Waterfowl Impoundment Condition Alerts

Updated November 28, 2022

Every effort has been made to accurately report existing and/or anticipated conditions that may negatively impact the waterfowl hunting experience, but please note that conditions are subject to change for a variety of reasons and in some cases may vary from the information presented in this report.

NOTE: For all areas, refer to the current North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest to determine applicable hunt days for waterfowl and special regulations which may apply.

On managed (posted) waterfowl impoundments, hunters shall not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates, and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates; decoys shall not be set out prior to 4:00 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each day. No person shall operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine on a managed waterfowl impoundment. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

For impoundments not otherwise noted in this report, conditions are believed to be adequate to support waterfowl hunting.

COASTAL REGION

Croatan Game Land - Catfish Lake Impoundment
Pumping operations are ongoing. Water levels in impoundments #1, 2, 3 and 6 are huntable for October season. Pumping operations will continue until all impoundments are at prescribed levels.
Goose Creek Game Land Impoundments
Water levels are currently above prescribed levels. Water levels will recede to prescribed levels as winds turn to a westerly direction.
Gull Rock Game Land
The impoundment has water throughout and no issues are expected. The impoundment is managed for submerged aquatics on the deeper portions of the impoundment and moist soil vegetation on the drier portions on the northwest corner.
Holly Shelter Game Land - Green Tree and Lodge Road Impoundments
Hunters using the Holly Shelter Green Tree Impoundment may experience below optimal water levels until significant rainfall occurs. Lodge Road Impoundment will be approaching prescribed levels by October season.

J. Morgan Futch Game Land
Dry conditions may hamper pumping operations to completely fill each impoundment though recent rainfall have improved efforts. The former catfish ponds in the southwest of the property have waters. The northwestern most catfish pond near the agricultural field has some rice and a good crop of sedges. Water around blinds 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 is lower than desired but conditions are improving as of 11/14/2022.

Lantern Acres Game Land
The remnants of Hurricane Ian had little effect on water levels in the impoundments. The remnants of Hurricane Nicole and rain showers after has helped to improve water levels. Pumping will continue to help fill both impoundments. The western impoundment will not have water for the November and possibly the December hunts. Hunters will find water in the eastern most impoundment toward the north. Water is now extending into the cleared portions of the impoundment south of the wooded sections. The well alone will do little to fill the impoundments. Significant rainfall will be required to improve water levels across the impoundments.
Lower Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land
The Minges impoundments have water although not at full pool. Suzie Slough impoundments and the Deep Pond impoundment will not be flooded unless the river floods. Waterfowl permit holders can hunt anywhere within the tract for which they are drawn. If the impoundments area not flooded for a hunt, hunters should consider hunting the adjacent swamps.

North River Game Land
The rice planted in NR 1 and NR 3 had yielded well. Moist soil vegetation response in NR 2 is excellent. Hunters for the North River impoundment hunts can hunt anywhere within the unit for which they are drawn. Two earthen mounds have been built in each impoundment, but the brush has not had time to establish. The blinds are available.

Rhodes Pond Game Land
Damage to the dam that impounds water in Rhodes Pond has required draining of the lake for repairs. Normal water levels are not expected throughout the 2022-2023 waterfowl seasons and no permits will be issued.

Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land
The Minges impoundments have water although not at full poll. Suzie Slough and Deep Pond impoundments will not be flooded unless the river floods. Waterfowl permit holders can hunt anywhere within the tract for which they are drawn. If the impoundments are not flooded for a hunt, hunters should consider hunting the adjacent swamps.

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
Due to abnormally dry conditions, impoundments 1 and 3 are currently a few inches shy of target water levels. Some portions of these impoundments are not flooded but there is still plenty of open water areas for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters.

Texas Plantation Game Land
The impoundments are expected to be flooded by the November opener. There are good crops of rice and chiwapa millet. There are good stands of foxtail, jungle rice, and smartweed throughout most of the unplanted portions of the impoundments.

White Oak River Game Land
Water levels at the White Oak Impoundment are at prescribed levels. Bridges have been repaired. However, hunters should still be prepared to cross ditches using drag boat as needed.

PIEDMONT REGION

Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land
Water levels will be near the desired pool for the November season and at full pool for the December-January season given adequate rainfall and sustained creek/river levels. The Bluff sub-Impoundments, Lower Brickhouse Road, Little River, and Knapp of Reeds Impoundments may not be filled as quickly because of water availability due to drought conditions.

Patterson Road and Upper Brickhouse Road impoundments are not included in the 2022-2023 flooding schedule.
R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land
In the Brumley and Caswell Impoundments water levels are anticipated to be at or near full pool for the November season and at a full pool for the December-January season given adequate rainfall and sustained creek levels.

Jordan Game Land
Water levels will be nearing the desired pool for the November season and at full pool for the December-January season given adequate rainfall and sustained creek/river levels.

Impoundments #1 Upper Little Creek, #4 Stagecoach, and #6 Beaver Creek, are not included in the 2022-2023 flooding schedule.

Second Creek Game Land
The posted waterfowl impoundment on Second Creek Game Land does not include control structures to facilitate artificial manipulation of water levels. This area is completely dependent on rainfall and collection of surface water; therefore, conditions may vary throughout the season.