



Alligator Hunting

Capture/Restraint, Dispatch, and General Information

General Information:

- The season for taking American alligators is September 1 to October 1.
- Alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.
- The bag limit shall be one per permit and the season limit is one.
- No part of the alligator harvested may be sold, or transferred for commercial purposes.
- Hunting shall be by permit only. Permits will be issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Permit applicants must be 16 years of age or older and there is an \$8 application fee for each hunt item. To apply visit ncwildlife.org/permithunts or call 888-248-6834, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Those awarded a permit will be required to purchase an alligator hunting license (Resident \$250; Nonresident \$500) no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 20 to receive the permit. Those who fail to purchase the alligator hunting license by the deadline will forfeit their permit and an alternate applicant will be awarded the permit. In addition to the permit and alligator hunting license, the permit holder must have valid NC hunting license when hunting alligators.
- In the event a permit is forfeited, an alternate applicant will be contacted by the Commission and offered the hunting opportunity. The Commission will then provide instruction for obtaining the required alligator license. Alternate permits are awarded in the order drawn.
- Only properly licensed permit holders may dispatch an alligator.
- Participants may accompany and assist the permit holder, but they are not authorized to dispatch an alligator. Participants do not need a permit or the alligator hunting license, but they must have a valid NC hunting license to assist in the hunt.

Capture/Restraint Methods:

- Capture and restraint is only authorized in the [designated hunt areas](#) specified. Permit holders must obtain written permission to use private or public property in the designated hunt areas. Alligators may not be hunted on National Wildlife Refuges.
- Alligators shall be restrained before being dispatched. Alligators shall only be restrained using a hand-held restraining line or catch pole; a snatch hook attached to a hand-held restraining line or rod and reel; a harpoon or gig attached to a hand-held restraining line; a baited wooden peg less than two inches in length attached to a hand-held restraining line; or archery equipment with an arrow-attached restraining line.
- **The use of baited hooks is prohibited.**

Dispatch Methods:

- An alligator must be captured and restrained before it can be dispatched.
- Alligators restrained by any method specified above shall be dispatched immediately upon capture.
- **Only properly licensed permit holders may dispatch an alligator.**
- The permit holder who has lawfully captured and restrained an alligator may dispatch it with a knife, pistol, or other swift method of dispatching the alligator. This includes bang sticks.