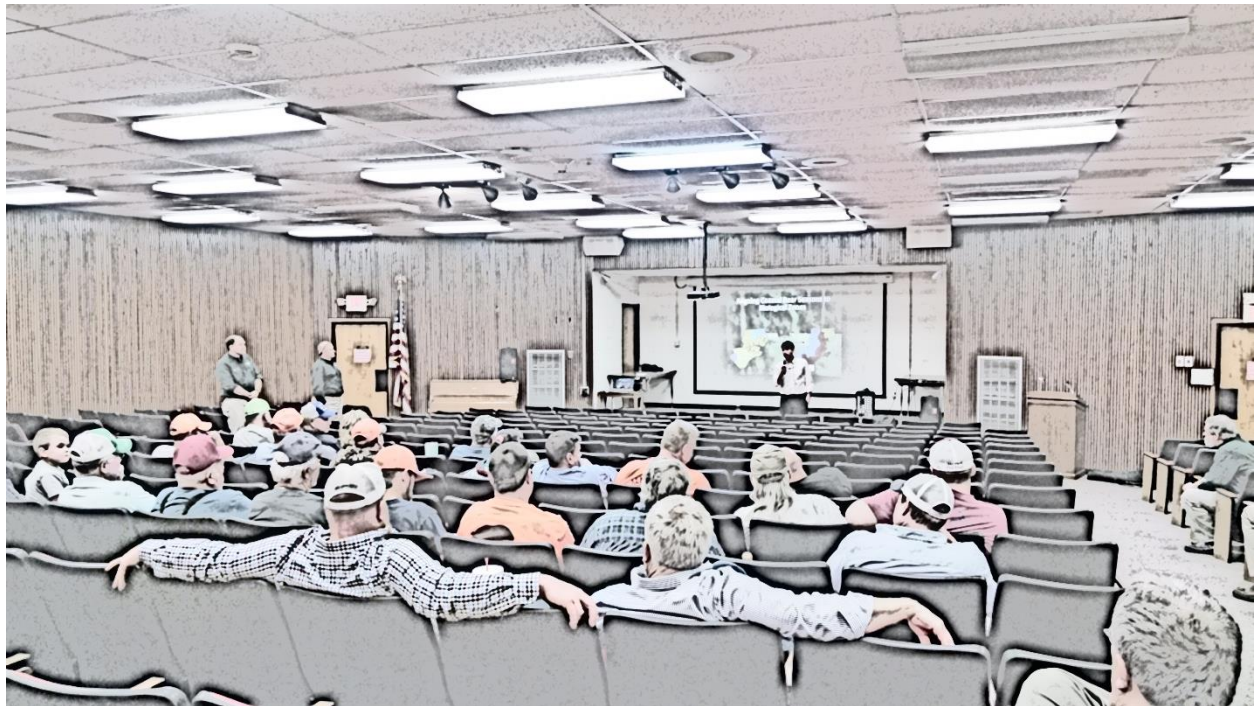


*Summary of Input from NCWRC Public
Black Bear Forums
April 2017*



Question. Are You a Hunter (Any Species)?		
	Yes	No
Marion	31 (100%)	0
Thomasville	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Bladen Co.	32 (100%)	0
Williamston	33 (92%)	3 (8%)
New Bern	29 (97%)	1 (3%)
Statewide	129 (96%)	5 (4%)

Question. Which of these statements best describes you?				
	I do not hunt bears.	I only hunt bears.	I mostly hunt bears but I also hunt for other game species.	I mostly hunt specifically for other game species but I many take a bear if I see one.
Marion	0	3 (10%)	25 (86%)	1 (3%)
Thomasville	1 (20%)	0	2 (40%)	2 (40%)
Bladen Co.	0	9 (25%)	25 (69%)	2 (6%)
Williamston	1 (3%)	7 (19%)	23 (64%)	5 (14%)
New Bern	1 (3%)	5 (17%)	18 (62%)	5 (17%)
Statewide	3 (2%)	24 (18%)	93 (69%)	15 (11%)

