G17. Add the definition of a “Seven Days per Week Game Land” and indicate that hunting is allowed Monday through Sunday during open seasons. Also add the definition for a “Four Days per Week Game Land” and indicate that hunting is allowed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Further, as per G.S. 103-2, this rule will indicate that on Sundays, hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM is prohibited, the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs is prohibited, and hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, is prohibited.

**Justification:** G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sundays on Game Lands. This proposal will amend the definitions of game lands and identify Sunday as an open day for “Seven Days per Week Game Lands” and “Four Days per Week Areas”. This rule also outlines the restrictions to Sunday hunting as outlined in G.S. 103-2.

G18. Change the following six game lands to “Four Days per Week Game Lands”:
- Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve
- Columbus County
- Mitchell River
- Perkins
- Robeson
- Sampson

**Justification:** G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sunday on Game Lands. Based on seven in-person public meetings, two virtual public meetings, three focus group meetings with stakeholders, an Agency staff retreat, discussions with landowning partners, biological staff, and commissioners, and a follow up meeting with stakeholders, the following criteria were used to help evaluate the feasibility of Sunday hunting on game lands: rural game lands that are not heavily used by non-hunters, proximity to other game lands and public lands where hunting is prohibited, value to unique properties that are important to user groups, avoid game lands where past conflict has been a pattern. Given the results of the public input process, staff recommend that Sunday hunting be allowed at the above game lands and that these areas be changed from “Three Days per Week Areas” to “Four Days per Week Areas”.

G19. Change the following 45 game lands to “Seven Days per Week Game Lands”:
- Alcoa
- Alligator River
- Angola Bay
- Bachelor Bay
- Brinkleyville
- Buffalo Cove
- Cape Fear River
- Waxhaw
- Cartier County
- Chowan
- Cold Mountain
- Croatan
- Currituck Banks
- Dare
- Elk Knob
- Northwest River Marsh

**Justification:** G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sunday on Game Lands. Based on seven in-person public meetings, two virtual public meetings, three focus group meetings with stakeholders, an Agency staff retreat, discussions with landowning partners, biological staff, and commissioners, and a follow up meeting with stakeholders, the following criteria were used to help evaluate the feasibility of Sunday hunting on game lands: rural game lands that are not heavily used by non-hunters, proximity to other game lands and public lands where hunting is prohibited, value to unique properties that are important to user groups, avoid game lands where past conflict has been a pattern. Given the results of the public input process, staff recommend that Sunday hunting be allowed at the above game lands and that these areas be changed from “Six Days per Week Areas” to “Seven Days per Week Areas”.

G20. Prohibit the harvest of bear on Sunday on the following game lands in the Coastal Bear Management Unit:
- Alligator River
- Angola Bay
- Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve
- Cape Fear River
- Cartier County
- Chowan
- Currituck Banks
- Gull Rock
- Juniper Creek
- Light Ground Pocosin
- New Lake
- North River
- Northwest River Marsh
- Robeson
- Sampson
- Sutton Lake
- Van Swamp

**Justification:** There is concern about allowing additional harvest of bear in the Coastal Bear Management Unit (CBMU) since the population objective of a 0% population growth rate is currently being met. Additional opportunities for harvest in the CBMU could result in negative population growth rate or a reduction in the population size. Further, increased weekend hunting on game lands in the CBMU that have significant bear hunting traditions could impact hunt quality. Therefore, recommendation at this time is to prohibit bear hunting on Sundays on the game lands in CBMU to meet the guiding principal identified by the focus groups, that the resources come first. If management objectives change or changes in the bear population are observed in the CBMU, staff will reevaluate the conditions and adjust the rule to allow for additional opportunities in the CBMU if warranted.