**LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

All hunters 16 years of age or older must obtain a state hunting license. Several license types are available. See the 2012–2013 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for more information on license types and requirements.

**HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP):**

All hunters pursuing migratory game birds (doves, woodcock, waterfowl etc.) must obtain HIP certification prior to hunting. In North Carolina, HIP certification is free of charge and can be obtained at a Wildlife Service Agent (license agent), by phone at 888-248-6834 or online at ncwildlife.org. When obtaining online, lifetime license holders should click on the lifetime license holder seasonal information button. While obtaining HIP certification, you will be asked a series of screening questions that identify which species of migratory game birds you have hunted in the past and general success. These screening questions simply identify you as a migratory game bird hunter. You may be contacted at a later date by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to participate in additional voluntary harvest surveys. Hunters must be HIP certified in North Carolina even if they have been HIP certified in another state. Persons exempt by law from the state hunting license requirement are not required to obtain the HIP certification.

**NORTH CAROLINA WATERFOWL PRIVILEGE AND STAMP:**

For resident hunters, this additional privilege and fee is not required if you hold a Sportsman’s License (lifet ime, disabled, or annual), or a Comprehensive Hunting License (lifet ime or annual). You are required to purchase this additional privilege for all other license types. For non-resident hunters this fee is not required for Lifetime Sportman’s license holders, but is required for those non-residents holding a short-term or basic non-resident hunting license. Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes. Call 1-888-248-6834 for more information.

**FEDERAL DUCK STAMP:**

Waterfowl hunters are required to carry on their possession the Federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. Federal duck stamps can be obtained at most U.S. Post Offices or at selected Wildlife Service Agents. Visit duckstamp.com to order the duck stamp online or to find the duck stamp retailer nearest you.

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“Redheads in Needlerush” by Delaware artist Richard Clifton was selected as the 2012 North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print. A nationwide competition sponsored by the East Carolina Wildfowl Guild has been used to select the annual conservation stamp since 2008. The stamp and print are available for purchase through the Commission at ncwildlife.org/licensing.
Tundra Swan
Season Dates: November 10th—January 31st
1 per season by permit only—5,000 permits will be issued

Sea Ducks (in special sea duck area only)
Season Dates: October 1st—January 31st
Daily Bag: 7 sea ducks (in special sea duck area only). In other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit. No more than 4 scoters may be taken in either season. The taking of sea ducks (scooter, eider and long-tailed ducks), except during the regular duck season shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular duck season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.

Light Geese
(includes snow and blue geese and Ross’ Geese)
Season Dates: October 17th—October 20th and November 10th—March 9th
Daily Bag: 25 (no possession limit)
* Note: Electronic calls and unplugged guns are allowed for Light Geese from February 11th—March 9th

Dark Geese
(includes Canada Geese and White-fronted Geese)
Season Dates:
- Resident Population Zone: October 3rd—October 13th, November 10th—December 1st and December 15th—February 9th
- Southern James Bay Zone: October 3rd—October 31st and November 10th—December 31st
- Northeast Hunt Zone: January 19th—January 26th

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS
Season Dates: February 2nd and February 9th
Species include ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, coots and tundra swans. The youth must have a valid permit to harvest a tundra swan or a Canada goose (NE Hunt Zone only).
* Note: Youth must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult. The adult cannot duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

SHOOTING HOURS
Shooting hours for all species are 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.