360	63	1295	2
> 600 lbs.	337	7	329	1
> 700 lbs.	30	0	30	0
> 800 lbs.	1	0	1	0



NCWRC staff and hunters weighing a bear in eastern North Carolina.