Question. Last Season, did you participate in a bear hunt using dogs?		
	Yes	No
Marion	31 (100%)	0
Thomasville	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Bladen Co.	34 (94%)	2 (6%)
Williamston	39 (93%)	3 (7%)
New Bern	0	0
Statewide	106 (94%)	7 (6%)

Question. Have you seen the presentation about the Development of Zones in the CBMU?				
	Yes, at the forums last year.	Yes, I reviewed the information online.	No, I have not seen it but I know about it.	I didn't know anything about it until tonight.
Marion	11 (38%)	4 (14%)	7 (24%)	7 (24%)
Thomasville	0	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)
Bladen Co.	11 (30%)	3 (8%)	8 (22%)	15 (41%)
Williamston	14 (33%)	12 (29%)	9 (21%)	7 (17%)
New Bern	13 (41%)	5 (16%)	6 (19%)	8 (25%)
Statewide	49 (34%)	24 (17%)	31 (22%)	40 (28%)

Question. Did you attend one of the Bear Forums last August?		
	Yes	No
Marion	15 (48%)	16 (52%)
Thomasville	0	5 (100%)
Bladen Co.	9 (25%)	27 (75%)
Williamston	19 (45%)	23 (55%)
New Bern	17 (53%)	15 (47%)
Statewide	60 (41%)	86 (59%)

Question. Do you typically hunt in Zone 1?		
	Yes	No
Marion	3 (11%)	25 (89%)
Thomasville	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Bladen Co.	9 (23%)	30 (77%)
Williamston	23 (53%)	20 (47%)
New Bern	2 (6%)	30 (94%)
Statewide	39 (27%)	107 (73%)

Question. Do you think this Zone 1 option is an improvement over the current season?			
	Yes	No	I'm not sure.
Marion	18 (60%)	9 (30%)	3 (10%)
Thomasville	3 (60%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)
Bladen Co.	14 (33%)	24 (57%)	4 (10%)
Williamston	14 (32%)	24 (55%)	5 (11%)
New Bern	15 (47%)	15 (47%)	2 (6%)
Statewide	64 (42%)	73 (48%)	15 (10%)

Question. Do you typically hunt bears in Zone 2 at least once a year?		
	Yes	No
Marion	2 (7%)	28 (93%)
Thomasville	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Bladen Co.	5 (12%)	36 (88%)
Williamston	15 (34%)	29 (66%)
New Bern	2 (3%)	30 (97%)
Statewide	25 (16%)	127 (84%)

Question. Do you think this Zone 2 option is an improvement over the current season?			
	Yes	No	I'm not sure.
Marion	20 (67%)	8 (27%)	2 (7%)
Thomasville	3 (60%)	0	2 (40%)
Bladen Co.	17 (40%)	20 (47%)	6 (14%)
Williamston	20 (45%)	20 (45%)	4 (9%)
New Bern	20 (61%)	8 (24%)	5 (15%)
Statewide	80 (52%)	56 (36%)	19 (12%)

Question. Do you typically hunt bears in Zone 3 at least once a year?		
	Yes	No
Marion	19 (63%)	11 (37%)
Thomasville	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Bladen Co.	41 (40%)	2 (47%)
Williamston	36 (82%)	8 (18%)
New Bern	30 (91%)	3 (9%)
Statewide	129 (83%)	26 (17%)

Question. Do you think this Zone 3 option is an improvement over the current season?			
	Yes	No	I'm not sure.
Marion	16 (53%)	7 (23%)	7 (23%)
Thomasville	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	0
Bladen Co.	3 (5%)	22 (95%)	0
Williamston	14 (33%)	27 (64%)	1 (2%)
New Bern	13 (41%)	19 (59%)	0
Statewide	50 (37%)	76 (57%)	8 (5%)

Question. Do you typically hunt bears in Zone 4 at least once a year?		
	Yes	No
Marion	13 (45%)	16 (55%)
Thomasville	2 (40%)	3 (60%)
Bladen Co.	29 (74%)	10 (26%)
Williamston	30 (68%)	14 (32%)
New Bern	11 (33%)	22 (67%)
Statewide	85 (57%)	65 (43%)

Question. Do you think this Zone 4 option is an improvement over the current season?			
	Yes	No	I'm not sure.
Marion	19 (61%)	5 (16%)	7 (23%)
Thomasville	4 (80%)	0	1 (20%)
Bladen Co.	2 (5%)	39 (91%)	2 (5%)
Williamston	13 (30%)	24 (55%)	7 (16%)
New Bern	12 (38%)	15 (47%)	5 (16%)
Statewide	50 (32%)	83 (53%)	22 (14%)

Question. In a normal year, how many different CBMU zones do you bear hunt in?					
	1 Zone	2 Zones	3 Zones	4 Zones	I don't hunt in the CBMU
Marion	7 (27%)	4 (15%)	3 (12%)	2 (8%)	10 (38%)
Thomasville	1 (20%)	0	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	2 (40%)
Bladen Co.	4 (10%)	19 (45%)	15 (36%)	4 (10%)	0
Williamston	6 (14%)	14 (33%)	12 (29%)	9 (21%)	1 (2%)
New Bern	12 (38%)	17 (53%)	2 (6%)	0	1 (3%)
Statewide	30 (23%)*	54 (41%)	33 (25%)	16 (12%)	

*Statewide Percentage Numbers include only those that hunted in CBMU

Question. Thinking about the current "long season", Do you hunt in a county that currently has the "long season"?		
	Yes	No
Marion	9 (33%)	18 (67%)
Thomasville	2 (40%)	3 (60%)
Bladen Co.	38 (95%)	2 (5%)
Williamston	15 (35%)	28 (65%)
New Bern	18 (58%)	13 (41%)
Statewide	82 (56%)	64 (44%)

Thinking about the current “long season”,

Question. Do you prefer the current season knowing there is a possibility that it may be negatively impacting bear population growth and quality of bears?

	Yes	No	I’m not sure.
Marion	1 (3%)	24 (77%)	6 (19%)
Thomasville	0	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Bladen Co.	35 (90%)	2 (5%)	2 (5%)
Williamston	22 (55%)	15 (38%)	2 (5%)
New Bern	16 (59%)	11 (41%)	0
Statewide	74 (53%)	55 (39%)	11 (8%)

Would you support this idea?

Question. *Allow any appropriately licensed hunter that is actively participating in a hunt to validate and report the harvest of a bear shot by any other appropriately licensed hunter participating in the same hunt (applies to both dog and still/stand hunts).*

	Yes	No	I don’t know
Marion	26 (87%)	4 (13%)	0
Thomasville	1 (20%)	2 (40%)	2 (40%)
Bladen Co.	36 (86%)	6 (14%)	0
Williamston	37 (90%)	4 (10%)	0
New Bern	26 (81%)	6 (19%)	0
Statewide	126 (84%)	22 (15%)	2 (1%)

Question. How do you think these season options would impact your bear hunting?				
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	I'm Not Sure
Marion	8 (26%)	12 (39%)	6 (19%)	5 (16%)
Thomasville	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Bladen Co.	2 (5%)	4 (10%)	36 (83%)	1 (2%)
Williamston	7 (16%)	11 (25%)	25 (57%)	1 (2%)
New Bern	6 (19%)	11 (34%)	14 (44%)	1 (3%)
Statewide	24 (16%)	39 (25%)	82 (53%)	9 (6%)

Question. For those that said negative or I'm not sure, what is your top concern?					
	I'm losing to many hunting days.	There will be too many hunters in my area.	I'm worried that we may kill to many bears.	Some combination of A, B, or C.	Some other reason not listed here
Marion	4 (40%)	0	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)
Thomasville	0	0	2 (100%)	0	0
Bladen Co.	23 (61%)	1 (3%)	0	11 (29%)	3 (8%)
Williamston	5 (16%)	2 (6%)	10 (32%)	13 (42%)	1 (3%)
New Bern	10 (50%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	6 (30%)	0
Statewide	42 (42%)	5 (5%)	17 (17%)	31 (31%)	6 (6%)

Question. How many people would support an aggressive plan to reduce the coyote population?			
	Yes	No	Not Sure
Marion	30 (100%)	0	0
Thomasville	3 (80%)	0	1 (20%)
Bladen Co.	0	0	0
Williamston	38 (93%)	3 (7%)	1 (3%)
New Bern	30 (94%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
Statewide	101 (94%)	4 (4%)	3 (3%)

Question.	To model the bear population at a smaller scale we need higher tooth submission rates?		
	<i>Would you support mandatory tooth submission by successful hunters?</i>		
	Yes	No	I need to think about it
Marion	20 (67%)	9 (30%)	1 (3%)
Thomasville	5 (100%)	0	0
Bladen Co.	37 (88%)	5 (12%)	0
Williamston	30 (68%)	13 (30%)	1 (2%)
New Bern	30 (94%)	0	2 (6%)
Statewide	122 (80%)	27 (18%)	4 (3%)

Questions Specific to the Mountain Bear Season

Only Asked at Marion			
Question.	Would you support the idea of shifting the western bear season to the month of October through 1st week of November?		
	Yes	No	I would need to think about it.
Marion	4 (14%)	24 (83%)	1 (3%)
Statewide	4	24	1

Only asked at Marion			
Question.	Would you support the idea of deer and bear seasons being concurrent during the second bear split?		
	Yes	No	I would need to think about it.
Marion	9 (32%)	19 (68%)	0
Statewide	9	19	0

Only asked at Marion			
Question.	Would you support the idea of rotating the “sanctuary bear permit hunts” between different sanctuaries?		
	Yes	No	Not Sure
Marion	23 (82%)	5 (18%)	0
Statewide	23	5	0

Questions Added as Forums Progressed

Question.	Do you prefer to leave the current 50-Day season as is even if there are changes in other counties in Zones 3 or 4?		
	Yes	No	I need to think about it.
Marion	0	0	0
Thomasville	0	0	0
Bladen Co.	37 (93%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)
Williamston	30 (70%)	11 (26%)	2 (5%)
New Bern	24 (77%)	5 (16%)	2 (6%)
Statewide	91 (80%)	17 (15%)	6 (5%)

Question.	What is most important to you?		
	# of Days of Hunting Opportunity	# of Bears	Quality (weight) of bears
Marion	0	0	0
Thomasville	0	0	0
Bladen Co.	19 (61%)	2 (6%)	10 (32%)
Williamston	12 (32%)	10 (26%)	16 (42%)
New Bern	10 (31%)	6 (19%)	16 (50%)
Statewide	41 (41%)	18 (18%)	42 (42%)

Question. Would you prefer the season options proposed tonight, leave the seasons as they are or only change to Saturday openings?			
	Use the Proposed Seasons	Leave them as they are.	Only change to Saturday Openings
Marion	0	0	0
Thomasville	0	0	0
Bladen Co.	0	0	0
Williamston	2 (5%)	3 (8%)	35 (88%)
New Bern	9 (30%)	7 (23%)	14 (47%)
Statewide	11 (16%)	10 (14%)	49 (70%)

Question. Would you prefer a shorter season with a season bag limit of 2 bears?		
	Yes	No
Marion	0	0
Thomasville	0	0
Bladen Co.	0	0
Williamston	1 (3%)	36 (97%)
New Bern	0	32 (100%)
Statewide	1 (1%)	68 (99%)

Question. If you do not believe zone options discussed tonight are improvements over current seasons, what concerns you the most?					
	Increasing hunting opportunity	Reducing hunting opportunity	Losing access to land because of increased lease fees	Increases in harvest that would result from these changes	Something else
Marion	0	0	0	0	0
Thomasville	0	0	0	0	0
Bladen Co.	0	0	0	0	0
Williamston	9 (22%)	3 (7%)	17 (41%)	11 (27%)	1 (2%)
New Bern	3 (12%)	10 (40%)	6 (24%)	3 (12%)	3 (12%)
Statewide	12 (18%)	13 (20%)	23 (35%)	14 (21%)	4 (6%)

Final Question

Question. Is this type of forum helpful?			
	Yes	No	No Sure
Marion	24 (96%)	0	1 (4%)
Thomasville	4 (80%)	0	1 (20%)
Bladen Co.	0	0	0
Williamston	35 (92%)	0	3 (8%)
New Bern	23 (85%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)
Statewide	86 (91%)	2 (2%)	7 (7%)